

2021 Minor Directorate Special Session
October 2, 2021
BCLA Minor Directorate Chair Report: Gord McIntosh

When we left our AGM last year, we had high hopes of having a return to lacrosse in the spring of 2021. We prepared as we always do, but it just didn't work out. Things made a turn for the better in the late spring/early summer and we were able to get some games done in June and early July. The commissions worked very hard and well to get done what they did. The coaches, players and parents who participated starting in March with outdoor practices, no contact and just skills and drills are to be commended for their persistence and patience in keeping lacrosse going in their communities.

I encourage all presidents and association executive members to maintain good communication and relations with your local recreation facilities to ensure we have timely access to arenas and boxes next year. We may be using boxes more in the future, so they are not to be forgotten. I feel the same way about our many volunteers around the province. I hope that we don't lose any of them now that they have had a taste of what 2 summers without lacrosse is like for free time! Let's try to keep them involved and stay in touch.

There are 19 people (18 now, as we have 1 zone rep vacancy) that make up the Minor Directorate and I thank each one of them for their time and dedication to lacrosse in BC. They have been a patient and supportive group to work with and always have a view to what is best for lacrosse in the province, not just their league, zone or commission. There was still a lot of planning and discussion in the hope of a regular season. When this wasn't going to happen, they still persisted and worked to get games in where there was interest to do so.

Thank you to the BCLA staff of Jeff, Dave and Deb in helping me get through another box lacrosse season as minor directorate chair. They have impressed me in how they have dealt with adversity and communicated with our lacrosse community. Not fun, but a job well done. You are a treat to work with and we appreciate your efforts.

Regards,
Gord McIntosh
BCLA Minor Directorate Chair

Zone One August/Year End Report 2021

Zone One has two active associations: Cranbrook and the West Kootenays.

With the Covid 19 pandemic there was some hesitation with how the spring box season was going to go or if there was going to be one at all. Both clubs adapted the skills and drills into their season plan.

I did hear back from the West Kootenays and their year end report to me they said that it was a difficult year with the restrictions in place but had a successful season. Soccer did not run a program in the West Kootenays this season, so they seen several new payers. They are expecting good growth moving into next year.

I did not hear back from Cranbrook, but as far as I know they had good turnout the box season and registration is open for a summer field season.

Karyn Yasinsky

Zone One Rep

ZONE 2 – THOMPSON/OKANAGAN
August – Year End 2021 Report

ZONE 2 (TOMBLC) includes eight associations - Kamloops, Kelowna, Logan Lake, Nicola Valley, North Okanagan, Penticton, Princeton, and Shuswap.

This season was challenging for associations for varying reasons. Hurdles were met with facility bookings, adequate volunteers, financials, lack of school programs, lack of affordable advertising due to closed businesses, low registration numbers for some associations, and retaining players through the drills and skills season with the uncertainty of games. With our large geographic area, associations faced unique challenges within their community.

All of our associations were able to offer a drills and skills program, and altered their program to the changing policies. Many of our associations wrapped up at the end of June, having played only a few exhibition games with neighboring associations. Extending play into July did not happen for many associations either due to parents and coaches not wanting to, or lack of available facilities due to ice returning in some arenas as early as the end of June. At this time, our Zone does not have an adequate outdoor box certified for game play. We would like to thank Kelowna Minor Lacrosse for hosting Bantam mixed association scrimmages into July, as well as Princeton Minor Lacrosse for offering floor and trying to extend the season.

Our Zone needs assistance with recruiting and retaining volunteers and referees, volunteer recognition, and development programs held in rotating zone locations or a central zone location for athletes who can't always commit to coastal travel. We are in need of advocates in several of our towns for sufficient facilities and access. Without adequate association volunteers, many tasks are left aside in order to focus on operational requirements. More often than not, association members take on several roles in order to offer a minor lacrosse program.

Advertising has also been discussed for the Zone. Each association tries with the means they have, however this proves challenging without adequate volunteers and funds. A collaborative push for Zone advertising has been identified as a need. The Kamloops Sports Council was able to include Kamloops Minor Lacrosse in an online 50/50 fundraiser to raise funds for local sports associations. Kamloops Minor Lacrosse extended the invitation to join the fundraiser to the Zone and a total of five associations took part. Although the fundraiser didn't achieve the desired results that the Kamloops Sports Council was hoping for, it is a start for bringing funds to the associations. We are also canvassing businesses for sponsorships with Zone billboard advertising, which is off to a promising start for 2022.

