

**2024 Minor Directorate Special Session**  
**October 19, 2024**  
**BCLA Minor Directorate Chair Report: Gord McIntosh**

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As we enter our box lacrosse off-season, we can look back and see some positive signs as well as some challenges. We have areas where registration has grown significantly. This is usually due to specific efforts by the local association to expand or introduce box lacrosse to the local communities. We also have areas that have not been able to recover from the break we experienced from 2020/21. Female box has been and continues to be an area of growth. 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. It isn't perfect yet but each year we will work on this to make it better. While I had reported in 2023 that Lacrosse Canada was going to make some rule changes on off-ball contact, this has been frustratingly slow to get implemented. With the 2024 summer Olympics completed, we look forward to the 2028 Olympics in the US and the introduction of sixes as an Olympic sport. Preliminary plans are being worked on and we can expect to see more of this in the next few years. Discussions are ongoing on how to fit this into our current box and field schedules. Tournaments were back to almost pre-2020 levels, which is encouraging. Some divisions had few options, which has not occurred before. While the coach's group has shown strong leadership in dealing with coaches and verbal abuse of officials, we are hearing of how difficult it is to deal with parents and families for individual associations. This includes abuse of officials from stands, abuse and harassment of association executive and just overall poor behaviour. Social media use to air comments/complaints is another source of aggravation. We need to provide associations information on what to do and how to deal with these parents and families. Association executives are volunteers that are not qualified or comfortable in most of these situations. They need some support. While we have strong numbers for officials for U7-U11, we struggle keeping our late teen and young adults as officials. While this is a time where they become busier themselves with work and school, the abuse they take from the stands and coaches is usually a determining factor in them deciding to leave our game.

We had another successful run of provincial championships in 2024. There were 4 provincial championships hosted on 3 weekends in July. The BC Summer Games took place in the middle of our provincial championship season, so we had to take a break for 1 week in between. 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 sport socks for player of the game winners.

We were disappointed to hear of the changes to our AGM. We received full disclosure why the need for the change and appreciate the reasons why this has occurred. We hope that it doesn't greatly effect attendance at our meeting in October.

There are 19 people (18 now, as we have 1 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 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. While being short staffed for most of the year, they were able to provide us with the same level of support we have always had.

Regards,  
Gord McIntosh  
BCLA Minor Directorate Chair

## **2023 Minor Registrar Report**

**August 9, 2023**

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

**The 2024 Box Lacrosse season for Zone 2 was one of growth:**

- Girls' participation grew, not enough to take part in the Provincials but with a positive look forward something that is not unattainable in the future.
- Tournaments held by Kamloops, North Okanagan, Kelowna, and Penticton were well attended

**The zone also experienced some challenges:**

- Nicola Valley, Logan Lake, and Princeton we unable to field teams this year
- Shuswap is in a rebuilding stage with U7, U9 and U11 teams
  - Loss of facility space due to ice plant issues impacted access to dry floor until May. Loss of space impacted registration as no confirmed arena practice space.
- Officials were again stretched, with associations having to pay large sums of travel funds to have games covered at all levels. The failure to plan clinics prior to the season, and the last-minute nature of the clinics was extremely detrimental to the officials available in the interior. Clinics were held prior to the season and throughout the season in the lower mainland and the island – opening up more options for areas that span as great a distance as the Interior (as well as the north and Kootenays) is imperative. There is a difference between attending a last-minute clinic 20 mins away and one that is 200 kms away.
- Coaching clinics were unfortunately the same mis-mash of delivery. Pop up clinics with one week of confirmation – no solid communication to the clubs. Receiving emails about the clinics in Vancouver when they are posted but the same consideration does not happen outside the region.
- Parents in the stands were a challenge at one point, swift and commission wide action and support was implemented and the issue was not replicated again in the season.

**The 2024 season was one of success at the Provincials for the region:**

- Penticton earning U17B Gold, U15A2 Gold and U13B Silver
- North Okanagan earned U13B Bronze
- Zone 2 swept the U13C Provincials earning Kelowna Bronze, North Okanagan Silver and Kamloops Gold
  - The Kamloops team did not win a league game, failed to win a game in the Provincial Playdowns, lost the wildcard game for placement in the 13C division. And with 4 U11 callups (including the goalie) proved why you show up for practice everyday and never give up on yourselves – went undefeated in the U13C division to earn the gold.
- North Okanagan Minor Lacrosse was given the opportunity to host the Provincials again, U13 this time. Again, they did an amazing job. One issue that actually is a learning lesson for Provincial hosting moving forward, the volunteers did a fantastic job communicating and ensuring representation for all teams. Thank you!

