

2023 Minor Directorate Special Session
October 21, 2023
BCLA Minor Directorate Chair Report: Gord McIntosh

When the last of the provincial championships is completed, that is the end of our 2023 box lacrosse season. I will admit to having a goofy grin on my face for a few days when the season is over. In looking back, I see some positive change in the female games and leagues. Having an interlocking league schedule between the lower mainland and Vancouver Island will help grow and develop the Island female program. The lower mainland teams have been helpful in making this work. We may see some rule changes from Lacrosse Canada (discussed, but not ratified yet) that will reduce off ball contact in all divisions. This may help get more non-lacrosse families to take up box lacrosse, particularly at the younger ages. Our challenges continue to be the behaviour of our coaches and parents. For the coaches, it is their continued inability to control their emotions on the bench and abuse officials. For the parents, it is the use of social media to get attention and in a small number of cases to abuse and berate the association executives. We have worked with associations to assist them with options in dealing with abusive families/parents. The coach's association provides strong leadership and consequences for coaches that go over the line, but the lessons seem slow to stick.

We had another successful run of provincial championships in 2023. There were 4 provincial championships hosted on 3 weekends in July. We made some date changes to accommodate the NAIG in Halifax, which led to a weekend off rather than 3 consecutive weekends as we have done in the past. Our provincial championship hosts did a wonderful job, and we thank them very much for stepping up and allowing us to put on the provincials. It was good to see updated banners, championship plaques and the bucket hats for player of the game winners (something different)

We are thrilled for a return to an in-person AGM to be held in Whistler in 2023. We hear across the province of the challenge in getting and keeping volunteers. We hear from all zones how important it has been in the past and is as important now to recognize and reward our volunteers. Our annual AGM in Whistler is a good way to do this, and we are very pleased that it is back!

There are 19 people (17 now, as we have 2 zone rep vacancies) 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. With the exception of our August meeting, all our MD meetings were held at the BCLA office, and it led to more interactive and effective discussions.

Thank you to the BCLA staff of Jill, Dave, Matt and Deb in helping me get through another box lacrosse season as minor directorate chair. You are a treat to work with and we appreciate your efforts.

Regards,
Gord McIntosh
BCLA Minor Directorate Chair

The registration process went smoothly for the most part this year. Most Associations submitted their registrations into the BCLA Office by the due date of May 15 however there were some late comers that delayed the completion.

Up to 3 reminders were required going out both via COP and directly to Registrars and Association Presidents email. This was in addition to advance notice of the deadline send in mid April and at the beginning of May. Some never did submit their required supporting paperwork. Unfortunately the time required to get this information adds up very quickly.

Of enormous benefit again this year were the spreadsheets from the Commission Chairs sent with their approved Player Transfers / Oversized Teams / Playing Down Approvals. This helps to move everything along at a much higher pace. A grateful thank-you to those Commission Chairs that sent theirs in, supporting this process.

Corinne Perriman

BCLA Minor Registrar

BC Minor Lacrosse Directorate Meeting
August 15, 2023

Zone 2 Yearly Report, Thompson Okanagan Box Lacrosse Commission (TOMBLC)

Zone 2 - TOMBLC consists of 8 active Associations: Kamloops, Kelowna, Logan Lake, Nicola Valley, North Okanagan, Penticton, Princeton, and Shuswap.

This year was as close to normal as we could possibly get after Covid-19. Associations were back full steam to provide lacrosse to kids in the interior. Unfortunately, Nicola Valley and Logan Lake were not able to offer lacrosse to their communities. The few players from those associations that wanted to play the sport were placed in different associations across the zone and all of them finished the year with their respective teams and some of them even made it to provincials. There is hope for those associations to be back next year and offer the sport to their communities again.

For all the associations participating in this year's season, numbers improved with respect to 2022. For some associations even improving their numbers with respect to pre-covid years. Princeton (the smallest association), was able to field a U13 and a U15 team. They even successfully hosted a U13 tier C tournament at their arena which is nothing short of remarkable. For Princeton, their membership growth is improving, adding more members to their board (which was very reduced this season).

