

**BC LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
2024 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
BCLA MINOR DIRECTORATE OPERATING POLICY**

Proposed by Pam Mason, LMMLC Secretary

REGULATION 1: STRUCTURE, 1.01 League Commissioners – currently reads:

- (a) Are ratified by the Minor Directorate, with names submitted prior to March 1 of the playing season.
- (b) Rule on disciplinary matters for their league in their Commission, following the Minor Directorate Disciplinary Rules, using the Minor Directorate Suspension Tracking Sheet provided in the Commissioner’s Package, submit at the end of the season to the Provincial Director and to the Minor Directorate Secretary for purposes of tracking carryover suspensions into the next box season.
- (c) Ensure all teams are tiered properly. Watch for inequality of teams within their league and the placement and movement of teams, as per Commission Operating Policy.
- (d) Assist in making schedules for their league
- (e) Attend Commission meetings
- (f) Ensure copies of score sheets are given to the Chair of the Commission monthly
- (g) Any communication between League Commissioners and coaches should include Head Coaches.
- (h) League Commissioners report directly to the Commission Chair.
- (i) To work with their Commission and Commission Chair in promoting Box Lacrosse within their Commission.
- (j) Shall receive Team Rosters from Club Registrars by May ~~7th~~ and compare these to Game Sheet Rosters and report exceptions to Club Presidents.

Amend REGULATION 1: STRUCTURE, 1.01 League Commissioners that would read:

- (a) Are ratified by the Minor Directorate, with names submitted prior to March 1 of the playing season.
- (b) Rule on disciplinary matters for their league in their Commission, following the Minor Directorate Disciplinary Rules, using the Minor Directorate Suspension Tracking Sheet provided in the Commissioner’s Package, submit at the end of the season to the Provincial Director and to the Minor Directorate Secretary for purposes of tracking carryover suspensions into the next box season.
- (c) Ensure all teams are tiered properly. Watch for inequality of teams within their league and the placement and movement of teams, as per Commission Operating Policy.
- (d) Assist in making schedules for their league
- (e) Attend Commission meetings
- (f) Ensure copies of score sheets are given to the Chair of the Commission monthly
- (g) Any communication between League Commissioners and coaches should include Head Coaches.
- (h) League Commissioners report directly to the Commission Chair.
- (i) To work with their Commission and Commission Chair in promoting Box Lacrosse within their Commission.
- (j) Shall receive Team Rosters from Club Registrars by May ~~7th~~ **15th** and compare these to Game Sheet Rosters and report exceptions to Club Presidents.

Rationale: Housekeeping – to align with policy 3.05

Proposed by John Hamilton, BCLA Minor Directorate Female Box Lacrosse Chair

REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.02 (b) currently reads:

4.02 (b) In leagues where players register to participate on a “Female Only” Box lacrosse team, said players will be permitted to also play on *‘Minor’ (mixed)* teams, or vice versa; with the approval of the coach or if unavailable, another team representative, as defined by the Form 100, of the team the player is registered with.

Amend REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.02 (b) that would read:

4.02 (b) In leagues where players register to participate on a “Female Only” Box lacrosse team, said players will be permitted to also play on *mixed* teams, or vice versa; with the approval of the coach or if unavailable, another team representative, as defined by the Form 100, of the team the player is registered with.

Rationale: Repetitive, as this is a Minor Directorate policy so all teams are minor and either “Female Only” or “Mixed”

Proposed by Pam Mason, LMMLC Secretary

REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.02 (b) currently reads:

4.02 (b) In leagues where players register to participate on a “Female Only” Box lacrosse team, said players will be permitted to also play on *‘Minor’ (mixed)* teams, or vice versa; with the approval of the coach or if unavailable, another team representative, as defined by the Form 100, of the team the player is registered with.

Amend REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.02 (b) that would read:

4.02 (b) In leagues where players register to participate on a “Female Only” Box lacrosse team, said players will be permitted to also play on *Co-ed* teams, or vice versa *as per (4.06) either playing up or laterally*; with the approval of the coach or if unavailable, another team representative, as defined by the Form 100, of the team the player is registered with.