**Associations:**

Kamloops, Shuswap, North Okanagan, Kelowna, Penticton

**TOMBLC Divisions:**

U9 8 teams ( Kamloops 2, Shuswap 1, North Ok 2, Kelowna 2, Penticton 1)  
U11 8 teams ( Kamloops 2, Shuswap 1, North Ok 2, Kelowna 2, Penticton 1)  
U13 8 Teams( Kamloops 3, North Ok 2, Kelowna 2, Penticton 1)  
U15 4 teams( Kamloops 2, Kelowna 2, Penticton 1)  
U17 5 teams ( Kamloops 1, North Ok 2, Kelowna 1, Penticton 1)

Heather Davis  
Zone 2 Director

MD LMMLC Year End Report – 2024  
Respectfully submitted by Sandra Margetson

The 2024 box lacrosse season was as busy as it was challenging.

Lmmlc had a number of combined teams this season, and as stated in previous reports, we will need to solidify the parameters under which we allow associations to combine and where they declare. It has been discussed that we need to have continuity among the zones regarding how we approach combined teams. This needs to happen, and an agreement needs to be established before the start of the 2025 box season.

Tiering was a major issue. We reset points to zero after tiering in an effort to clarify standings for the end of the year but re: tiering teams and interlocking A divisions made it difficult regardless. The policy will need to be updated to create more transparent procedures.

The need for a revamped tiering system or eliminating it altogether has been broached by the LMMLC executive as well several Presidents & coaches .

We are confident a solution can be agreed upon well before next year and look forward to working on this with the respective parties involved in the off season.

LMMLC appointed a Head Commissioner this year to help with communication with teams and mentor the new club volunteers. I would like to thank the commissioners who returned from last season and the brave new ones who took up the challenge of being division commissioners.

The female interlocking agreement continued this season between the Island and the Lower Mainland. The main issues on the need for more floor time on the Island, the communication between team managers, commissioners, teams not going to the Island due to missing players on weekends (top reasons - pay to play programs , team BC) all had an impact. The plus side is tiering, more games and growth overall.

We had an increase in age down requests as well as releases this season. In particular the U 22 female division all had the need for oversized rosters due to the number of releases, many of them arriving after declarations and after the season was well underway .

We had a large increase in player hearings , a few repeat offenders this year as well as several concerning situations involving officials , spectators and coaches .

It remains disheartening that the overall message regarding codes of conduct and respect are not getting through.

I had the pleasure of being the Supervisor for the U 17 youth Provincials in Langley July 25-28th. The event itself was well organized but the distance between the two arenas LEC and Aldergove strained the volunteers and separated the teams .The issue of spectators misbehaving , highlighted the need for security especially in this age group .

I would like to thank the LMMLC executive for their many, many hours of volunteering , over and above what they may do for their home associations . Also, thank you to the LMMLC Association Presidents for their input, suggestions and ideas that helped make this year a success.

The LMMLC AGM will be held in Langley at the LEC Nov 26th, 2024

Thank you  
Sandra Margetson  
LMMLC Chair .

## **Minor Director Zone 3 Year End Report – 2024**

### **Respectfully submitted by Sean Reid**

Fraser Valley for the BCLA Zones includes Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Mission, and Ridge Meadows.

League play was completed this year, making it the most intense season I have participated in. The player suspensions were up to an all time high with hearings +++. Let's evaluate and see what we can do to reduce these incidents for the future.

In post-season play, many of the tiered/re-tiered teams were medal-bound in their respective divisions. This caused some unrest amongst the teams that did not move to the lower divisions. Again, there does not seem to be a perfect system, and together, we should throw out ideas and keep trying options as the system we had wasn't working, and some feel the way we did things this year didn't work. Let's keep trying until we have found the best way to manage the tiering system.

I still maintain due to the growth of the female divisions, it is becoming apparent there may be need for 3 divisions within each age group as there appears to be A teams and B teams and clear C teams. In order to grow the sport in the female category, my hopes are this is evaluated and considered for next season.