The zone had teams participating in all provincial Championships:

- U13 had Kelowna in A2 and Kamloops in C
- U15 had North Okanagan in A2 (Bronze medal)
- U17 had Kelowna in A2 (Bronze medal) and also Kelowna in B

The biggest challenge in our zone was the U17 division for all the associations. Odd numbers in each association made it a challenge to make teams in two skill tiers (as per our zone policy), with enough numbers to handle not only playing but being able to finish the season. Kelowna, Penticton and North Okanagan made it work with their odd registration numbers and each association had two teams (one in A2 and one in B). Both teams in each association finished their season successfully, which is remarkable as all three associations had players (quite a few in their second year) whose first exposure to lacrosse was at this age level.

All associations had struggles with player attendance, not so much in the U17 or U15 divisions but more noticeable in the U13 and U11 divisions. Particularly U13 in the lower tiers (B and C), teams suffered from player commitment which translated in the experience players had in practices and games, not to mention the constant struggle for coaches to cover the games their teams were scheduled to play.

Regarding the volunteer situation, there was no improvement with respect to last year. All associations struggled with volunteer numbers, which in turn reflected in the commission's volunteers as well. Apathy to volunteering has driven current volunteers to burn out and some of them have just walked away. Abuse and unjustified and frequent criticism from parents are also a factor that are driving volunteers away. This is a very bad scenario as the sport relies heavily on volunteers to work properly on and off the floor. All associations have this problem, there is only so much volunteers (coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, time keepers, just to mention few) can take before stepping away. That is a shame, as volunteers should be valued and praised for their time and dedication to the sport.

Another pain point (this is quite serious) was also abuse of officials. This has not changed with respect to last year and this season was worse. This is a topic that keeps coming back every single season and doesn't seem like there is enough done to decrease that. People from the stands abuse the officials on the floor and people on the score box without any justifiable reason. Some of these officials are children just starting to referee and a good amount are minors with at most two years experience, yet they are subject to serious abuse from grown adults (men and women). If that kind of abuse took place in another setting/context/job, the consequences would be considerable for whoever performs them and yet in this game those referee children just take the abuse with some of them quitting due to the horrible experience they had. That in turn, affects referee recruitment and hence the overall referee numbers. That is not good for a sport that wants to grow, as games are canceled when there are no referees available for the games (which happened this year in several games this season in the interior). This is probably the most pressing issue that will affect the game in the next few years.

Last for not least, I would like to thank all the volunteers that through the season took all the challenges that were put in front of them and solved them to make the sport happen. Without them and their ***magic powers and dedication***, no season would be possible.

Yours in lacrosse

Wuilbert Jaramillo
Zone 2 Chair

LMMLC YEAR-END REPORT 2023

This season was the inaugural season of an interlocking league with the Island for our female teams. To grow female box lacrosse there were discussions via zoom meetings, between John Hamilton, Tim Frost, Pam Mason, Nicole Kokoska and myself after the 2022 season. The goal was to create an interlocking VIMLC and LMMLC female league. The agreement was presented in September 2022 to each commissions Presidents and passed respectively for the 2023 season.

The interlocking season was not without its challenges, with most teams not aware of the new league agreement and its expectations. Short notice of scheduling, teams not being able to travel to the Island due to lack of players, the cost of travel , ferry congestion, were some of issues ,

Once the season was well underway, however the number of games played across the leagues was unprecedented. We will look forward to having some feedback from teams as we strive to improve the experience for both commissions.

Tiered A & B Female Provincials were held this year in the U-13, U-15, and U-17 divisions

The tyke season was 3v3 with a goalie for in league games and tournaments this year and the option for “in house “only play for 5 v 5 . This decision at the Minor Directorate level caused some controversy with various associations. The Minor Directorate did allow after some discussion for tournaments played at the end of the season in late June to be 5 v 5.

LMMLC continued to have several combined teams this season with the goal of improving competition at all levels. While some worked out well, other teams struggled. This also brought attention to policy and its wording that need to be updated if we are to continue to allow these teams. Also, the need to solidify team mergers and communication with parents prior to the declarations is imperative for success.