Rationale: Add Clarity to policy to show that it is not for unlimited games but only on a call up basis and that they can play laterally ie U15A female to U15A co-ed

Proposed by Penni King, TOMBLC Interior Female Director

Add NEW REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.02 (c) that would read:

4.02 (c) *Female Box only – In zones where there is no female league, players from associations with developmental female programs may grant permission for their registered players to play on a team outside of their jurisdiction on a game to game basis. It will be required that a representative of the association or program signs a call up form that is also signed by an official of the accepting team and that is provided to the league Commissioner for approval. There is no limit to the number of games a player may play as long as they meet the requirements of their home association program first.*

Rationale: This policy concept was amended from the Field Lacrosse Women’s BCLA operating policy 36.14 that was voted into the policy in April of 2024.

NEW REGULATION 36: WOMEN’S MOVES 36.14

Proposed by Savanna Smith, Vancouver Women’s Field Lacrosse - Chair

1st Dawn Raans 2nd Susan Dos Santos

The Associations outside the coast struggle with many obstacles and hurdles as they develop to have female specific programs. For most female players outside of the coast only have coed as an option and girls box lacrosse is currently only available in Interior and Island. With Interior currently still developing

to even having games and or league. Allowing game by game call ups would allow female players from the outside Associations more access to female specific game experience. It will help lower barriers for the Island, Interior, Kootenays and Prince George (North).

Yes, policy does exist for releases to be made to coastal teams but this current process takes time and if their home team (female) is still actively doing sessions then a player needs to wait until their season is done for their home Association before they can begin the release process. They also require to have the financial backing to be able to commit full time to a coastal team and the families' availability to be able to travel to and from the coast on a weekly basis. This option is not a fair option when travel is 4+ hours away from the team they'd be assigned to. This new policy could and would allow females from outside the coast to be able to play one (or more) games based on their personal, family and financial availability. Without having to commit to a full coast schedule (release) as per the current policy. Having the ability to sign a call up form allows that the possibility of multiple players from developing female programs can play for a female specific team. The team call up can and could change each week too and can help fill coastal teams needs too. So to help keep barriers down for the girls and their families. While still allowing the interior players the ability to practice and develop, were they might not be making practices on a coastal team during the bulk of the season.

This policy allows for further opportunities for female players from the Interior, Kootenays, North and Island to be able to practice with their local program, attend tournaments with their local program as well as play over onto another team. This prevents players with higher lacrosse IQ from having to choose between local and lower mainland lacrosse, with giving them the opportunity to still help their development club and players, while also growing their skills elsewhere.

At a time when the developing program is done for the season, then a release could be made so that players could play for a team in a league.

Proposed by Dallas Lister, BCLOG Vice Chair - Minor

REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.05 currently reads:

4.05 The thirty second clock is to be used in all league and tournament games from U11

Amend REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.05 UP that would read:

4.05 The thirty second clock is to be used in all league and tournament games from U11 age and up, and the operation of same should be completed by a current LC certified official.
In the absence of a certified official, a person from the stands may step in.

Rationale: As we deal with the shortage of officials, there have been occasions that parents have needed to run the shot clock. This amendment allows the game to continue in the absence of a shot clock official.

Proposed by Pam Mason, LMMLC Secretary & John Hamilton, BCLA Minor Directorate Female Box Lacrosse Chair

REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.06 PART 1 – PLAYING UP currently reads:

4.06 **Part 1 – Playing Up**

- (a) A player may play up one division or calibre higher than that in which the player is registered on a game by game basis with the approval of the coach or if unavailable, another team representative as defined by the Form 100, of the team the player is registered with. In the case of players playing up a division, if an “A” player is going to play up to a “B” or “C” team, only a maximum of two (2) players per game playing up to a higher division is allowed (this does not include the position of goalie).
- (b) A player may play up one division higher than that in which the player would be registered in accordance to 2.01 for the playing year only with the approval of the player's association. A player playing with a co-op or combined team may play up a division with any of the Associations that make up the co-op or combined team.
- (c) i) Any player who has played up a total of five or more league games, playoff games, sanctioned tournament games, or combination of, in any

division or calibre higher than the one in which the player is registered, must for the remainder of that year play for the higher division or calibre in which the player played the fifth (5th) game.

