



May 22, 2020

LETTER FROM THE BCLA PRESIDENT RE: COVID-19

Traditionally, May is when we are busy with lacrosse activities and spending countless hours at arenas and boxes enjoying our great sport. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the everyday lives of many and forced regular activities to be put on hold. Our members have shown resolve and patience throughout and have asked many questions about a return to activity and the feasibility of the box lacrosse season.

We continue to stress that when we do return to activity, the health and safety for all participants in the BC Lacrosse community is paramount and this is central to all of our decisions around COVID-19. All involved in our sport must take direction from the appropriate health authorities, including the Public Health Agency of Canada and the BC Ministry of Health. When we return to activity, the 2-meter physical distancing measure is still in place, there will be hygiene restrictions, and there will be no competition given the 2-meter distancing rule. Any return to activity will be based on drills and skill development activities.

The BCLA Minor Box Lacrosse Provincials are the pinnacle of competitions for many young lacrosse athletes. These events bring families, friends and teammates together creating memorable moments. In the current COVID-19 conditions we are experiencing, it is a challenge to plan for large events that entails travel and large gatherings of people. **The BCLA Board of Directors regrets to inform you that the 2020 BCLA Minor Box Lacrosse Provincial Championships are cancelled this summer.**

We thank all the host communities for stepping up to host a Provincial tournament and we commend all volunteers who have spent countless hours planning these events. Your hard work does not go unnoticed and we thank you for your efforts. The Minor Directorate will advise plans of future Provincial Championships and their locations.

It is appropriate for all Minor Box Commissions to inform their associations that **there will not be box lacrosse league play in 2020**. Minor Associations are urged to formulate financially prudent refund policies based on the financial situations of them and their members, if they have not already done so.

The BCLA Return to Lacrosse Activity Committee continues to shape these guidelines. The landscape of return to activity/play continues to evolve. We will formulate these guidelines so we can safely deliver lacrosse programming while keeping within the BC Health Authority, the Sport Branch, viaSport and other government regulatory agencies as communication and updates continue. **We await the viaSport sector guidelines for our return to activity guidelines.**

The BCLA Board, Directorates, and Technical Support Groups continue with contingency planning through this process and our associations/leagues/clubs have worked diligently keeping their members informed. We will continue to communicate with the lacrosse community to update you as information becomes available. We are counting on our community leaders to remain strong through this trying time.

Thank you for your patience.

If you have any additional questions, please e-mail me at gerry@bclacrosse.com

Yours in Lacrosse,
Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President