



US VIRGIN ISLANDS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

National Teams Program

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USVILA Names Tom West Head Coach of Boys' U19 National Team

State-championship coach and proven program-builder joins USVI to lead its next generation of national team athletes

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — The U.S. Virgin Islands Lacrosse Association (USVILA) today announced the appointment of **Tom West** as Head Coach of its Boys' U19 National Team. A decorated coach with decades of experience building winning programs at the high school, club, and collegiate levels, West brings a proven track record of championship leadership and elite player development to the USVI program.

West founded and led the Ponte Vedra High School boys' lacrosse program through 2021, guiding the Sharks to numerous district and regional championships, multiple state-final appearances, and the 2019 Florida State Championship. Since 2022, he has continued that success at The Bolles School, where his teams have reached the final four every season — including a 2023 State Runner-Up finish — and have remained among the top programs in Florida.

Across his career, West has established a reputation for developing athletes who compete at the collegiate and national levels, pairing disciplined program structure with a culture of enduring excellence. That combination positions him to lead the USVI Boys' U19 team as the association continues to grow and compete on the international stage.

“Building a program is about more than wins — it's about developing players who compete with discipline, represent something bigger than themselves, and grow into leaders,” said West. “The U.S. Virgin Islands has a unique opportunity to help shape a national team identity at the U19 level and I'm honored to take on this challenge. These young men are going to work, compete, and represent their islands with pride. I can't wait to get started.”

West's appointment is a statement of intent. USVI is not chasing short-term results; the organization is engineering a sustainable system where world-class coaching and disciplined player development reinforce one another.

“What Tom has done in Florida lacrosse is build programs from the ground up and make them perennial contenders — Ponte Vedra and Bolles didn't become powers by accident,” said Bill Shatz, Director of the USVILA National Teams Program. “That ability to architect a winning program from the foundation up is exactly what our Boys’



U19 team needs at this stage. Tom understands the Florida talent landscape as well as anyone coaching today, and he knows how to move athletes to the next level. We're not just adding a coach — we're adding a builder - one who will someday leave this program stronger and deeper than he found it."

West assumes his duties with the Boys' U19 National Team effective immediately and will work alongside the USVILA National Teams staff in preparation for the program's upcoming competitive cycle.

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About USVILA

The U.S. Virgin Islands Lacrosse Association governs and develops the sport of lacrosse across the U.S. Virgin Islands, overseeing the men's and women's field, box, and Sixes national teams. Through its National Teams Program, USVILA is committed to building a sustainable, high-performance pathway for athletes to represent the Virgin Islands on the international stage.