- ii) For a goalie who has played a total of seven (7) or more league, playoff or sanctioned tournament game or combination of, in any division or calibre higher than the one in which the goalie is registered, must for the remainder of that year play for a higher division or calibre in which the goalie played the player's seventh (7th) game.

In either situation above, the Home Association will determine which team in that division that the player will play on if there is more than one team in the higher division or if the player has played across multiple levels in a tiered division.

- (d) A team may participate in a higher calibre sanctioned tournament without impacting team or player eligibility unless 4.07 (c) applies.
- (e) Female Box only – where an Association does not have a team in a higher division, any player may be granted an opportunity to play up a higher division with another Association with the permission of the coach and the corresponding commissioners. A player must stay within the accordance of 4.07 (c) (i) (ii).

Amend REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.06 PART 1 – PLAYING UP that would read:

4.06 Part 1 – Playing Up

- (a) A player may play up one division or calibre higher than that in which the player is registered on a game by game basis with the approval of the coach or if unavailable, another team representative as defined by the Form 100, of the team the player is registered with. In the case of players playing up a division, if an “A” player is going to play up to a “B” or “C” team, only a maximum of two (2) players per game playing up to a higher division is allowed (this does not include the position of goalie).
- (b) A player may play up one division higher than that in which the player would be registered in accordance to 2.01 for the playing year only with the approval of the player's association. A player playing with a co-op or combined team may play up a division with any of the Associations that make up the co-op or combined team.
- (c)
 - i) Any player who has played up a total of five or more league games, playoff games, sanctioned tournament games, or combination of, in any division or calibre higher than the one in which the player is registered, must for the remainder of that year play for the higher division or calibre in which the player played the fifth (5th) game.
 - ii) For a goalie who has played a total of seven (7) or more league, playoff or sanctioned tournament game or combination of, in any division or calibre higher than the one in which the goalie is registered, must for the remainder of that year play for a higher division or calibre in which the goalie played the player's seventh (7th) game.

In either situation above, the Home Association will determine which team in that division that the player will play on if there is more than one team in the higher division or if the player has played across multiple levels in a tiered division.

- (d) A team may participate in a higher calibre sanctioned tournament without impacting team or player eligibility unless 4.07 (c) applies.
- Female Box only – where an Association does not have a team in a higher division, any player may be granted an opportunity to play up a higher division with another Association with the permission of the coach and the corresponding commissioners. A player must stay within the accordance of 4.06 (c) (i) (ii).

Rationale: Housekeeping -incorrect reference – also listed in 4.07 C, 4.08 – should be 4.06incorrect reference – also listed in 4.07 C, 4.08 – should be 4.06

Proposed by Gordon McIntosh, Minor Directorate Chair

REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.07 (c) currently reads:

- (b) Games played while on the “select” team will not count towards the five game rule for athletes as described in Regulation 4.0~~7~~ (c).

Amend REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.07 (c) that would read:

- (b) Games played while on the “select” team will not count towards the five game rule for athletes as described in Regulation 4.0~~7~~⁶ (c).

Rationale: Housekeeping - incorrect policy reference

Proposed by Gordon McIntosh, Minor Directorate Chair

REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.08 currently reads:

- 4.08 After May 7 of the playing year, no player shall be able to be transferred to another team unless 4.0~~7~~ (c) applies.

Amend REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.08 that would read:

- 4.08 After May 7 of the playing year, no player shall be able to be transferred to another team unless 4.0~~7~~⁶ (c) applies.