We struggled with scheduling again the year to have an even distribution of games & opponents in divisions through tiering and after tiering due to some divisions remaining interlocked.

To have interlocking divisions both in tiering and after tiering exposed the need to improve the policy wording around points and standings for Provincials.

To help with efficiency, the need to have an appointed head commissioner to help with mentoring new commissioners and to oversee the scheduling process has become apparent.

This season was the second year using RAMP for the electronic game sheets and the first year for using Orbiter System for referee assignments.

While we continue to make headway on the electronic game sheets with managers, commissioners, and referees, the Orbiter System was wrought with issues for the ref allocators with some associations opting out altogether.

The continued abuse of officials from coaches, players and spectators is disheartening and evident in the number of hearings we held this year.

The number of games cancelled this season due to lack of officials and the struggle to find qualified officials for tournaments & Provincials also highlighted the issue.

I had the pleasure of attending the U-13 box Provincials co-hosted with Maple Ridge this year in early July. The Provincial were well run and the games at all levels were competitive and intense. It's always a great weekend to talk about lacrosse and exchange ideas on how to improve the game.

I would like to thank LMMLC , The Minor Directorate and BCLA executives for their time and their support in my second year as LMMLC chair .

Also a big thank you to the commissioners who all put in hours this year to make sure the divisions ran as smooth as possible .

I would also like to thank the Presidents & Vice Presidents of LMMLC for their feedback 😊. Their determination and willingness to explore all possibilities, try to see different perspectives and to work with the LMMLC executive as well as each other. The joint effort to improve our league and grow minor lacrosse across the Lower Mainland as well as B.C is appreciated.

Best Regards,

Sandra Margetson

LMMLC Chair

Zone 3 Year End report - 2023

Another year has come and gone, and the box season ends so fast.

Congratulations to all the zone 3 teams that not only made provincials but metaled. Maple Ridge hosted a great U13 provincials. I had the honour of volunteering for the female division in Mission and the U 17 coed in Cowichan. I want to thank all the volunteers who put on these successful provincials.

Looking back, I have three takes:

The Good: the female game has come, leaps, and bounds!

The Bad: because of a lack of officials some games had to be canceled.

The Ugly: abuse of officials is still an issue. We all keep saying this has to stop but it doesn't.

In closing. I want to thank all my peers for their support and advice.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jeff MacAulay
Zone 3 Rep

**BC Minor Directorate
Year End Report Zone 4 – 2023**

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

The season's start was a little rocky but then settled in, I will agree with other administrators that ref abuse is still an issue – coaches and parents need to settle down. Progress has been made on the digital games sheets but I feel we would benefit from one platform to schedule games, complete game sheets, and referee allocation. It would make it easier for the volunteers to use and track play.

Provincial Championship Zone 4 results:

U-13 Mixed:

A-1 – Langley - Bronze
A-2 – Semiahmoo Bronze
A-2 – Langley 4th
C – Surrey Participant

U-15 Mixed:

A-1 Langley Silver
A-2 Chilliwack participant
B Langley participant

U-17 Mixed:

A-1 – Langley Silver
A-1 – Surrey Participant
B – Langley Silver
B - Abbotsford Bronze

Female:

Jr. New Westminister/Semi Bronze
U-17A New Westminister Gold
U-17A Semiahmoo/Surrey Bronze
U-15A New Westminister Bronze
U-13A Langley Bronze
U-13B New Westminister Gold

Team BC representatives from Zone 4:

Boys

U-13 – 4
U-15 – 3
U-17 – 8

Female:

U-13 – 2
U-15 – 5
U-17 - 7

Junior (U-22) - 3

Zone 4 Tournaments:

4 out of the 6 Zone 4 Associations held a tournament.

Chilliwack Mixed U-9 Langley Mixed U-9
New West – Female U-11 to U-17 Surrey Mixed U7 & U9
New West – Mixed U-15 A1 & B Langley Mixed U-15 A2 & B
New West Mixed U-11 A1, B, C

My thanks to the my fellow minor directorate board members, Zone 4 Association Presidents, Board members, referees and volunteers who worked many hours through this past season.