BC Summer games were a huge success with a very close battle for gold between Zone 3 and Zone 4. A single goal separated the winner with less than 1 minute left in the game. The biggest thing that came from these games was the celebration of sport. It appears all players involved were having a safe respectful and "clean" way of playing. My hopes are we can harness this energy and take that forward in our future regular seasons as every fan I spoke to said it was the best lacrosse to watch as everyone was playing the game for the game.

Lastly, I was able to participate as an MD representative in the Female Provincials in Port Coquitlam and the U17 Provincials in Langley and I am incredibly impressed with both groups. The volunteers were relentless in ensuring a perfect event went on and the facilities in both areas were fantastic. Some incredibly awesome games were played and few incidents throughout. Thank you to Port Coquitlam and Langley for hosting these events. This is what makes lacrosse incredible.

Thank you,

Sean Reid  
Zone 3 LMMLC Rep

**Minor Directorate Zone 4 Year End Report**  
**Respectfully submitted by Michael O'Connor**

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

Zone 4 BC Summer Games – Burnaby, Coquitlam, New Westminister, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Surrey, and Semiahmoo.

The merging of teams seems to be an easier process now that everyone has experienced it for a couple of seasons. Tiering of teams was more complicated and ongoing this year and am reminded of the old adage you can't please all the people all the time. However we don't have an immediate solution to the art and science of tiering so it may be an ongoing issue.

Provincial Championships Zone 4 results:

**U-13 Mixed:**

A1	Langley	Bronze
A2	New West	Gold
A2	Chilliwack	Participant
B	Abbotsford	Gold
B	Langley	Participant
C	New West	Participant
C	Surrey	Participant

**U-15 Mixed:**

A1	Langley	Participant
A2	New West	Bronze
A2	Chilliwack	Participant

**U-17 Mixed:**

A1	Langley	Silver
A2	Langley	Bronze
A2	Surrey/Delta	Gold
A2	Chilliwack	Participant
B	Langley	Participant
B-	Abbotsford	4 <sup>th</sup>

**Female:**

Jr.	New Westminister	Silver
17A	New West/Burnaby	Silver
17A	Langley	Bronze
17B	Surrey/Delta	Participant
15A	New Westminister	4 <sup>th</sup>
15B	Langley	Gold
13A	Langley/Semi	Gold
13A	New West/Burnaby	Silver
13B	New West	Participant

We had three good applicants and the Zone 4 U17 Graduating Player of the Year was Makenna Hanley from Langley

Zone 4 U17mixed Fraser River team won silver at the Summer Games my thanks to Daunte Twamley and Assistants Brandon Kirby, Lincoln Wall, and Jeff Seller for coaching. The team had up to 30 players on the roster with a number of withdrawals for a variety of reasons along the way. 25 tried out. The Summer Games process for onboarding players and coaches was more complicated than in past years.

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

Michael O'Connor  
Zone 4 Representative

Minor Directorate Zone 5 Year End Report – 2024  
Respectfully submitted by Michael Hagel

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

Zone 5 Provincial results:

11 Teams competed across 4d Tournaments with 7 Teams having medalled (4 of these were combined)

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

Feedback from associations was mostly comments about the tiering decisions and how they would like more transparency regarding the reasons for these decisions. It is understood that it is not a perfect system, and that we are spending more time on it.....(they say some decisions just didn't make sense) Same can be said for releases and that process.

Some other re-occurring comments/concerns that have filtered back are:

- Volunteer pools continue to shrink - need sharing of best practices to recruit and retain.
- Growth in referee numbers (younger ages) has been great. I would like a plan to help with the retention of these so they stay long-term.
- Some frustration around Team BC, Fusion and other programs having events during Box season, especially playdowns.

The feeling around the Sport is of excitement. The level of play has definitely been raised. The combination of associations to push play-up has been welcomed and supported.

The growth of the Female divisions has been amazing.

A buzz around the Olympics has started.....the 6's format creates another reason to play.

I'm excited to see how it plays out over the next couple of seasons.

Sincerely,

Michael Hagel  
Zone 5 Rep

## **Zone 6 (Vancouver Island) August Year End Report 2024**

**Respectfully submitted by**

**Tim Frost, Zone 6 Chair**

This year was another successful year. Significant turnover in association executives on the Island had us with 9 of 10 associations represented by new executives. Despite the turnover it was a successful season. We still struggled with persistent issues that have plagued us for some time such as parent/spectator behaviour and referee availability. Our total number of referees were down and for the second year in a row – we had to cancel games due to a lack of referees.

