

# Female Box Nationals 2019 - Coquitlam, BC



**2019 Team BC Female Bantam Team - GOLD**



**2019 Team BC Female Midget Team - Gold**

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## **Team BC Girls teams Dominate at Nationals – Solid Gold**

For the first time in youth Box Lacrosse history, all five Team BC Box Lacrosse teams competed at the same national tournament at the 2019 Box Lacrosse National Championships. The event was held August 20-24, 2019 at Coquitlam's Poirier Arena and at New Westminster's historical Queens Park Arena.

Some 130 athletes tried out for the Team BC Female Bantam and Female Midget teams – only 41 were fortunate to represent in Team BC blue.

All teams competed strongly at the 2019 Box Lacrosse Nationals this summer. All Team BC teams battled for gold and collected a total of five medals – two of which were Female golds!

**Female Bantams**-The Bantams returned with the same coaching staff that won the 2018 National title. Head Coach Brad Downey, added ex-WLA star, Ian Paterson, to bolster his coaching staff with Mark Forsberg and Les Schmidt returning behind the bench. Downey was determined to construct a cohesive group in order to succeed in front of their hometown fans.

“Coming together was a major focus for the coaching staff, through lots of team building activities, the girls had lots of fun and really came together to become an extremely tight group,” said Head Coach Brad Downey.

An opening game 5-3 win over Alberta set the tone and confirmed a repeat title wasn't going to be easy for the BC girls. The Bantams rattled off five straight victories to start the tournament -- 14-1 over Nova Scotia, a close 2-1 decision over Ontario, a bounce back 10-5 win over Alberta and an 8-0 shutout over Nova Scotia. In game six, BC dropped a hard fought 5-4 match to a talented Team Ontario. The girls regrouped and handily beat Nova Scotia 7-1 in the crossover match and punched their ticket to the gold game. BC was more than ready for their rubber match with Team Ontario.

After two periods of scoreless lacrosse, Ontario opened the scoring at the 4:10 mark of the third period. After over 50 minutes of play, BC answered on a goal by Kaylea Paterson, to notch the score 1-1. Jordan Baxter

scored just 3-minutes later, to take a 2-1 lead late in the third stanza. Baxter tallied her second in a row, to put Team BC ahead 3-1 with only 2:33 on the clock. The countdown was on. Team Ontario scored with 1:34 left on the clock, but too little too late, as BC rode out the storm to repeat as Female Bantam Box lacrosse National Champions.

Team BC top scorers overall were Jordan Baxter (12G, 4A), Jaylyn Morris (2G, 10A), Rory Rothnie (6G, 3A), Gillian Lapierre (4G, 5A), Beth Anderson (4G, 4A) and Macie Beck-Boreson (4G, 4A). Goaltender tandem Abigail Janzen and Haydin Gibson only allowed 18 goals over 8 games. Jordan Baxter was Team BC's tournament all-star selection.

“It was a great honour and privilege to be behind the bench and win another gold medal,” noted Downey. “The girl's attitude, willingness to learn, and their will to win made this experience an unforgettable one. The team worked as hard as any team I have been a part of to achieve their individual and team goals. They came together wonderfully and created some strong and lasting friendships. The girls should be extremely proud of what they overcame to become National Champs.”

**Female Midgets-**A repeat gold medal game was the only game the Female Midgets were willing to play on the final day of Nationals. Head Coach, Matthew Black, and his staff, returned to finish some unfinished business when his Female Midgets failed to win gold in 2018 after a heartbreak 8-3 loss to Ontario last year. Coach Black, and staff, prepared the athletes well for the Nationals and was bound and determined to not falter in 2019. The Female Midgets were well prepared with a goal of being a closer, tighter group, on and off the floor.

“Our team grew together beginning at tryouts, but really became a team at our mini-camp,” noted Head Coach Matthew Black. “We prepared, practiced and ate together from Aug 12 to 15th and prepared for the Nationals.”

The Female Midgets finished the round-robin with a perfect 4 win and 0 loss record for first place. Team BC outscored their opponents 35-6 in round robin play. Game scores were: 14-1 and 11-0 over Nova Scotia, and 5-3 and 5-2 over Team Ontario.

Team BC was more than obliged to host Team Ontario in the gold game. For the returners, it was their time for revenge after a tough loss one year ago. BC opened the scoring at the 7:37 mark of the first frame on a Malaena Michielin marker to take a 1-0 lead. Teagan Ng and Taylor Zachow scored 2:27 apart to increase the score to 3-0 into the first break.

The Midgets continued their barrage with goals by Michielin and Alexa Ford to take a commanding 5-0 lead into the third period. There was no turning back as BC poured it on with three more third period goals by Sage Da Silva, Ava Regan and Jesse Kask. Eight unanswered goals and a stifling defense proved too much for Ontario, en route to one of the most lopsided gold medal games and an 8-0 shutout over Ontario.

Team BC top scorers were Alexa Ford (8G, 5A), Lauren Black (5G, 6A), Teagan Dunnett (4G, 6A), Malaena Michielin (5G, 5A) and Teagan Ng (7G, 2A). Goaltenders Ainslee Rushton and Leona Sinclair were stellar allowing only 6 goals over 5 games. Alexa Ford was Team BC's tournament all-star selection.

“Our players learned the value of teamwork over individual acts – we preached, 'we are all going to wear the same colour medal at the end, and that is more important than any individual act',” said Black. The players bought into the game plan with diverse goal scoring, outstanding team defense, to the solid play by the goalies -- a total team victory!”

“Winning gold in our final year for the senior girls was amazing, especially in front of the home crowd cheering us on. The friendship, excitement and thrill that we all experienced is something the athletes will remember for the rest of their lives. “I can't tell you how proud I am of our coaches, athletes, managers and parents for making this summer an incredible experience for our athletes.”

What an exceptional year for our female teams and their high achievements, especially on home turf,” noted Team BC Director, Jeff Gombar. “It was great to see Coach Black get another kick at the can and win gold after a tough 2018 title loss, while Coach Downey repeated as National champs – which may be a Team BC box first!”