Respectfully submitted by

Michael O'Connor
Zone 4 Representative

Zone 5 Year End Report - 2023

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

Feeling across the zone is that the Box season started with much more promise and enthusiasm as last. Tournaments filled up fast and Teams were excited to participate.

Tournaments hosted in Zone 5 were the Sid Dann U13 May 7th - 9th in Vancouver, the Roadrunner Spring Classic for U17 May 22nd - 25th and the Richmond Salmon Festival (U11 and U9) June 15th - 17th, both in Richmond.

Volunteer pool continues to get smaller every year and it is amazing to see these Associations continue to find parents, Coaches and others to help tirelessly to make this Sport happen for our children year after year.

Provincial results:

Delta/Burnaby Female U15 Silver Medal

Richmond U13 B Bronze Medal

North Shore U13 A2 Gold Medal

Some comments/concerns that have filtered back are:

- Volunteer pool continues to shrink and associations are looking for some help/direction (sharing of best practices) from BCLA and/or other Associations with the filling of board positions and Coaching/Managing roles.
- Same can be said for the Referee situation. While we continue to preach zero-tolerance for abuse, that just isn't the actual reality.
- Happy to see the Whistler AGM return, so we are able to reward Volunteer service and recruit new. This will be a big plus for next season.
- With the recent changes in management and recent signings, the buzz behind the Warriors is creating optimism that the team will help drive media awareness to our sport and create the halo-effect we are needing.
- Seeing a lot of discussion around creating more A1 and A2 teams to push play forward. This was done with a few teams in our Zone. while it personally benefited my son, I am concerned that some may be losing sight of the importance of the C division. Would like to see some discussion on this prior to the start of next season.

Happy to continue in my role as Zone 5 rep. I feel the next couple of seasons are going to be extremely important to the growth of our sport. I feel more positive and excited about the future of Lacrosse than I have in previous years. I believe a similar sentiment is shared throughout our zones and others in our Province.

Sincerely,

Michael Hagel
Zone 5 Rep

Zone 6 (Vancouver Island) Year End Report 2023

I am pleased that we had a normal lacrosse season again in 2023. We still had some residual issues due to COVID with impacts of two years away affecting our volunteer base. Our total number of referees were down and for the first time ever – we had to cancel a number of games due to a lack of referees.

Next year will be challenging as we expect significant turnover in association executive with over 80% of our associations expecting to have new presidents in 2024. It is fantastic to see the BCLA has renewed the AGM – and I continue to call for action on the volunteer technical support group to be reinstated. We continue to have challenges with Parent and Spectator behaviour. Many adults feel that it is acceptable to scream abuse at referees. We have taken unprecedented steps to ban spectators and suspend parents. Again – we need more support from the BCLA on training and toolkits for the volunteers to handle the behaviours we see.

Our development divisions had a lot of fun and it is great to see lots of new participants – particularly in the mini tyke and tyke divisions. Our competitive divisions had a great season and a number of Island teams qualified for Provincials with the following teams winning medals in Provincial play.

U15

A2 – Gold – Nanaimo

B – Gold – Comox

U17

A1 – Gold – JDF

Female

U13 B – Bronze - Nanaimo

U17B – Silver - Nanaimo

Congratulations to all of the teams for the strong showing.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tim Frost, Zone 6 Chair

GWNLC Year End Report 2023

Zone 8 – Great White North Lacrosse Commission

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

The 2023 Lacrosse year has been a success in the North with all associations working together in a manner that supports growth, play and getting and maintaining athletes in the game.

The commission had an 8 game schedule with extra games played during week within the associations or extra time available on the schedule to fit in extra games.

Fort St John primarily played inter-association play with adding tournaments in Alberta and combining team with outside associations to play Canada Day Tournament.

In majority numbers were up in most associations with exception of Prince George where we were close to the previous year's numbers. Numbers were most healthy in the younger age groups. Our goals are to continue to provide a positive experience and getting kid's in the game.

We were please to get a lot of new ref's out this year which was what we believed to be a challenge at the beginning with continued mentorship and coaching. We will need to continue with this as we move forward to fine tune the skills and gain further confidence.

