

New > BSA offers lacrosse phenomenon

Fastest sport on two feet

Brussels / Hoeilaart - Children from over 50 nationalities participate in Brussels Sports Association (BSA) programs. One sport on offer is a new arrival here in Belgium from America: Lacrosse.

"We offer something which I think is different from Belgian sports clubs," said Amy Anderson, director of BSA. "Most sports are played throughout the year Belgium. We offer sports for a shorter period, so the children can try things out." BSA offers sports for four-to fourteen year olds. Many children of the international community in Brussels take part in BSA sports. Every continent is represented. Volunteers who support the club make sure everything keeps running smoothly. For example, they may help to translate the English example of the coaches for the children.

"We take everybody. Beginners are welcome. There are no try-outs. All we require is the desire to play. We want children learn the sport, to have fun and to learn to be part of a team. They also learn about other countries, other cultures."

BSA offers four sports: football, baseball / softball, basketball and lacrosse. There is a lot of excitement about lacrosse across the Atlantic, but in Europe the excitement is just beginning to build. Lacrosse is sometimes called "the fastest sport on two feet" continued Anderson. "It is very fast and graceful. It is sometimes compared to hockey, but instead of passing a puck on the ice you are passing the ball in the air. The strategies can be similar to those of the basketball."

"It is the fastest growing sport in America, and it is becoming more popular in Europe. In Belgium it is just getting started." There is not yet competition for the BSA program so the focus is on learning skills. "Our members can learn basic, things like passing, shooting and tactics. In the autumn we hope to offer an even better program."

The future for lacrosse here looks promising. "My oldest son is in his first year of secondary school," says Anderson. "He has introduced the sport to some of his friends and they can't put their lacrosse sticks down. Once you try, you're sold. "

www.bsasports.org