With the turnover in volunteers it continues to be frustrating to see no action on repeated calls to have the volunteer support group reinstated. Significant additional workload is passed on to commissions to help support associations when they have massive turnover. We need to do more to support volunteers and in particular provide resources and guidance to new executives about best practices for running an association.

To better mitigate against spectator behaviour, we have passed bylaws giving power to the commission to ban spectators and enforce disciplinary actions against spectator behaviour.

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**

**C – Gold - Saanich**

**B – Silver – Comox**

**A2 Silver – Nanaimo**

**A1 Gold - JDF**

### **U17**

**B – Silver Peninsula**

**B – Bronze Saanich**

### **Female**

**U15 A Bronze – Nanaimo**

**U17 B Silver – Nanaimo**

Congratulations to all of the teams for the strong showing.

Tim Frost

Zone 6 Chair



## **Minor Directorate Zone 8 Year End Report - 2024**

### **Respectfully submitted by Richard Paciejewski**

This year in Zone 8 was similar to many recent years. Not all associations had teams in each division but we still managed to have opportunities for player participation by combining players from different associations. Prince George and Williams Lake had the greatest number of participating teams. To conclude the season, playoffs were held in Williams Lake. Ft. St. John, while still a member of our commission, chose not to participate in regular league play. There were many playdown requests approved by the GWN to make teams more viable.

The only team to represent Zone 8 at provincials was the Prince George U13 B team. They narrowly missed making the crossover game by virtue of a tiebreaker that came down to first goal scored. As I personally attended as Provincial supervisor, it was nice to see one of our newer referees participate in Vernon.

Williams Lake had qualified for U 17 B, but unfortunately, chose to withdraw. I understand that this will be discussed at the Minor Directorate meeting in August. Zone 8 participated at the BC Summer Games in Maple Ridge. The team was represented by players from Williams Lake, Prince George, and Ft. St. John. Faced with a difficult initial draw, our team failed to win any games. I believe the Summer Games organizers could look at ways of making the schedule more competitive. This year, our zone did not have representation in field lacrosse at the Summer Games. Geography is our biggest challenge as our location and climate make it difficult to participate during the regular field lacrosse season played elsewhere.

Unfortunately, we had no representative for player of the year despite repeated reminders to all associations.

Thanks to our executives, associations, referees, and all others who contribute to making the GWN successful.

Submitted by  
Richard Paciejewski  
Zone 8 Director

## **Minor Directorate GWN (Zone 8) Year End Report 2024**

**Respectfully submitted by John Stevens**

**Zone 8** – Great White North Lacrosse Commission

Prince George, Williams Lake, Quesnel, Mackenzie and Fort St John participating in the GWN commission.

### ***Association updates-***

Prince George, and Mackenzie saw growth within their associations while Williams Lake and Quesnel saw a decline with the older divisions U15 & U17. There were combination teams in multiple age groups spread across Mackenzie, Williams Lake and Quesnel. On a positive, there were a few small tyke and mini tyke sessions that were held this season to help grow the sport in the younger divisions in PG, Williams Lake and Quesnel.

### ***Scheduling Challenges-***

A big problem for the GWN is scheduling. With the skills at different levels throughout the zone, trying to keep teams engaged and also competitive brings many challenges. Also a decrease in enrolment because of other competing sports (registration prices are cheaper). Teams want to go to tournaments but with limited games and weekends it seems hard to make the schedule work, while helping teams develop.

### ***Summer Games-***

It was unfortunate to not have a field lacrosse team but we had players from PG, Williams Lake and Fort St John participating on the Box team. Thanks you to Jeff Moleski and Donnie Wittmeier for coaching.

### ***Hi-Lites-***

Again would like to give a shout out to Kyle Pacheco the President of the Mackenzie Lacrosse association. Kyle seemingly is building a positive, fun and engaging environment in his Association. The numbers in the younger age groups continue to blossom and grow in the U7 and U9 age groups. Looking forward to games in their new area for next season.

### ***Provincials-***

Unfortunately, Prince George was the only team in the zone to attend any provincial championships, PG had U13 B division and U15 B division.

### ***Reffing-***

Another big shout out and thank you to our Zone 8 ref coordinator in Jamie Beaulne who is taking control and a true mentor. He helped schedule and really was setting these ref's up for success this season.