Coaching we had some new faces step up and hopefully now can retain going forward.

Although short in the executive this year we managed to get through the season due to great continued volunteerism that are currently in place. Special Thanks to Lisa Scott from Quesnel, Jamie Beaulne from Williams Lake, Kyle Pacheco from Mackenzie, and Scott Brown from Prince George. These great people put in countless hours to keep the games running and help with overall organization within the commission. Special mention though to Cara Moleski who helped with scheduling.

Combination Teams continue to be a success in the North being able to have smaller communities join up and play as a team for league play and tournament play.

Opportunities current and moving forward we see as; referee retention, training and mentorship as senior refs are leaving the game.

Volunteers to keep the commission afloat. I am trying to step down this year from current role and allow for new energy to grow roles within the commission.

I appreciate all the great efforts from our many volunteers encompassing all associations and executive.

Looking forward to the 2024 Season.

Best Regards,
John Stevens
GWNLC - Chair

Zone 8 Year End Report

Zone playoffs were held in Prince George on June 24-25.

U11 were represented by 3 PG teams, Quesnel, and combined Williams Lake-Mackenzie.

U13 were represented by 3 PG teams, Quesnel, Williams Lake, and Mackenzie.

U15 were represented by PG, Williams Lake, combined Mackenzie-Quesnel.

U17 were represented by PG, Williams Lake, combined Quesnel-Mackenzie.

Hardest shot and most accurate shot were also included.

Mackenzie indicated that on floor reffing course would be helpful as well as in season course for those that were unavailable for initial course.

We only had 1 team declare for Provincials, PG U15, who came home with the Silver medal in the B division.

Our zone did not have a representative for zone player of the year. I hope that in the future we can make sure we have a representative every year.

Our zone will be looking for a new chair next year as John Stevens has decided to step away and allow someone new to take over this important position. I'd like to thank John for his dedication and support over the last number of years.

Submitted by
Richard Paciejewski
Zone 8 Director

FEMALE BOX CHAIR YEAR END REPORT 2023

The 2023 Female box season began with a new format that allowed Vancouver Island teams to play in the Lower mainland League. The goal of this new format and the new policies that were implemented were to improve the opportunities for female lacrosse players to play more games and to help develop and grow female box lacrosse in the province.

While there were challenges with scheduling, especially in the early part of the season, the inter-locking league was very successful with an unprecedented 81 regular season games played between island and mainland teams. There are many individuals to thank for the success of this inaugural season including association presidents, commissioners, referees, coaches, players and parents. Thank you all for your patience and support. I would especially like to thank the schedulers, Pam Mason and Dallas Lister and the Female Coordinators Nicole Kokoska for the Lower Mainland and Lisa Seel-Thompson for Vancouver Island who worked tirelessly all year long to make the games happen.

With the lessons learned this past season, next year the inter-locking format should go much smoother, communication to teams needs to be improved to allow time for planning and more floor time needs to be allocated for female games.

From the TOMLC, a successful Female camp was held in April and teams from this zone participated in both the Adanac Female Challenge and Reign storm tournaments. Thank you to Penni King for her continued dedication to the development of female lacrosse in this zone.

Thank you to Mission Minor Lacrosse for hosting a well organized and very successful Female Provincials. There were teams representing both the A and B divisions for U13, U15, and U17 and for the Junior division. The games were very entertaining and the talent level was impressive.

Prior to our AGM I will be looking at the operating policies concerning female lacrosse to see if additional positive changes can be made.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hamilton
Female Box Chair

2023 Provincial Championships Year End Report U13, U15, U17 and Female

Our 2023 provincial events were all a great success this year with the hosts of all events doing an excellent job hosting the teams coming to their venues. This year we had events in divisions for U13, U15, U17, and Female (All divisions). With the U13 and females divisions having over 30 teams each in the events we had to utilize three floors for both events, the U15 and U17 both hosted 19 teams at their events allowing for two floors to be utilized.

I would like to thank the host convenors who put in tireless hours to make these events a success and a time to remember by all the participants and parents. This year we ran the events over three weekends with our final event being the latest into July that I have experienced. Two events were hosted in the lower mainland and two on the island.

