



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
BC Lacrosse Association
OCTOBER 21, 2023**

GENERAL SESSION - MINUTES

1. Welcome/ Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:17 pm by BCLA President Gerry Van Beek presiding.

Welcome back to our first in person meeting since Covid.

We acknowledge the traditional land upon which this meeting is located.

We honour our partnership with Canada's original peoples and lacrosse's origins with them.

We honour and respect the gifts of Indigenous history, culture, and language.

We commit to moving forward in partnership with our communities in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation.

2. Approval of the October 15, 2022 BCLA Annual General Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Ken Woollard seconded by Kelly Fines that the Minutes of the 2022 BC Lacrosse Association Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

3. Approval of the October 21, 2023 BCLA Annual General Meeting Agenda

It was moved by Dirk Rachfall seconded by Dylan Taylor that the agenda of the 2023 BCLA Association Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated with the addition of "the Approval of the Agenda"

CARRIED

4. Business arising from Previous Minutes (2022 BCLA AGM)

NONE

5. BCLA Strategic Plan – Jill Krop, BCLA Executive Director

Jill identified that the BCLA Strategic Plan was in place from 2020-2024 so there will be a planning session held November 25, 2023. It was to be held prior to the AGM but was delayed, allowing the new members of the Executive to participate.

6. Executive Reports

Due to a delay with the Auditors, there was no current financial report provided.

The Executive reports were uploaded to the website in the Final Annual Report; however, it wasn't clear enough for members to review prior to the meeting. There was a QR code created and provided on the day of, but this did not allow enough time for members to review all reports.

It was moved by Beth McLucas seconded by Dave Wilkie to table all reports until the financial reports have been completed and a Special Meeting of the Members is held by Zoom can be scheduled. CARRIED

7. Directorate/Technical Support Group Reports:

a) Senior Directorate - Dave Wilkie

Had a great meeting, discussions about Officials and how to move forward with the challenges that have come up. There were two positions up – Vice Chair Terry Kirstiuk has returned, and Wanda Warren has returned as our Secretary. Thank you. No questions asked.

b) Minor Directorate - Gordon McIntosh

The meeting took full advantage of the time allotted for the session. Lots of good discussion. We have Provincial Hosts

U13 – North Okanagan

U15 – Comox

U17 – Langley

Female – TBD

We had two elections – would like to welcome Dave Samson as Vice Chair and welcome back John Hamilton as Female Chair. Thank you to Pam Mason for her long service.

No questions asked.

c) Field Directorate – Beth McLucas

Special Session was in April 2023. We had 2 positions up – would like to thank Trish Keizer and Kelly Ohlmann for their time spent with the Field Directorate. We would like to welcome David Goulet as the Vice Chair – Youth Field and Stacy Paterson as the Vice Chair – Women’s Field.

No questions asked.

d) BC Lacrosse Coaches Group – Russ Sheppard

There are revisions to the Coach’s manual – for example the workbook for level 2 is changing, going to more of a portfolio process. A new manual from Lacrosse Canada is coming out– working with the group to have in-put on how that will look and how the rollout will happen.

Learning facilitators continue to be a problem, we don’t have enough. Require/ask clubs to identify members within to be candidates. We have limited spots and often registered coaches don’t show up which take up spots for coaches that need and want to attend. This must be a partnership with the club. After a meeting with the Coaches Technical Group one last thing – we are consistently being looked upon as the disciplinary board, which is not our function. We are asking the clubs to police their coaches and get them in check.

We spearheaded the “Play Book” Series – online sessions for field, box, female. Great facilitators offering great training. Coaches are required to track their professional development – please reach out if you don’t know how to. It is required before you become noncompliant.

Will be reaching out to clubs looking for help with the Six’s -lots of technical information needed to grow the game.

We had elections – Dan Chetner is the new Vice Chair.

No questions asked.

e) BC Lacrosse Officials Group – Andy Watson

Biggest issues continue to grasp – abuse, recruitment, retention, and regional development of our officials. We had great sessions across the board, and it will take all lacrosse approach and everyone in the room to part of the solution moving forward. A few changes in the roles Doug Wright has returned as the Chair, I (Andy Watson) will be moving to the Vice Chair – Sr Box. Cameron Anderson has stepped in as the Secretary. Thank you to Sean Lehman as the past VC Sr Box and Andrew Corbould for your 30 years as Secretary/Treasurer.