### ***Volunteerism-***

This continues to be a challenge in all associations and on the GWN executive. I will be not running for the Chair position in the 2025 season but am hopeful that new people will step up. I have concerns with other associations that other volunteers are also looking to step back but with no one moving into those roles.

### **Zone 7 – Report**

No Updates from Kitimat as of now. We copy them on all meeting's and invite them as well.

Currently no interest in joining in. Currently recreational lacrosse in the city from recent posts.

Opportunity if can somehow allow to come to tournaments, or Jamboree's in the North.

In closing I would like to thank all the association president and their volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the great game of lacrosse. I wish everyone a fantastic 2025 lacrosse season.

John Stevens

GWNLC - Chair

# **Minor Directorate Female Box Chair – Year End Report 2024**

## **Respectfully submitted by John Hamilton**

Throughout the 2024 season, there has been tremendous support for developing female box lacrosse in British Columbia. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm and cooperation between Minor Associations, Commissions and the Minor Directorate to promote the growth in this sector of our sport.

As mentioned in my May 28, 2024 report, this cooperation and enthusiasm have resulted in a significant increase in female box lacrosse registration. More female players have resulted in more opportunities locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally.

Provincially, the 2024 season cumulated in a very successful Female Provincials that were held in Port Coquitlam from July 11-14. The scope of these provincials was enormous, with multiple divisions in each of U13, U15 and U17 and 6 U22 teams competing. They were very well organized and I would like to thank Karen Hertslet, Port Coquitlam Minor Lacrosse and all the volunteers for running such an incredible tournament. I would also like to thank the referees, coaches, participants and fans for making it such a huge success.

In preparation for the BCLA AGM I am going to review and clarify some the operating policies regarding female box lacrosse. I will also be hosting a female planning session again to receive feedback and solicit ideas to keep improving and growing female lacrosse across the province.

John Hamilton  
Female Box Chair



## 2024 Year End Report Vice Chair Minor Directorate

The 2024 Box season wrapped up with four Provincial Championships hosted in the Lower Mainland, the Okanagan and on Vancouver Island. The three **Mixed** divisions had a combined **72** teams competing while the **Female** division had **37** teams competing which equaled **109** box lacrosse teams participating in our Provincial Championships. The breakdown of each championship is indicated in the graphic below.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U13 A1: 5</li> <li>• U13 A2: 8</li> <li>• U13 B: 8</li> <li>• U13 C: 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U15 A1: 5</li> <li>• U15 A2: 6</li> <li>• U15 B: 8</li> <li>• U15 C: 5</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U17 A1: 5</li> <li>• U17 A2: 8</li> <li>• U17 B: 8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F U22: 6</li> <li>• F U17 A: 4</li> <li>• F U17 B: 4</li> <li>• F U15 A: 4</li> <li>• F U15 B: 6</li> <li>• F U13 A: 5</li> <li>• F U13 B: 8</li> </ul>

The structured format utilized for all championships seemed to work quite well with a strong focus on chain of command and well-defined portfolios. This process allowed for some expanded areas of responsibility which should serve well for succession planning. We will endeavour to follow a 'lessons learned' approach for each championship so we can continue with what worked well and areas of development and improvement we can be better on.

We are still waiting on some documentation and invoices from some hosts and supervisors so I cannot speak to the financial aspects at this point. We experienced some challenging situations as well as suspensions to players and coaches, but through our Commissioners, Coaching Representatives, OIC's and Minor Directorate personnel, all situations were managed effectively with a few outstanding hearings to come because of the recent U17 Provincials.

### **U15 Provincials Comox July 4-7**

Big shout out to Host Director Heidi Grootendorst and her team of highly motivated volunteers. Tim Frost served as the Supervisor with Brande Terris as the Liaison. This combination developed a highly effective system that addressed all challenges and provided key oversight. Doug Kampen was invaluable as the experienced Commissioner. Dan Chetner and Kelly Fines worked together to cover all aspects under the Coaching Representative umbrella. OIC's Tyler Boyer and Vince Steigel were extremely professional in their roles and provided an elevated level of officiating structure. Michael Hagel also was in attendance and provided much needed assistance when his son's team was not competing. Comox Valley Lacrosse Association should be commended for their successful Provincial Championship