Our first weekend we had two events with the U13 in Ridge Meadows and the female just a city away in Mission which made it easier for families that had both U13 co-ed players and female players to be able to attend the games of multiple teams.

We hosted the U13 provincials in Ridge Meadows led by Jaime Yerbury with the games held at Planet Ice and Pitt Meadows arena, with two floors in one facility and the second only 15 minutes away, it was well managed by the volunteers who were very attentive to the spectators and the convenors. The one feedback from some teams is that it would have been better to have the medal games at one facility so that more people could watch all the games rather than choose between facilities. We had all divisions represented with A1 and A2 playing full round robin, B and C playing the traditional 8 team two pools round robin. In total we had 30 teams represented at this event

That same weekend the Females this year were hosted by Mission Lacrosse led by Jen Lago and her team with the games taking place at Mission Leisure Centre, supplemented by Abbotsford Rec Centre. The female division had 32 teams which made for some very long days to get in all of the games for the divisions over the weekend, Saturday being an extremely long day for the volunteers made even longer with two overtime games for the last two games of the day, Which made for an exciting finish to the day. The females this year were tiered in all divisions with either four or five teams representing their home associations with the exception of the Junior Females that had 5 teams attend. The players did not let the spectators down with some extremely exciting lacrosse. The Junior division came down to a one goal spread when doing the tie breaker for who was to continue onto the finals.

The second weekend teams were off to the Island for the U15 provincials co-hosted by Saanich and Victoria Esquimalt with the event being led by Kalyn Sarkany and Sharon Allan for the weekend events with each lady having a team of volunteers at the two venues of Archie Browning and Panorama as the two venues were too far apart to share volunteers for the weekend. With the two facilities being used for the event the hosts did an excellent job making the event at both venues successful. The two venues did feel the heat of the summer with both arenas being warm at times but that didn't get the teams down and they all had an excellent weekend with some very competitive lacrosse. This was the one event where the parents were a little more challenging in the stands and the parking lot with being vocal to the referees. We had more players receive suspensions at this event than any of the other four events with a number of players receiving suspensions in their last game of the weekend causing a number of carryover suspensions for next year. Not sure if it is just the age of the players or because they did not get provincial championships one or two of their years eligible due to no events.

The final weekend was the U17 in the new Cowichan Valley led by Chris Claxton and Andrea Akhurst at the two facilities of Cowichan Community Centre and Kerry Park Arena . This year we had 19 teams compete in the A1, A2 and B division. The competition in all divisions did not disappoint with a couple of games going into overtime to start our day on Saturday followed by Sunday with a double overtime in the Bronze game. All the games were well played and competitive in the divisions. Having the games over two arenas was more of a challenge for the hosts to ensure that they had the volunteers for the event especially when their own team was playing as a large number of the key volunteers were part of the one team in the event. The spectators did not notice as it was well coordinated but made for juggling on their part.

Overall considering that we had more teams, more players and more spectators at the events there were very few issues off floor and with minimal suspensions in all divisions except the U15. Parents were for the most part controlled and well behaved. We did have a couple of parents that needed to be removed from a couple of the event due to abuse of official and alcohol infractions as there were more traveling teams this year; it was more evident and pronounced especially on the Friday evening and Saturday.

It was a pleasure being provincial supervisor again this year and working with all of the hosts to make these events memorable to the players and parents I would like to thank all of the supervisors volunteered who gave up their holidays to ensure that these event were successful for the players, coaches and parents over these weekends in July, without your support of Minor Lacrosse in BC we would not have provincial events to showcase the best players of our province. These events are run and supervised completely by volunteers from the minor directorate and coaches' association. Thank you to Gord McIntosh, Dee Bowley, Sandra Margetson, John Hamilton, Tim Frost, Richard Paciejewski, Sean Reid, Shane Mellish, Michael Hagel, Wuilbert Jaramillo, Brande Terris and John Stevens . I would like to thank the following RIC's for their support and help at the provincials Angie Ried, Doug Wright, Argun Singh, Nico Beaudoin, Vince Burelle, Cory Lister, Nik Dos Santos. To the coaching reps, Jeff MacAulay, Michael O'Connor, Dan Chetner, Gary Fredrickson, Kelly Fines and Rob Arden

None of these events could be held without the support of the BCLA staff: Katie, Matt, Deb and Jill thank you for being there to help whenever we needed.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the coaches, volunteers, and fans for supporting our great game of lacrosse and helping form the memories for these participants of the 2022 provincial championships.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pam Mason
Vice Chair Minor Directorate
Provincials Playoff Director

MD Tournament Year End Report - 2023

- There were 40 Tournaments hosted by 24 Associations.
- There were 16 Associations that do not host a Tournament.
- ✓ There were 35 Mixed Tournaments
- ✓ There were 3 Female Only Tournaments.
- ✓ There were 2 Tournaments that have Mixed and Female Only.
- There were over 1000 Tournament Registration Requests by our teams
- We have many teams applying for every tournament they are able to.
- Some U9 team applying for up to 10 tournaments.
- U13 & U15 Teams applying for 5 and 6 tournaments.
- We have many teams that participate in 2 and a few that do 3 tournaments.
- **We had a couple teams that did not get accepted into any tournaments.**

40 Tournaments Total Hosted from 42 Applications one tournament for 1 division was not approved due to a conflict one tournament with 2 divisions cancelled by host			
12 Association's	Host 1 Tournament		
8 Association's	Host 2 Tournament		
4 Association's	Host 3 Tournament		
16 Association's	Host 0 Tournament		
Mixed (Male & Female)	Division	Tier	# of Tournaments
	U7		6
	U9		13
	U11	A1	4
		A2	3
		B	9
		C	2
	U13	A1	3
		A2	3
		B	6
		C	3
	U15	A1	3
		A2	3
		B	6
		C	2
	U17	A1	2
		A2	4
		B	5
Female (only)	Division		# of Tournaments
	U9		2
	U11		4
	U13		4
	U15		4
	U17		4
	JR		3

Respectfully submitted by,

Shane Mellish
Tournament Administrator (Minor)

Vice Chair Coaches – Minor Year End Report - 2023

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

This season once again brought out allot of craziness with all involved - Player, Coaches, Officials, Parents. We had coaches threatening officials, parents fighting and drinking in the parking lots, players saying sexual remarks to officials, officials searing at players. As a sport we still have a great deal of work to do, and it has to happen sooner rather then later of there won't be anyone to play this game.

The Coaches Technical Group is always looking for more clinicians especially in all the areas outside the lower mainland. I would ask all clubs to look for someone in your own association that may want to do this so we can have more clinics and be able to train more coaches.

This year we held 31 clinics for Community Development-Level with 515 people attend and 89 no-shows. We held 18 clinics for Competitive Introduction-Level 2 with 243 attending and 32 no shows. I think it is time for not only needing to have these clinics paid for up front, but we need associations to take more responsibility for their coaches training to make sure coaches have the proper training before it becomes too late in the season.

I would like to thank all the host clubs that took on all the provincials this season, and a huge thank you to all the volunteers that spent many hours of their time to make them all successful!

Yours in Lacrosse,

Rob Arden
Vice Chair Coaches – Minor

Year End Report
Vice Chair BCLOG – Minor
August 11, 2023

This year's lacrosse season was one filled with challenges as well as many successes. One of our greatest challenges is once again recruitment and retention. Despite our efforts we are at an extreme shortage of referees, especially in the higher divisions. Our level 2 numbers have been on a steady decline for several years, including prior to Covid. Prior to writing this report I reviewed reports as far back as one written by Doug Wright in 2003. The exact same thing was being said then. Clearly things have not changed. Without a new way of thinking and doing, we will continue to do the same thing, get the same result, have the same conversations, and wonder why things are not getting better.

