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| **Lacrosse Development Festival**  Wednesday 8th October 2025  10:00 – 14:00 | The Spencer Club  Fieldview  Wandsworth  SW18 3HF |

**This event is in partnership with Peter Compton and Spencer Lacrosse Club**

**Booking**

* This is a **Development Festival** event.
* Schools may event on the initial booking date of:
* Monday 15th September 2025 at 5pm
* If an event is full, schools will be placed on a waiting list and be notified of this.
* MSSP will contact schools should places become available in the build-up to events.

**Age Category**

* Year 5-6

**Squad Size**

* 10 in a squad, 5 on pitch (For an U11 Lacrosse match)
* Teams must be mixed: 5 boys and 5 girls with at least 2 boys and 2 girls on pitch at all times.
* Please enquire for additional teams.

**Team Eligibility**

* Mixed gender event.
* The intent and principles of the competition have been designed to support pupils learning of the game and not be restricted by enforcement of the rules. We anticipate that many children may not have played competitively before and aim for children to learn more about the sport throughout the day.

**Competition Format**

* This is a festival event and no scores will be recorded.
* The festival is primarily focused on participation and skill development.

**Draw Format**

* Schools will travel through the different stations in a carousel format.

**Awards**

* REFSPECT winners - Certificate
* Participation certificates will be presented to all participants

**Results**

* Results and event report will be available on the news webpage within 24 hours of the event ending.

**Winner’s Pathway**

* There is no planned pathway from this event.

**Rules**

* This is a Development Festival where children will require no prior knowledge to the main body of Lacrosse rules.
* The length of time permitted on each of the different athletics activity stations will be determined on the day.
* The rules for each of the stations will be demonstrated and explained to the children in the event briefing before the festival begins.

**General U11 Lacrosse Rules**

**START OF PLAY**  
The game is started with a pass from the centre. The player with the ball must pass to another whilst keeping at least one foot on the line, all others to be 3m away. Centre passes alternate no matter who scores the goal.

**BOUNDARIES**  
Indoors – play rebound whenever possible. Outdoors – no boundary, the official decides area of play. Play to be as continuous as possible. When ball does go ‘out of bounds’ or becomes trapped (e.g. In gym equipment) nearest player gets possession with all others 1m away. All players brought in 1m from boundary.

**START/STOP PLAY**  
All play is started and stopped by the sound of a whistle (No ‘stand’ rule applies).

**THE THROW**  
This is taken when a simultaneous foul occurs or players are equidistant from a boundary. The two opponents will be placed 1m apart facing each other. Officials simultaneously blows whistle and toss short underarm throw, shoulder height between the players, play continues.

**SCORING**  
Shooting ball with stick so that it passes wholly over the goal line scores a goal. ‘Own goals’ can be scored if the ball comes off the defender’s stick or body. Goals may only be scored from the attacking half of the pitch. Dangerous shooting through will be penalised. No player may enter the goal crease but may reach in with the stick to recover the ball.

**SUBSTITUTION**  
‘On the fly’ providing that: there shall be only 5 sticks for field players and these to be exchanged as the players change over (see sticks): players must go on and off the field through ‘gate’ marked with two cones at centre line; players not on pitch shall be seated on team bench and must not stand to go on to pitch until handed a stick.

**FOULS**  
No stick or body contact. No intentional ball off body. No dangerous propelling (passing or shooting through or ‘blind’). No dangerous follow through with stick (following pass/shot). No entry into goal crease. No trapping/guarding ball (but momentary ‘rake’ is allowed). Maximum 4 second possession of the ball by a player (which cannot be increased by throwing/rolling to oneself). No defending goal by standing in the 5m space in front of goal (except it a sticks length away from an attacking opponent)

**PENALTY FOR FOULS**  
Free position to nearest opponent  
Offender is placed 3m behind player  
All others 3m away  
Fouls inside the 5m are taken on the arc on the plane of the goal extended

**UMPIRES NOTES**  
Throughout play the official’s discretion may be used to award penalties for dangerous play or unacceptable behaviour. A player may be sent off as a last resort. The rules are there to protect players and keep the game as continuous as possible. Unintentional fouls which do not give the offender or his/her team an advantage should result in a ‘held’ whistle whenever possible (official can call ‘advantage’). Excessive use of whistle discouraged except to keep play safe and according to the rules.

Officials should ensure short, sharp single blow of whistle to both start and stop game. A longer whistle indicates a goal.  
Clear, short explanations of foul (e.g. ‘stick contact, yellow ball’), indicating with arm team in possession by pointing towards the goal they are attacking.  
It is helpful to call out loud the 4 seconds, remembering to leave a second’s time length before calling ‘1’ on possession.