### **U13 Provincials North Okanagan July 11-14**

Chelsea Mann served as the Host Director and was well supported by President Colin Marchand along with many local volunteers. Richard Paciejewski was the Supervisor for this Provincial Championship with John

Stevens as the Liaison. Commissioner Lynn Spraggs and Coaching Representative Andy King also supported this team. The OIC's were Conner Black and Dylan Taylor who did a fantastic job communicating with and mentoring the officials throughout the championship tournament. Other key personnel from the Minor Directorate in attendance and providing support were Heather Davis, Wuilbert Jaramillo and Michael Hagel. Prior to the first game, a local Indigenous community provided an opening prayer and drumming ceremony which was a first class and appropriate expression. Bravo to North Okanagan for ensuring this Provincial Championship was a positive well-organized event for all athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators.

#### **Female Provincials Port Coquitlam July 11-14**

Karen Hertslet was the Host Director and along with her well experienced army of volunteers, Poco did a fantastic job hosting this Provincial Championship. Gord McIntosh was the Supervisor for this event and was well supported by co-liaisons Dee Bowley-Cowan and John Hamilton. Stacy Hemmerling served as the Commissioner with Michael O'Connor and Rob Arden performing the duties as Coaching Representatives. Angie Reid worked in the capacity of OIC and provided top notch oversight and organization for the officials involved. Shane Mellish and Sean Reid were also key volunteers and provided much needed assistance in a variety of areas throughout the championship. Overall, this well-oiled machine of personnel functioned at a prominent level to provide for a memorable experience for all attendees.

#### **U17 Provincials Langley July 25-28**

Kara Eastgate was the Host Director for this championship and was well supported by LMMLA President Alex Vanichuk. The team of local volunteers that put in many hours of work were well organized and extremely committed to ensuring the Provincial Championship was a positive experience for the athletes.

Sandra Margetson served as the Supervisor with Sean Reid alongside her as the Liaison. Dennis Windsor filled the extremely busy position of Commissioner and Rob Arden along with Jeff MacAuley were the Coaching Representatives that provided watchful oversight throughout both arenas. Nico Beaudoin and Braden Wilkins were the two OIC's and once again, they were extremely professional and thorough to ensure the officiating was Provincial Championship quality. Wuilbert Jaramillo was also present and provided valuable support and experience.

BCLA President Gerry Van Beek also showed up to provide support upon my request and we extend our appreciation and gratitude.

SportMedBC was contracted for all four Championships and provided top notch first aid and medical support. Although there were some injuries and First Responder agencies were called to multiple locations, this aspect was professionally managed by utilizing this multi-tiered model.

I would also like to give a huge shout out to the BCLA staff for their tireless support and dedication to the young athletes that we are here to support. Deb Heard, Dave Showers and Jill Krop performed an incredible amount of work and oversight leading up to, and throughout four Provincial Championships that spanned the entire month of July. The output of this team of three is phenomenal and I am grateful for their work ethic and patience.

Dave Samson  
Vice Chair  
Minor Directorate

## Minor Directorate Tournament Year End Report – 2024

Respectfully submitted by Shane Melish

- A summary of the 2024 tournaments:
  - 42 tournaments hosted by 25 associations.
  - 13 associations that did not host a tournament.
  - 34 mixed tournaments
  - 5 female only tournaments.
  - 3 tournaments that have mixed and female only.
  - 1462 tournament registration requests by our teams
  - many teams applying for every tournament they are able to.
  - several people apply for 20+ separate tournaments (for the whole association)(this has to stop)
  - many teams that participate in 2 and a few that do 3 tournaments.
  - a couple teams that did not get accepted into any tournaments.
  - several tournaments added mid season.

			2023	2024
Tournaments Total			41	42
Association Hosts			24	25
Mixed (Male & Female)	<b>Division</b>	<b>Tier</b>	<b># of Tournaments</b>	
Mixed (Male & Female)	U7		7	9
Mixed (Male & Female)	U9		13	13
Mixed (Male & Female)	U11	A1	4	4
Mixed (Male & Female)		A2	4	5
Mixed (Male & Female)		B	10	11
Mixed (Male & Female)		C	3	5
Mixed (Male & Female)	U13	A1	3	3
Mixed (Male & Female)		A2	3	4
Mixed (Male & Female)		B	6	8
Mixed (Male & Female)		C	3	3
Mixed (Male & Female)	U15	A1	3	3
Mixed (Male & Female)		A2	3	2
Mixed (Male & Female)		B	6	3
Mixed (Male & Female)		C	2	2
Mixed (Male & Female)	U17	A1	3	3
Mixed (Male & Female)		A2	4	4
Mixed (Male & Female)		B	6	6
Female (only)	<b>Division</b>	<b>Tier</b>	<b># of Tournaments</b>	
Female (only)	U9		2	2
Female (only)	U11		4	5
Female (only)	U13		4	5
Female (only)	U15		4	5
Female (only)	U17		4	3
Female (only)	JR		3	2

