



# Girls Lacrosse in the US



Question: Where did lacrosse originate, and does that effect which states have sanctioned the sport and where the top 25 teams are located?

Lacrosse originated in the St. Lawrence Basin. It was what the Native Americans would play, sometimes as an alternative to war. The game of lacrosse has dramatically changed since then, and has also dispersed throughout the US. The game recently has made its way toward the West Coast, where lacrosse has yet to reach sanction status (with the exception of California and Colorado). Looking at the East Coast, not as many are sanctioned as should due to the fact that is where the sport originated.



The first Women's Lacrosse team in the United States was established in 1926 at the Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore, Maryland. Yet Maryland, the birthplace of Women's lacrosse in the US, still does not sanction the sport.

Why?

One reason could be because there are not enough teams in that state for it to be considered sanctionable. Therefore, in the states that do not sanction the sport, it is considered a club sport and does not get the same funding and support from the school that any other sport would.

One thing that is not surprising is the location of the top 25 girls lacrosse teams. The teams are all centered around one area which happens to be the same place lacrosse started in the US, so it makes sense that the teams would be good because this region has more history of lacrosse, and established teams and programs so girls can start playing at a young age.