I was elected by the Officials Technical Group to try and bring change. I firmly believe we need to change the culture in order to bring any positive changes. The challenge I ran into this year is not everyone is up for change. People tend to fear change, and that is a large roadblock. Clearly what has always worked, and the way we have always done things, is not working. The other challenge I had was finding the support officials need, rather than the support the officials receive. What do I mean by this? I have sat in many meetings and talked to many people this year, and without a doubt 99.9% of members (executive, coaching staff, club level executive, BCLA staff, parents, etc.) are giving the support to the officials group that they think we need. We are grateful for that support, but we now need to focus that support on what is actually needed. Far too many unqualified members are making decisions regarding officials. Who can and who cannot referee, what level an official is able to do, or not do. Those decisions need to come back to those who are qualified through Lacrosse Canada as a certified member of the Officials Group to make those decisions.

The Officials Group brought in a program for assigning that would allow us (the executive) to follow officials development, and ensure games were being filled with appropriate qualified officials. There was some success with the use of Arbiter, although not as much as we would have liked. Each official is given a "rank" that indicates what level ball they can officiate. The rank is determined by the head referee, or if there is not one, the zone rep or someone he appoints to assess the official. It allowed some of the clubs to quickly see who was available to fill a game that may otherwise be canceled. Many many games, both lower mainland and the island, did not get canceled because we were able to quickly see who was available. Evaluations are being put into the system and attached to the official. This allows the head refs, zone reps and the technical group to also assess. This information is invaluable to us when it comes time to select officials for Provincials and Nationals. There were a couple of clubs that refused to use the system and did their own thing. Unfortunately, that leaves us with no information on the officials in that club, and we are unable to identify them for development opportunities such as provincials or nationals.

Many decisions regarding officials are being done at the club level. In fact there are policies that state if the home team cannot find a referee, they forfeit the game. This puts undue pressure on the allocators. The allocators are appointed by the club to assign officials. From what I understand there is no training from an official's standpoint, only training on how to get a body into a game. I have been advised that presidents, club executive members and coaches have been able to select or approve officials for their game. This only instills the thought of "Homer" officials.

Referee abuse continues to be a problem. Looking back at past years reports, nothing has changed. So again, if we continue to do the same thing over and over and expect a different outcome, we will continue to be disappointed. The numbers tell the story. There were 54 coaches ejected from the games. This included 49 Game Misconducts, 3 Gross misconducts and 1 Match. These numbers are atrocious. In terms of players there were 5 Game Misconduct abuse of official, 4 Gross misconducts to Referee, and 4 Match on official. We need to do better. We must do better if we have any hope of keeping the officials we have and recruiting new officials.

Provincials

I would like to thank Doug Wright, Arjan Singh, Dylan Taylor (U13), Angie Reid & Lisa Hibbeln (Female), Nico Beaudoin & Vince Burelle (U15) and Corey Lister & Nick dos Santos (U17) for all their hard work and commitment to ensuring successful tournaments from an officiating perspective. I would also like to thank all the hosts for welcoming our group and looking after our officials. We did run into problems with some members of the BCLA group overstepping with the officials. Three out of four of the Provincial Tournaments had some sort of problem with members of the Provincial Committee overstepping. This clearly is not appropriate and needs to be addressed.

In summary, I strongly believe we need to change the culture. We need more education for the parents, the coaches, and the officials. I firmly believe education should be part of the route to dealing with Referee Abuse. We need to use the tools that are available to help in the development of our officials. This year it was Arbiter for the officials. To be honest, we need 1 program for the official's group, so we can develop and monitor all of the BCLA officials, and not just select groups. It does not matter if the program is called Arbiter, or something else. If the tool does what the Officials group needs it to do, and we have support to implement it. We need to prevent the misconception of bias, or homer referee. That means we acknowledge the officials are BCLA officials, not "name of Club" officials. We ensure all games have properly qualified officials and not just bodies, so the team does not forfeit. Presidents and coaches do not get a say in who officiates and who does not. Those in the official's group are qualified to make those decisions, Presidents and Coaches are not and are often biased, leading to decisions that are not in the best interests of the game. Changing the culture of the game is no easy task, and will not happen overnight, nor will it happen if we continue to do things the way we always have. I challenge all to take a new look at how we do things and help start changing the culture.

Yours in Lacrosse

Dallas Lister
Vice Chair
BCLOG - Minor