Rationale: Housekeeping - Fixing incorrect policy number

Proposed by Russ Aunger, Port Moody Lacrosse Association VP Female Lacrosse

REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.09 currently reads:

- 4.09 Rules for U9, U7 and female box will be included in the Minor Directorate’s commissioners package and may be amended by the Minor Directorate if necessary. These rules will be binding upon all commission play and must be consistently applied throughout the province. If an individual Association decides to play outside of the Minor Directorate rules, all games must be in-house, and no games can be played against other Associations other than in sanctioned tournaments or sanctioned exhibition games. Failure to abide by these rules may lead to coaching suspensions for individual teams with escalating penalties upon repeated offenses.

Amend REGULATION 4: PLAYING RULES 4.09 that would read:

- 4.09 Rules for U9 *and* U7 *males* and female box will be included in the Minor Directorate’s commissioners package and may be amended by the Minor Directorate if necessary. These rules will be binding upon all commission play and must be consistently applied throughout the province. If an individual Association decides to play outside of the Minor Directorate rules, all games must be in-house, and no games can be played against other Associations other than in sanctioned tournaments or sanctioned exhibition games. Failure to abide by these rules may lead to coaching suspensions for individual teams with escalating penalties upon repeated offenses.

Rationale: With in the sport systems in Canada the ages and rules for sports are determined by the National Sport Organization and their creation of the Long-term participant development model (LTPD). Currently Lacrosse Canada’s LTPD model goes up to U10 (novice) for boys and girls, then for the remaining minor age groups U12 (peewee), and U15 (Bantam) there are no modifications to play and the CLA rule for contact and equipment is referenced were in the other young age groups it references officiating with modified rules and what options could be chosen. This aligns with Canada Lacrosse rule book for male lacrosse having the option for modifications to the game up until they are at the U10 (Novice) age grouping than there are no options for modifications. However the Canada Lacrosse rule book shows for the female box lacrosse game there are options for modifications for U12 and U15, which does not align with the LTPD model of Lacrosse Canada. A model developed to create fair play, having

fun, learning fundamental movements, maximize player development and more; as it looks at the cognitive and physical abilities of a person from active start through active for life. If the science behind the model is used to determine rules of play at the various stages of lacrosse and doesn't show modifications needed for female players for box then why do these additional rules exist?

Building on this if we can teach players proper form at ages they are growing and developing in at more consistent stages we lower the risk to injury, and teach proper body mechanics at the same time for females as their male counterparts get. This will help with player self-awareness, which is key to youth becoming more comfortable using their bodies as they grow in a safe manner. We are exposing them to the rules of the game at a younger age that will allow them to mature with these rules as faster rate, rather than exposing them to these rules later in age were there is more potential for discrepancy in size, and bodies. Which can help build confidence in not only the game, but their overall self which can be a reason girls stop playing sports at a younger age then boys.

This would also be a step towards equity that is listed in part 12 of the General Operating Policies of the BCLA. Ensuring we follow policy 12.02 we want an environment were players can play the game, have fun, and encourages and promotes full and equal opportunities. What is meant in reference of equal opportunities is the ability for young girls to play without wondering "why are our rules different then the boys." This small piece can fundamentally impact the confidence, courageousness, and stop putting a barrier up in their minds that separates the idea that boys and girls cannot do the same things, or play the same variation of the sport the same way. The needs and concerns of the young girls are not being met when our field of reference is viewing the solution as different genders, means different rules. Equity is everyone getting the supports they need, these supports have been determined by adults who believe they have the best interest at heart. We should be looking at justice which is the cause of the inequity was addressed. Right now we are the cause of the equity, as we believe this is the right rules without having a model like the LTPD that has scientific backing on why the stages and ages.

Proposed by Gordon McIntosh, Minor Directorate Chair

REGULATION 8: MOVES 8.05 currently reads:

8.05 Where there is no team available within the player's age group, the player may play for another association with written release from the player's home association and written approval by their local Commission for the current playing season only. (This release is ~~not~~ counted as a grandfathering year.) The player will be placed where the Commission Chair and elected commission executive feels it would be in the best interest of the League and then the player.