No questions asked

8. Credential Report – Liz Hyland

Out of a possible 300 votes, there were 189 registered delegates in attendance at the BCLA AGM General Session. The breakdown as follows:

Executive	6 out of a possible 9
Minor Box	89 out of a possible 111
Senior Box	32 out of a possible 94
Field	45 out of a possible 72
Officials	11 out of a possible 22
Coaches	7 out of a possible 14
Total	189 registered voting delegates out of a possible 322

9. Proposed Amendments

a. BC Lacrosse Constitution and By-Law

It was moved by Angie Reid, seconded by Ken Woollard to change all references of umpire(s) & referee(s) in all BCLA documents including but not limited to the BCLA Constitution & By-Laws and all BCLA Operating Policies to official(s)

CARRIED

It was moved by Doug Wright and seconded by Dallas Lister to combine the next four proposals as they are adding the Sixes discipline to each category.

BY-LAW NUMBER XI: DIRECTORATES/TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUPS –

5. The British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group (BCLOTSG) 5(a) – currently reads:

(a) The BCLOTSG executive shall consist of the Chair, the Secretary, Immediate Past Chair, Director at Large, and four vice chairpersons representing Minor Box lacrosse, Senior Box lacrosse, Women’s lacrosse, and Men’s Field lacrosse.

Amend BY-LAW NUMBER XI: DIRECTORATES/TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUPS – 5. The British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group (BCLOTSG) 5(a) that would read:

(a) The BCLOTSG executive shall consist of the Chair, the Secretary, Immediate Past Chair, Director at Large, and four vice chairpersons representing Minor Box lacrosse, Senior Box lacrosse, Women’s lacrosse, **Sixes**, and Men’s Field lacrosse.

BY-LAW NUMBER XI: DIRECTORATES/TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUPS –

5. The British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group (BCLOTSG) 5(b) – currently reads:

(b) The BCLOTSG Chair shall be elected by secret ballot at the Special Session for a two-year term in odd numbered years. In the event that there is but a single nominee for the office, the Secretary shall cast one vote for such nominee. The Chair of the BCLOTSG shall preside at all meetings of the BCLOTSG. The Chair, in conjunction with the Vice President Development, shall be responsible to the Executive for the recruitment, provision, education and certification of all referees for all lacrosse, both Minor and Senior Box lacrosse, Women's and Men's Field lacrosse, throughout the province; and for ensuring that the philosophy of the Association is adhered to. Deputies may be appointed to assist in carrying out these responsibilities.

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BY-LAW NUMBER XI: DIRECTORATES/TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUPS –

5. The British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group (BCLOTSG) 5(g) – currently reads:

(g) The BCLOTSG Vice Chair and Secretary positions shall be elected by secret ballot at the Special Session, for two-year terms. The Director at Large shall be elected for a one-year term. The Vice Chairs for Minor, Senior and Field will be elected in even numbered years. The Vice Chair Women's Field and Secretary will be elected in odd numbered years. In the event that there is but a single nominee for the office, the Secretary shall cast one vote for such nominee. Should the positions not be filled at the Special Session, it will be the duty of the BCLOTSG Chair to recruit and appoint a member to the open Vice Chair positions.

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BY-LAW NUMBER XI: DIRECTORATES/TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUPS –

5. The British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group (BCLOTSG) 5(i) – currently reads:

(i) The Chair of the BCLOTSG – shall preside at all meetings of the BCLOTSG. The Chair shall be responsible to the Executive for recruiting, provision, education and certification of all referees for all lacrosse, both Minor and Senior Box Lacrosse, Women’s and Men’s Field Lacrosse, throughout the province; and for ensuring that the philosophy of the Association is adhered to. Deputies may be appointed to assist in carrying out these responsibilities.

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CARRIED

9 Proposed Amendments

b. BCLA General Operating Policy

It was moved by Angie Reid, seconded by Andrew Corbould that all references of umpire(s) & referee(s) in all BCLA documents including but not limited to the BCLA Constitution & By-Laws and all BCLA Operating Policies to official(s)

CARRIED

It was moved by Doug Wright, seconded by David Goulet to amend the Officials fess schedule to reflect the increases and to fix a small typo on the Level 3 in Box.