I would like to extend recognition and appreciation to all Zone 2 associations and volunteers who continue to work hard to overcome hurdles within our area in regards to lacrosse. Your dedication and passion to lacrosse has not gone unnoticed. Among our many passionate volunteers, I would like to thank Wuilbert Jaramillo for his dedication to youth lacrosse and the numerous roles he takes on for our Zone. I would to recognize Logan Lake Minor Lacrosse for their increase in female participation in the Novice group. Thank you to Jamie Graham with Princeton Minor Lacrosse for working extensively with the town on advertising and facility access, as well as the many creative ideas you have to grow the sport. This includes taking lacrosse to cul-de-sacs with hockey nets and tennis balls to get the kids out to play, experience and learn this great sport!

Thank you,

Karen von Hollen
Zone 2 Representative

Zone 3 August/Final Report 2021

This year, Zone 3 associations were New Westminster, Pocolo, Coquitlam, Ridge, Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Mission and provided the following feedback on the past season:

- First was how happy the kids were to actually have games. Also there were no complaints on how the exhibition schedule went ahead.
- The second was with regards to how Beth was treated and moving forward for Lower Mainland lacrosse. She was a tireless volunteer who put in hours upon hours of her time.
- Thirdly, NW mentioned it was a struggle this year for the female teams due to a lack of teams.

Looking forward to 2022 and resume a full season.

Cheers, Jeff MacAulay
Zone 3

LMMLC REPORT YEAR END 2021

This season we finally got to play some games. Yahoo...

It wasn't a regular season and after consulting with the LMMLC presidents we decided to do club self-scheduling games, as some teams didn't want to continue into July and some did. We did have 2 clubs not wanting to do this as they felt teams wouldn't travel, these were Chilliwack and Mission, at our meeting club presidents said their teams would so these 2 clubs were happy. We had a disgruntled president who didn't even attend the meeting but instead sent a nasty email to everyone about not being happy with what the rest of the LMMLC wanted to do, he even had some facts wrong, as he thought we would be going to August, which was never the plan.

We also made it so if any player wanted to continue, they could apply to myself to be placed on another team, we had 3 players in total that wanted to do this, so we placed them with another club.

We had limited commissioners this year and they provided game number for the teams, as well as handed out suspensions which didn't seem so crazy this year, we still had a few abuse of officials, and fights.

We managed to finally get a zone 3 rep, which is nice. Welcome Jeff MacAulay, he will be a great asset to the LMMLC as well as the MD.

I have made a hard decision that I will not be returning as the LMMLC Chair after this season. My reason is as follows, after the last MD meeting I received an email from the BCLA president about how unhappy he was with the LMMLC and us doing self-scheduling games, which we also call exhibition games. He was ok with the Island league doing this but not the LMMLC. I felt it was a total disrespect for all the LMMLC, I took it personally and felt we didn't have the BCLA support on what we were doing this year to suit the needs of all teams within the LMMLC. This is why I told him he needs to get the volunteer group up and running ASAP, as we are losing volunteers and without the support of the BCLA we will lose more good people who actually care about the game we all love.

Thank you to all the MD who sit at this table over the many years I have been involved I have enjoyed working with you all and I will miss working with you.

I will say I am very concerned who will take over the LMMLC and I do hope it's someone who will be as passionate as myself, I know all the clubs except 1 are also concerned and have asked me to reconsider, but until things change with the BCLA I feel it's hard to stay without any support, and respect on what we do.

Thanks

Beth McLucas

LMMLC Chair

Zone 4 Report BC Minor Directorate Meeting
August 14, 2021

Zone 4 - Fraser River Delta is 6 active Associations: Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Langley, New Westminster, Semiahmoo, and Surrey.

The pandemic created uncertainty at the start of the box season with much conjecture that we would not get a box season in. With the experience of the fall's field season many clubs were uncertain to commit to a box season. All adapted to the mandated skills and drills of the early part of the season, however once it looked like we could play outside our associations there were many differences in commitment to league play. Many teams were reluctant to play at all and or past the end of June but all clubs endorsed the decision made by the LMMC to not have league scheduled play but have exhibition games arranged by the teams. The players were happy to play games.

The flexibility of the referee's, coaches, players, and clubs is to be commended in getting this season off.

My thanks to the Zone 4 Association Presidents, Board members, volunteers, parents who spent many hours working through this frustrating year. We all look forward to the day we will see full competitive minor lacrosse played in BC.

Finally on behalf of the Zone 4 presidents I would like to acknowledge and thank Beth McLucas for her 20 years of service to Box Lacrosse – her compassion and commitment to Minor Lacrosse is unparalleled. Beth's organizational memory, volunteerism, get it done will be missed and difficult to replace and she is also why I sit at this table. Next year we will find out how much she did for us in the Lower Mainland.

Michael O'Connor
Zone 4 Rep

Zone 5 – August/Year End Report - 2021

Zone 5 consists of: Sunshine Coast, North Vancouver, Burnaby, Vancouver, Richmond and Delta.

Due to the outbreak of Covid 19 box season began with a series of skills and drills practices. Some associations ran tryouts in order to keep their season as 'normal as possible' while others decided to opt for house teams only. Provincials were cancelled for this year along with all other National competitions. However with the loosening of sanctions box was able to return to competition by June 21. Every association in zone 5 had teams participating in league play at some level. Because the season was so short it was agreed upon by the majority of clubs in the LMMLC to have teams arrange exhibition games between themselves. For example at the Midget A and B level there were 93 games played in the 5 week period we had left of the season. Most of the associations reported they were down in numbers; only Delta said that they were around the same, and up in the younger female divisions which is an area they are looking to grow in future seasons.

Unfortunately the season did not end on a high note. One association in particular wanted the LMMLC to schedule games and weren't prepared to follow what the majority of clubs had decided. This resulted in an unprecedented attack on Beth McLucas, our commission chair, from the highest level of governance resulting in an outpouring of support for her from other associations. Clubs in zone 5 were horrified that she had to undergo such a personal attack (personal because they mentioned her by name). It shook many members to the core each asking themselves why the heck we stand up and put ourselves in the front line to end up taking abuse from other volunteers.

I was not updated on final registration numbers.

Sincerely,

Mary Clare
Zone 5 Representative

VIMLC (Zone 6) Year End Report

August 19, 2021

Well, we had an interesting year again but thankfully we were able to play some games. The Island Commission decided to not have centrally scheduled games and instead self scheduled exhibition games.

We had the following statistics for the year.

MiniTyke Mostly in house

Tyke Mostly in house with 3 games scheduled plus an in house jamboree at JDF.

Novice – mostly in house with 5 games scheduled.

Pewee 29 Games Scheduled

Bantam – 29 games scheduled plus a YE tournament hosted by Campbell River

16U – 26 Games Scheduled

Female – 3 games scheduled

In General – very little issues with suspensions relative to a “normal” year. There were still a few but mostly things like majors in the last 10. We did have a couple coach suspensions for an incident with playing illegal players when an association decided to schedule an exhibition game and played illegible players.

Apologies this report is late – but I was travelling without my computer.

All the best.

Tim

GWN (Zone 8) Report

Aug. 13, 2021

Zone 8 – Great White North Lacrosse Commission

Currently we have Prince George, Williams Lake, Quesnel, Fort St John and Mackenzie playing within commission.

A positive finish to such an interesting year and one we shall never forget.

In the North we were able to get some lacrosse played at the end of the season. Quesnel's President Lisa Scott organized a Jamboree / Controlled Scrimmage / Skills Weekend all involved so that they were able to get the different teams and associations all together. To top it off she was able to add a BBQ, Prizes for the Kid's and Lax Fun. Format used for this event was a 3 on 3 which proved successful.

Organized Practice / Controlled Scrimmage between associations was able to take place at the end with Bantam and Peewee players taking part between Prince George and Quesnel. To add value and small town support experienced coaches such as Jeff Molesky offered coaching tips, Stick tips, and skills support to coaches and players on each team.

To keep kid's in the game giving full flexibility we combined Mini-Tyke through Novice in Practices and controlled 3 on 3 games.

Was pleased to hear our numbers in the smaller associations remained consistent with a few new players due to the overall cost benefit and the customization of the game through this season. Whereas on the other hand we saw Prince George drop almost 50% in their numbers which is concerning. Playing outside was a huge benefit to some associations with overall cost savings passed down to parents at registrations and from what I hear this will be done again in 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to Sincerely Thank all our Volunteers at all levels as with out them we wouldn't be able to do what we do. The positive energy, passion for the game was evident through the full year even under such difficult times.

Some changes moving forward Annika Hedican from Fort St John, and Eric Chrona from Williams Lake both stepping down. Thanks to them both for the years of volunteerism and making an impact on their respectful communities and young athletes in the game. Thank You! Will be missed.

John Stevens

GWNLC - Chairperson

Zone 8 August - Year End Report 2021
Submitted by Richard Paciejewski – Zone Director

Updates are as of June 7/21 – date of last Great White North meeting.

Prince George

- End date June 24
- No plans to extend into July
- Few refs but possibility of games for younger levels
- 124 registered players

Quesnel

- prepared to continue
- all girls try for free
- June 20 Tyke jamboree?
- largest group in Bantam and Pee Wee

Williams Lake

- ends June 24
- interest in jamboree (3 on 3?)
- 31 registered

Mackenzie

- lots of tykes and mini-tykes

Ft. St. John

- absent from meeting

*** Further to these notes, I've been informally notified that the Williams Lake executive has resigned, but an individual has stepped forward to lead association. No name to submit at this time.