In cases where there is no Commission, and the player is requesting a release into another Commission/Zone, the President of the other Association where the player is requesting a release from must also approve of this release. If the release is granted/approved, the player will be placed by the Commission/Zone the player is being released to and will be placed where the Commission Chair and elected commission executive feels it would be in the best interest of the League and then the player. If the release is not granted/approved, the player can appeal the decision with the Minor Directorate.

Amend REGULATION 8: MOVES 8.05 that would read:

8.05 Where there is no team available within the player's age group, the player may play for another association with written release from the player's home association and written approval by their local Commission for the current playing season only. (This release is counted as a grandfathering year.) The player will be placed where the Commission Chair and elected commission executive feels it would be in the best interest of the League and then the player.

In cases where there is no Commission, and the player is requesting a release into another Commission/Zone, the President of the other Association where the player is requesting a release from must also approve of this release. If the release is granted/approved, the player will be placed by the Commission/Zone the player is being released to and will be placed where the

Commission Chair and elected commission executive feels it would be in the best interest of the League and then the player. If the release is not granted/approved, the player can appeal the decision with the Minor Directorate.

Rationale: It seems unreasonable that a player should be treated differently based on whether there is a team available in his/her age group or not. If a player is released, it should count as a grandfathered year. It has become exceedingly rare that an association suddenly has a team for the player to play on when there hasn't been one in the past.

Proposed by Gordon McIntosh, Minor Directorate Chair

REGULATION 10: TEAM SIZE 10.01 (a) currently reads:

10.01 (a) Per Rule 14 of the LC Rulebook, no U17, U15, U13, U11, U9 or U7 team under the jurisdiction of the Minor Directorate shall ~~not~~ have more than 22 signed players, except with special permission of the Commission. Such exceptions shall be ratified by the Minor Directorate. Any team ratified by the Minor Directorate to carry more than 22 players will be permitted to bring all approved players to Provincials. Coaches with an over-sized roster must abide by BCLA Fair Play Codes for Coaches. Any callup of a team ratified to carry more than 22 players must be approved by the Provincial Playoff Director, Minor Directorate Chair and their Commission Chair a minimum of 5 days prior to the start of the provincial event they will be attending.

Amend REGULATION 10: TEAM SIZE 10.01 (a) that would read:

10.01 (a) Per Rule 14 of the LC Rulebook, no U17, U15, U13, U11, U9 or U7 team under the jurisdiction of the Minor Directorate shall have more than 22 signed players, except with special permission of the Commission. Such exceptions shall be ratified by the Minor Directorate. Any team ratified by the Minor Directorate to carry more than 22 players will be permitted to bring all approved players to Provincials. Coaches with an over-sized roster must abide by BCLA Fair Play Codes for Coaches. Any callup of a team ratified to carry more than 22 players must be approved by the Provincial Playoff Director, Minor Directorate Chair and their Commission Chair a minimum of 5 days prior to the start of the provincial event they will be attending.

Rationale: Housekeeping - Poorly worded original policy.

Proposed by Pam Mason, LMMLC Secretary

REGULATION 12: PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 12.04 (a) currently reads:

12.04 (a) Provincial Championships shall be held for qualifying ~~tiered and untiered~~ Female and ~~Minor (mixed)~~ "A1", "A2", and "B" teams in U17, U15 and U13 Divisions.

Amend REGULATION 12: PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 12.04 (a) that would read:

12.04 (a) Provincial Championships shall be held for qualifying Female **A & B divisions** and **Co-ed A and B** "A1", "A2", and "B" teams in U17, U15 and U13 Divisions.

Rationale: To Add A and B for females as this is the practice that we have been following and change mixed to Co-ed as that is what we have been calling in and explains better.