APPENDIX B: FEE SCHEDULE – BC Lacrosse Officials Fees – currently reads:

Box Clinics	Entry Level 1	\$30.00
	Level 1	\$45.00
	Level 2	\$60.00
	Level 3	\$120.00
Field Clinics	First Year – Level 1	\$30.00
	Level 1	\$45.00
	Level 2	\$60.00
	Levels 3-5	\$75.00

Amend APPENDIX B: FEE SCHEDULE – BC Lacrosse Officials Fees that would read:

Box Clinics	Entry Level 1	\$40.00
	Level 1	\$55.00
	Level 2	\$70.00
	Level 3+	\$130.00
Field Clinics	First Year – Level 1	\$40.00
	Level 1	\$55.00
	Level 2	\$70.00
	Levels 3-5	\$85.00

CARRIED

It was moved by Angie Reid, seconded by Andy Watson to update the Appendix B Fee Schedule with new age groups and the name change from Umpire to Official.

APPENDIX B: FEE SCHEDULE – BC Lacrosse Officials Fees – currently reads:

Field Officials Payment/Game

U7	\$20
U9	\$25
U11	\$35
U13	\$40
U15	\$45
U18	\$55
Senior Men’s	\$65

Women’s Field Umpire Payment/Game

U12	\$35
U15	\$45
U19	\$55
Senior	\$60

Amend APPENDIX B: FEE SCHEDULE – BC Lacrosse Officials Fees that would read:

Field Officials Payment/Game (including Women’s)

U7	\$20
U9	\$25
U11	\$35
U13	\$40
U15	\$45
U17	\$50
U19	\$55
Senior	\$65

CARRIED

10. Election of Officers

I. Secretary – 2-year Term

Liz Hyland nominated by the committee – 1 ballot cast for Liz Hyland

II. Vice President – Operations – 2-year Term

David Bensmiller nominated by the committee – 1 ballot cast for David Bensmiller

III. Vice President – Performance Programs – 2-year Term

Tyler Codron – nominated by the committee – 1 ballot cast for Tyler Codron

IV. Director at Large – 2-year Term

Rita Stroup nominated by the committee – 1 ballot cast for Rita Stroup

Thank you to Grant Hamilton, Jason Goller and especially Dave Jenkins for his many years serving on the BCLA Board of Directors. Welcome to the new additions.

It was moved by Angie Reid, seconded by Terry Kirstiuk to destroy the ballots.

CARRIED

11. New Business

a) Registration Fee Increase

Lacrosse Canada will be increasing their registration fees from \$4/pp to \$10/pp this coming year and then again to \$15/pp next year. This will be reflected within the BCLA fee so wanted to get the information out to associations that are getting ready for their upcoming box season.

b) Auditing BCLA Appeals – Wuilbert Jaramillo

It was moved by Wuilbert Jaramillo, seconded by Tim Frost that appeals BCLA has done in the last two years across all different directorates be audited.

Rationale: Commissions/Associations are finding out that disciplinary rulings are being overturned without any kind of communication leading to such decisions. There has not been a clear view of the process and timelines followed in those instances. As an institution with such clear policies to handle appeals and disciplinary rulings, it is necessary to take a look in depth on how appeals have been done. These disciplinary rulings/measures are to protect our members (i.e., coaches, players, referees, volunteers). Without any visibility/communication on overturned appeals, it is really difficult for commissions/associations to know what is going on as they are left in the dark. Appeals that overturn the original disciplinary rulings not communicated to the parties involved (i.e., commissions and/or associations), create unnecessary stress and volatile/dangerous situations. This audit aims to produce the process followed in each appeal, which in turn will provide transparency to the membership on this specific process. This also will highlight any possible anomalies that might have happened during the appeal process, and hence it will produce the appropriate corrective measures where applicable.

Discussion was had, not enough information was provided for the members to make an informed decision.

MOTION – Tabled to next meeting.

c) **Doug Wright – Chair of the Officials Group**

We are approaching a crisis point in our sport in regard to our officials. We are losing officials at a rate we cannot sustain– there are a number of reasons but abuse being the greatest threat. I am asking for help in looking for solutions. We are doing our best to train our officials about abuse but for our new officials they are intimidated and are often struggling to make calls or don't make them at all. We are asking the clubs to support their officials – we need you to stand behind them and have their backs when they are making tough calls. It's hard for 15-year-olds to toss out adults. Currently we are short on level 2 officials – will be recruiting various ways to combat this issue. If you have any ideas, I welcome the opportunity to discuss it. Please reach out any time.

12. Adjournment

It was moved by Doug Wright that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm