

4 Leaf Lacrosse New England Announces Merger with LaxPros Lacrosse in Portland, Maine

4 Leaf Lacrosse New England and LaxPros Lacrosse are excited to announce the merger of both programs under the 4 Leaf Lacrosse name.

LaxPros is a very successful program in and around the Portland area that has offered indoor leagues and a travel club program for the past five years. LaxPros is run by four talented coaches:

- Joe Hezlep coached at Scarborough High School, where he won several state championships, and dedicated himself to developing players in the Scarborough area for many years.
- Bob Johnson has been coaching lacrosse in Maine for more than 30 years, having been the varsity coach at Waynflete School in Portland and having founded Portland Youth Lacrosse in 1993.
- Ben Raymond is the varsity coach at Cape Elizabeth High School, and has won numerous state championships and sent many players off to play college lacrosse.
- Dave Barton started for three years as a goalie for UVM, is the varsity coach at Falmouth High School, and has taken his team to the state championship finals in each of his first two years.

LaxPros has grown steadily in their five years under the guidance of these coaches, and they have ushered some of the best players in Maine through their program. We are very excited to welcome Coaches Raymond, Hezlep, Barton, and Johnson to the 4 Leaf family to continue to build on the solid foundation they've created.

As you know, 4 Leaf has grown significantly since being founded in 2013, primarily due to our focus on developing well-rounded lacrosse players who possess top-tier individual skills, advanced lacrosse IQ, and who embody our values of leadership, resilience, and accountability. We've attracted talent from NH, MA, VT, ME, and beyond with our philosophy that team success is bred through practice and teamwork, which differentiates us from other programs. The addition of the LaxPros family allows us to expand into Maine and continue building lacrosse players who are ready to take the next step in their lacrosse careers.

LaxPros will field several 4 Leaf teams out of Maine, starting this fall. They will field teams at both the youth and high school level through the fall, winter, spring, and summer seasons. Coaches at all locations will teach a common curriculum, ensuring our 4 Leaf players learn the same concepts regardless of geography.

This merger fulfills a shared vision that both 4 Leaf and LaxPros have, which is to provide our players with continuity and skill development from youth all the way through high school. The addition of the LaxPros coaches to our already-strong coaching roster means more athletes will have the opportunity to experience the 4 Leaf development model. The depth, experience, and passion of the LaxPros coaches is in line with our existing staff, and we're excited for you to meet our new coaches and athletes in Maine.

At the end of the day, both programs share a passion for teaching and developing lacrosse players, and this combined effort will be instrumental as our athletes move from the youth to the high school ranks, and beyond. We are excited to welcome LaxPros to the family and look forward to a bright future with our teammates from Maine.

We have put together an FAQ page (<https://www.4leaflex.org/laxpros>) to help answer any questions you might have. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

4 Leaf Lacrosse New England Board of Directors