Female Box Report
2021 August MD Meeting

The 2021 Box Season was sadly again not what we had hoped for, especially for the girls.

With travel restrictions in place the interleague play could not happen, which has been a large part of the season for the island girls. For a second year our hope to travel and help Zone 2 develop their Female program also had to be put on hold.... Let's hope 2022 is the year!

A Female Box Community of Practice was created to encourage communication between associations who have or would like to have Female programs. Normally there would have been a couple in person meetings, but of course those couldn't happen.

There is a current discussion around the Female Junior program. There were some ideas floated about would it make sense to move the Junior girls to Senior so they could have a later season to accommodate girls that are away at school... the same issues the boys have dealt with. This would be a major change and so before jumping in to that we are exploring other options... such as ensuring the Junior girls would participate in the latest Provincials, or maybe even have a different sort of year end tournament. There is also a desire to maybe have the island Junior teams join the mainland league, but again some fairly major logistics to tackle.

Kudos to all those that worked to offer some local league games this year. In some cases, rules were relaxed that allowed female teams to be formed for exhibition games to make sure that they got to play a few games and not just practice.

I would like to thank all the players, team personnel, parents, association reps/presidents and the Female Coordinators who have help make the Female Program so successful. It is unfortunate that we had to step back a little from the growth we had been experiencing, but I'm sure with the cooperative spirit that 2022 will see the numbers rebound and continue to grow.

Stay Safe...

Linda Cretney

MD Female Box Lacrosse Chair

linda.cretney@gmail.com

Provincials Yearend Report 2021

Submitted by Pam Mason Provincial Playoff Director

For the second season we were unable to host provincial championship events in BC. Three of the 2020 hosts reapplied and were willing to host for the 2021 year and we're prepared to host should the restrictions be lifted by the province.

In January the minor directorate discussed how the events would work and voted to not hold traditional provincial events for the 2021 season. We then had to get permission from the BCLA board to suspend the events for the year. They were reluctant to cancel or postpone the events for another year so early in the year. The minor directorate and the BCLA board met and discussed dates and timelines when decisions would need to be made by. The cancellation got put on hold and they were never officially cancelled.

The challenges that we would have had this year and possibly for further years is volunteers to supervise the provincials with various people's needs for personal protection against covid and being indoors for events.

I look forward to a more normal 2022 lacrosse season followed by the provincial championships to showcase our sport and help it grow in various cities.

I first off would like to thank all the people involved in the Coaches Technical support group and the BCLA office for all the work they do throughout the year

Once again, we were at the mercy of the pandemic for the start of the season. This year however we were able to host some online coaches' clinics for new coaches. We held 15 clinics with a limited number of new coaches that were full for every session.

We did finally get back to playing games with a limited number of fans in most venues. For a shorten season we did have a few issues that happened over the month and a half when games started. It almost seemed like everyone from coaches, officials and players seemed to forget rules and policies. We had Presidents who think they don't need to follow rules and figure they can run leagues better then the zone commissions. We had coaches who think playing suspended players, players playing down to younger age groups, and players playing for different associations was no big deal because hey these aren't real games.

I once again hope we can start next season on time next year with a full season ..full of fans ... and Provincial's

Yours in Lacrosse

Rob Arden
Vice Chair – Minor
BCLCG

Minor Box Official Year-end report

This was a very interesting year to say the least. The biggest challenge was the ongoing uncertainty of the sport for 2021 and for the officials was the logistics of getting clinics organized, a return to lacrosse policy and recruitment. Despite this, our group lead by Lee and Doug met on a regular basis and strategize contingency plans for the many possibilities the return may present itself.

For the first time, minor box clinics were held by video conference with some success. Despite the season going forward as exhibition without provincials nor local championships, we once again were faced with a proportionate amount of referee abuse directed to our young referees. Even though the “mean nothing” games were played some coaches found it in themselves to insult, question and confront the referees in a way that would not be tolerated in normal society. Once again I would like to acknowledge the Coaches technical group for their support in this, however from our perspective the damage has been done to these referees.

In closing, I look forward to regaining the normalcy we are accustomed to with hopes that everyone stays healthy and we can get back to box lacrosse in 2022.

Submitted respectfully,
Wilson Louie
Vice Chair Minor Box

The registration process was much slower this year due to some Associations not submitting their registrations into the BCLA Office by the due date of May 15. COP messages were sent out in advance of the due date as well as direct emails post May 15 to those that didn't send theirs in. Despite this there were still several Associations that did not submit until late June. Many paperwork issues were left unresolved due to no response for Association Registrars/Presidents.

Thanks to the Commission Chairs that sent me their approved Player Transfers / Oversized Teams / Playing Down Approvals as this really helps to move everything along at a much higher pace.

Corinne Perriman

BCLA Minor Registrar