

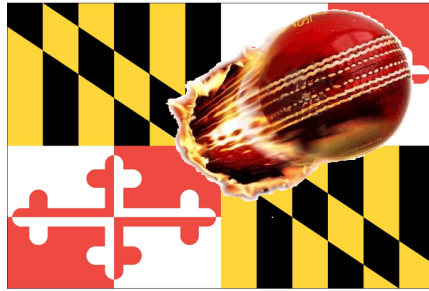
Maryland Youth Cricket Association

Tired of teaching children the same old games year in and year out? Are you and your students ready for something completely different, that's both easy to teach and fun to play? Wouldn't it be great if someone else provided the equipment and the initial instruction? Wouldn't it also be great to have a network of individuals and organizations across the country that cared about your school and were willing to support your school's material needs?



Cricket, the world's second-most popular sport, has now become one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States, where it hasn't experienced widespread popularity since the early 19th century. This resurgence is primarily due to an influx in immigration from cricket-playing regions such as India and the Caribbean; now the sport is spreading to the American mainstream.

This spring, for example, saw the playing of the 2nd annual American College Cricket National Championship at the Central Broward Regional Park Cricket Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In May, the Broward grounds will host three matches between the national teams of New Zealand and Sri Lanka, and the city of Indianapolis is about to begin construction on a 40-acre cricket facility; other communities are considering the possibilities for cricket as well. I have personally spoken to teachers in places like California and Illinois that are adding cricket to their physical education curriculums, and many summer camps, such as the ones at UMBC, are adding cricket to their programs.



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Our “Cricket Partner” program will supply all of the cricket equipment and initial instruction, eliminating any need for cost concern on your part. The “Cricket Partner” program will also “adopt” participating schools and provide material support through its extensive network of cricket supporters, many of whom are college-educated professionals. This national and global community is anxious to see cricket taught to American schoolchildren, and is excited at the potential for the Maryland program.

Cricket is the perfect game for group instruction. It can be played indoors or outside, on a basketball court, asphalt or grass. It allows the instructor to observe students both as individual participants and as parts of a team. Cricket also possesses the unique potential to appeal to all athletes, not just those who are typically large, strong or fast. (In groups, this propensity causes many disaffected children to shrink away from active participation. This means less involvement and a discouraging, awkward experience for the child; it also makes the task of assigning that student a fair grade more difficult for the instructor.) Cricket rewards patience, technique and intelligence; stature has very little to do with eventual greatness. This encourages all children to participate, and draws out those typically disaffected. Everyone wins.

The Maryland Youth Cricket Association would like to partner with you to help promote an active lifestyle for all children, especially those who might ordinarily be disaffected when it comes to athletics. We ask no monetary contribution – we seek only to work with you to introduce children to our great sport, and to provide a support network for your school.

In the coming days I will call to arrange a quick meeting to further explain cricket and the MYCA program, and to answer any questions you may have. I look forward to speaking with you, and to working with your school.

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