Issues from this season:

We need to manage tournament a little closer.

- ✗ It is a free-for-all in how applications are made.
- ✗ There are different people from the same team applying for the same tournament
- ✗ There are association contacts applying instead of teams
- ✗ There are people applying for WAY to many tournament
- ✗ Some tournament coordinators wait to long to get confirmation from teams.
- ✗ Most tournament coordinators don't inform applicants that were not selected in a timely manner.

It is too easy to apply, you don't even have to be from the team and you don't need to know if the team will even attend if selected. We need rules around who can apply and how many they can apply for. Teams need to be willing to attend every tournament they apply for.

1. Teams and association applying for way too many tournaments

We had several individuals that applied for all the teams in their association.

There were several examples of one person applying for many teams for all tournaments possible. And several examples of teams applying for every tournament even though they will only attend one or two.

1 person applied	31 different tournaments
1 person applied	26 different tournaments
1 person applied	17 different tournaments
1 person applied	14 different tournaments
1 person applied	13 different tournaments
2 person applied	12 different tournaments
1 person applied	11 different tournaments
7 person applied	10 different tournaments
6 person applied	9 different tournaments
7 person applied	8 different tournaments
17 person applied	7 different tournaments
14 person applied	6 different tournaments
25 person applied	5 different tournaments

This makes it verry difficult for the tournament coordinators. The contact info from the person that did the applications is not the contact for the respective teams so it is very hard to make contact with the teams.

Also, a new coordinator thinks they have a huge number of applicants to make the tournament viable. We need to make it so that teams only apply to the tournaments they are willing to commit to patriciate in.

There should be no applications for a tournament from anyone other that a Team Coach or Team Manager and even then, only after a team meeting so everyone is committed to participating in the tournament(s) that are applied for.

**Teams should only apply after they have beam formed and there has been a team meeting and the parents and coaches all support the tournament application.**

2. Tournament coordinates waiting to long to confirm teams

Tournament coordinators need to accept teams earlier and then reach out to teams that applied and were not accepted.

3. Adding tournaments part way through the season

We added a couple tournaments part way through the season. This was done to accommodate some teams on the lower mainland that were not accepted into any tournaments.

It was the right thing to do but does present some problems. It is not fair to all teams to add tournaments late in the season that are not advertised the same as all the others.

Many teams did not know these tournaments were added and so they did not get the opportunity to apply.

These tournaments were not all added to the database so they can't be tracked properly. It was not clear how teams (and what teams) were made aware of these added tournaments.

When we add tournaments part way through the season they do not get the same level of scrutiny as when the Minor Directorate vets them as a group.

4. The fine is too low for team bailing on tournament games

We had two teams bail on a tournament game. They just chose not to play it as it would not change their placement in the tournament. The teams were fined but in my opinion, the fine is way to low. When you divide the cost of the fine between the families on the team the cost is insignificant. The fine needs to be raised.

Need better business rules around the form for applying to host a tournament.

The business rules around filling out the application to host a tournament need to be improved so that the metrics are easier to present. I will work with our Database Administrator to improve the application to apply to host a tournament.

Shane Mellish

Tournament Administrator (Minor Directorate)



## **MD Vice Chair Coaches – Minor Year End Report - 2024**

### **Respectfully submitted by Rob Arden**

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, Association Presidents. We had coaches still thinking it is ok to swear at officials, parents drinking in the parking lots and yelling, swearing and fingering minor players and officials. I will say that this is the first season since I have been in this position that we have not had to do a hearing for a coach in minor. 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. It is time that associations start to deal with their own problems instead of pushing it off to the BCLA and all the executives.