**TIED GAME SITUATION**  
If a game is tied during semi-finals and finals 2 minutes over time will be played, should the game still be tied another 2 minutes will be played. If this results in the game still being tied sudden death will come into play. Teams will continue to play 2 minute periods until 1 team scores.

**POINTS DRAW**  
If teams are tied on points during the round robin stages places will be awarded based on GD (Goals for – Goals Against = GD).

**Kit & Equipment**

* All schools MUST provide their own First Aid kit along with a first aid qualified member of staff.
* No jewellery, baseball caps etc.
* It is advised that if eyewear is essential, it should be made from plastic rather than glass.
* This event will take place on grass. Trainers are permitted and moulded studs are advised.

**Staffing and Spectators**

Spectators will not be permitted entry to any school/private sports facilities. Primary schools must inform parents in advance when inviting students to take part.  All staff attending the event must have enhanced DBS clearance and have been fully vetted by their primary school. DBS numbers, full name and school will be required in advance by the host school.

**Staff must complete a team-sheet for their participants before or upon arrival.**

**First Aid**

MSSP will have a basic first aid kit and qualified person at all events but will not be available to tend to less urgent first aid, as they will be delivering the event. As part of the school’s risk assessment a qualified first aider should always be with the school team (including travel) to tend to their children during the event.

**Team-sheets**

To help us support our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion aims, all school teams must complete and submit the attached **MSSP Event Entry - EDI Team sheet** to register for this event. We do not require the children's names, just initials or first names are fine. This data is vital to help us improve equity and access for all. We want all Merton students to be able to represent their schools in activities they enjoy and, in an environment, where they feel a sense of belonging. The data you provide us will help us to review and improve our offer as we strive to achieve this.

**Risk Assessments**

Please see the **Risk Assessment** in the 'Resources' section on the event webpage for event specific planning and considerations.

*mertonssp.org.uk/competitions*

**REFSPECT**

MSSP values the contributions by all those involved in making our events a **FUN,** safe and enjoyable environment for children to take part in sport. To ensure our events continue to be successful we promote our REFSPECT campaign. We expect everyone attending our events to maintain respect for the rules, officials, opponents, teammates and themselves. Only designated staff and volunteers will be allowed on the side-lines. All spectators are to remain behind the barriers, providing positive support and encouraging a fun and fair event.

If any staff, adults or children are deemed to be in breach of our REFSPECT codes of conduct they will be asked to leave the event, and the Head Teacher of the relevant school will be informed immediately.

For more information about REFSPECT and codes of conduct for attendance at our events, please [**click here**](https://mertonssp.org.uk/refspect/)

*mertonssp.org.uk/refspect*

**Photo Consent**

Photographs will be taken at this event by staff members from MSSP and may be used for promotional material. If you have any children that do not have permission to be photographed, please inform a member of staff before the start of the event.

Please ensure your school only take photographs of their own students and do not share any photos of other children on social media without consent from that school.

**Social Media**

For information and updates from our events, please follow and use the platforms below:

**Email:** [info@mertonssp.org.uk](mailto:info@mertonssp.org.uk)

**X:** [x.com/MertonSSP](https://x.com/MertonSSP)

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/mertonssp](https://www.instagram.com/mertonssp)

**MSSP Duty of Care**

MSSP have a duty to take all measures that are reasonable in the circumstances to ensure the health, safety, wellbeing and welfare of all participants and any other attendees involved in the relevant event. MSSP have tried to ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken in its duty of care being discharged, and to the requisite standard of care, MSSP have ensured the following guidance and actions have been adhered to and carried out:

That the advice of the UK Government and public health authorities has been followed

That the bespoke guidance and protocols issued by the relevant NGB, federation and/or umbrella organisation (if applicable) have been followed.

**Safeguarding and DBS**

MSSP acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and the requirements of the Partnership’s host organisation, the Harris Federation.

We recognise that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. We aim to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and young leaders:

have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport or physical activity at MSSP events in a safe and child centred environment are protected from abuse whilst participating or officiating at MSSP events.

All MSSP staff at the event are fully vetted and enhanced DBS checked. It is the schools’ responsibility to ensure any staff and volunteers who attend the event comply with the host venue safeguarding and welfare policy and can provide documentation to support this on request.

If you have any concerns about a child at our event, please make sure you say something. The MSSP safeguarding team contact details will be on display at all events or for more information on who to speak to please [**click here**](https://mertonssp.org.uk/contact/)

*mertonssp.org.uk/contact*

**Comments, Compliments and Complaints**

MSSP aims to deliver a first-class service to all its stakeholders. We see all feedback, whether good or bad, as a valuable way for us to learn and improve. Therefore, we welcome all comments, compliments and complaints. For further details, please [**click here**](https://mertonssp.org.uk/comments-compliments-and-complaints/)

*mertonssp.org.uk/comments-compliments-and-complaints*