Proposed by Pam Mason, LMMLC Secretary

REGULATION 14: TOURNAMENTS 14.09 currently reads:

14.09 Where there are two or more teams from one Association in U7 and U9, crisscross of players from one team to another, where it is necessary for entry into a tournament and for tournament play only, will be allowed with permission from the association's President *and Commission Chair. To have players criss-cross laterally, this shall be limited to a maximum of four (4) players per tournament entered. Each player is only able to crisscross over laterally a maximum of one (1) tournament in the season.*

Amend REGULATION 14: TOURNAMENTS 14.09 that would read:

14.09 Where there are two or more *declared* teams from one Association in U7 and U9, crisscross of players from one team to another, where it is necessary for entry into a tournament and for tournament play only, will be allowed with permission from the association's President and *inform the League Commissioner and tournament co-ordinator to allow for team adequate sizes required for tournament play.*

Rationale: This will allow for teams that are registered to attend tournaments with formats of 1 team split into two for each game or 5 on 5 to have enough players attend without having to ask special permission each tournament of the chair.

Proposed by John Hamilton, BCLA Minor Directorate Female Box Lacrosse Chair

REGULATION 14: TOURNAMENTS 14.10 currently reads:

14.10 For the purposes of developing Female Box lacrosse, female players playing on a *Minor (mixed)* team, may on application to the Minor Directorate Female Box Lacrosse chair, apply to participate with a Female box Lacrosse team attending a Female Box Lacrosse tournament. Games played will not count towards Provincials eligibility.

Amend REGULATION 14: TOURNAMENTS 14.10 that would read:

14.10 For the purposes of developing Female Box lacrosse, female players playing on a mixed team, may on application to the Minor Directorate Female Box Lacrosse chair, apply to participate with a Female box Lacrosse team attending a Female Box Lacrosse tournament. Games played will not count towards Provincials eligibility.

Rationale: Having the word "Minor" in the policy wording has been causing some confusion. Eliminating it makes it clear that this policy is for female players who are not playing on an "all female" lacrosse team and would like the opportunity to do so.

Proposed by Gordon McIntosh, Minor Directorate Chair

Add NEW REGULATION 14: TOURNAMENTS 14.12 that would read:

14.12 Any association or individual manager that registers a team for a tournament must submit a non-refundable deposit of \$100 along with the tournament application. Should the tournament fold, the team not get accepted or the divisions change leading to a team not being permitted to play (due to tiering), the deposit will be returned.

Rationale: Despite efforts to prevent teams or associations from applying for multiple tournaments and then cancelling out on the hosts, it is still occurring and causing the hosts grief. Having to provide a non-refundable fee will make associations and teams be more committed when making a tournament application.

Add **NEW REGULATION 18: SUSPENSIONS 18.04 (a)** that would read:

18.04(a): Access to Referee Game Reports

1.1 Association Presidents shall be furnished with redacted copies of referee game reports in advance of disciplinary proceedings. Such access is restricted solely to the Presidents pertinent to the hearing in question.

1.2 The redaction of referee game reports shall be executed with the utmost diligence to safeguard the confidentiality of the referees' personal data, with the exception of the remarks directly pertinent to the incident in question.

Submission of video evidence.2.1. It is further proposed that the association president be allowed to submit video evidence in defense of their association member as part of the disciplinary proceedings.

Rationale:

3.1 The imperative for this motion arises from the necessity to enhance clarity for associations in the context of disciplinary hearings. The absence of access to the written referee game reports and the prohibition of video evidence submission constitutes an inequitable scenario for the individual subject to the hearing; and is contra to the doctrine of legal disclosure. *

3.2 It is incumbent upon the Association Presidents to ensure the welfare of the members under their jurisdiction. This motion seeks to empower them with the requisite information to mount an effective defense on behalf of these individuals. The adoption of this motion would be emblematic of the BCLA's commitment to transparency and the provision of a fair opportunity for players to present a defense or demonstrate their capacity for behavioral modification to prevent recurrence of the alleged incident.

* The doctrine of legal disclosure refers to the principle that all relevant information must be made available to all parties in a legal proceeding. In the context of the document, it is mentioned that not allowing access to written referee game reports and prohibiting video evidence submission is contrary to this doctrine, suggesting that such actions would violate the principle of fair and transparent legal proceedings by withholding important information that could be used in a defense.