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 26 clinics for Community Development-Level 1, We had 418 people attend and 64 no-shows. We had 16 clinics for Competitive Introduction-Level 2 with 190 attending and 19 no shows. I will be recommending to the office it is time for these clinics are paid for up front. 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. Most associations have no idea if a person has any training till it is told to them half way through the season.

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

Rob Arden  
Vice Chair Coaches – Minor



## BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group

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### 2024 – Vice-Chair Minor Box Officials - Year-End Report

The 2024 lacrosse season was marked by both challenges and successes. A key issue we continue to face is the severe shortage of referees, especially in the higher divisions. Our Level 2 referee numbers have been steadily declining for several years, and unfortunately, this year was no exception. As I mentioned last year, “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.” This sentiment remains true today.

After interviewing several officials who have left the ranks and are not returning, one common theme emerged: the culture of constant debate about “how much will or should we tolerate,” the leadership driving abusive behavior, and the structural and political issues within the program. These factors have made it increasingly difficult to retain officials.

I was elected by the Officials Technical Group to bring about change, and I firmly believe that cultural transformation is crucial for any positive developments. However, not everyone is open to change; in fact, some are vehemently opposed, clinging to an outdated, club-centric system. This year, I encountered resistance from club presidents questioning the Officials Group's right to communicate with "their" officials, from Head Referees—who were elected by their clubs—about what uniforms "their" officials could wear, and from allocators, many of whom are not qualified officials, questioning their ability to assess an official's performance. The challenges seem endless.

Clearly, the traditional methods are no longer effective. Another significant challenge has been finding the right support for officials, rather than the support they currently receive. While we appreciate the 99.9% of members (executive, coaching staff, club-level executives, BCLA staff, parents, etc.) who support the Officials Group, it's imperative to focus that support on what is truly needed. Far too many unqualified individuals are making decisions about officials—decisions that should be reserved for those who are certified through Lacrosse Canada as members of the Officials Group.

This year, the Officials Group implemented a program for assigning officials to ensure that games are officiated by appropriately qualified individuals. We introduced Arbiter in the 2023 season with moderate success, followed by RAMP in 2024, which also saw some success. The reluctance to change—regardless of the system's name—remains a hurdle. However, I am encouraged by the progress made in linking and updating schedules, though there is still work to be done. Each commission (Lower Mainland, Island, and Interior) loads and updates schedules differently, making it difficult for the Officials Group to manage and maintain consistency. I hope we can work with these commissions in the off-season to develop a unified approach.

The integration of a consistent scheduling system is crucial for ensuring that allocators are aware of all games, minimizing scheduling errors. We aim to have all BCLA officials on the same platform, which is especially important for ranking officials by their competency levels and ensuring they meet Lacrosse Canada's requirements. This system also allows for evaluations to be attached to each official, providing valuable insights for head referees, zone representatives, and the Technical Group when selecting officials for Provincials and Nationals. Without this information, we are unable to identify officials for development opportunities.

Currently, club-appointed allocators assign officials, but there is no training for the allocators from an officiating standpoint—only on how to assign someone to a game. I've been informed that club presidents, executives, and coaches have been involved in selecting or approving officials for their games, which perpetuates the notion of "homer" officials. We must do better and eliminate this bias from our vocabulary.

## **Provincials**

I would like to extend my gratitude to Dylan Taylor and Connor Black (U13), Angie Reid & Sam Patterson (Female), Tyler Boyer & Vince Steigel (U15), and Nico Beaudoin & Braden Wilkins (U17), as well as Doug Wright & Josh Beaugard (Summer Games) for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the success of these tournaments from an officiating perspective. Additionally, I thank all the hosts for their hospitality and care of our officials.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, I strongly believe that changing the culture is essential. We need to educate parents, coaches, and officials, and I firmly believe that education is key to addressing referee abuse. We must also leverage available tools to aid in the development of our officials. Our goal remains to ensure that all games are officiated by properly qualified individuals, rather than resorting to unsafe practices just to fill a slot. The decision of who officiates should rest solely with the qualified members of the Officials Group—not with presidents or coaches, whose decisions are often biased and not in the best interests of the game.

Changing the culture of the game is no easy task, and it will not happen overnight. It will not happen if we continue to do things the way we always have. I challenge everyone to take a fresh look at our practices and help initiate this much-needed cultural shift.

Yours in Lacrosse

Dallas Lister  
Vice Chair  
BCLOG - Minor