



BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group

#101-7382 Winston Street Burnaby B.C. V5A 2G9 Tel: 604-421-9755

4 September 2024

BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group - Chair 2024 Year End Report:

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair for the BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group (BCLOTSG) for the past year. As I compose this report, my first as Chair in more than a decade, I reflect on some of the challenges we face as a lacrosse community.

Over the past year there have been several specific challenges and concerns that come to mind regarding officials: In general, the main challenge we face in all sectors is a shortage of mid-level (experienced level 1 and 2) and higher (level 3+) officials. In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic our sport lost half or more of our experienced level 2+ officials. This has created a severe shortage that will take us several years to overcome. An added and related challenge that is affecting the retention of officials, is the prevalence of abuse that is directed towards our officials.

I was able to attend several games throughout both the box and field seasons during the past year and I have found that in too many instances there is a tense undertone of animosity, sometimes bordering on hostility, directed towards the officials. This is not merely “abuse” as it has been termed, but a persistent and aggressive level of animosity that is difficult to understand. This tension, which is coming from both coaches and fans, (to a lesser extent from players also) is present to a degree that it is easily recognized by a spectator let alone by the officials on the field of play. There are several negative consequences of this aggression and abuse, but in general it leads to greater animosity between the teams and more aggressive play on the floor, which in turn leads to more hostility directed towards the officials. This leads to a feedback loop that can and has led to games becoming less safe and it is causing officials to reconsider their future. Given the current job market and higher minimum wage, officials can easily consider other occupations where they can get paid more while being yelled at less. Our sport community must take steps to address this problem. We are losing officials at a rate we cannot sustain, it is affecting player safety, and it is putting the future of our sport in peril.

On a brighter note, I would like to point to our success in recruiting strong numbers of entry level officials. We have also been successful in retaining healthy numbers of returning first year officials. Our challenge moving forward will be to continue to recruit new officials and to retain the officials we currently have.

One initiative that began in 2024 was the introduction of 3-referee mechanics to minor box. I believe this was a successful initiative, but I would like to see more associations make use of 3 officials, especially at the younger levels where this mechanic will allow more game/floor time for developing officials. Using the 3-referee mechanic should allow our

sport to recruit and maintain a larger pool of officials, which in time will help us improve our numbers as these officials develop their skills and experience in the years to come.

Another area of success in the past several seasons has been our training and supervision programs. From entry level right through to the highest levels we have been adopting new on-floor training and mentorship programs, new in class clinic presentations, new video resources, and an increasing number of formal and informal evaluations and assessments. These tools, which are being improved and refined on a continual basis, are assisting our officials in improving their skills and knowledge.

I would like to thank all the members of our BCLOTSG executive for their hard work and dedication. Andy Watson as Past Chair and Vice Chair Senior Box, Dallas Lister as Vice Chair Minor Box, Ryan Nose as Vice Chair for both Men's/Youth Field and Sixes, Angie Reid as Vice Chair for Women's Field, Cam Anderson as Secretary, and Nick Thomas as Director at Large. I am also grateful for all our local head officials, regional coordinators, evaluators, learning facilitators and on floor/field mentors and assessors that have assisted us in supervising, teaching and managing the officials' program throughout the province. Few, if any, fully understand how much work happens behind the scenes to help develop and manage the programs that support the officials in our sport. These dedicated volunteers have my sincerest thanks for their hard work and devotion.

I would also like to thank our BCLA Executive Director Jill Krop her staff for their tremendous assistance throughout the year. My sincerest thanks also go out the BCLA Executive for their ongoing leadership and support. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the Executives of the various Directorates, Commissions, and Leagues throughout our sport for their tireless efforts on behalf of our game. So much work goes on behind the scenes by a small army of individuals and I would like to express my gratitude for their dedication.

As many of those who read this may know, I have served as a member of the BCLOTSG in various capacities for the past several decades. I have found this service to be immensely challenging while also being tremendously rewarding. I have participated in this sport as a player, coach, and official and I am still optimistic and hopeful that we can overcome the challenges we face as a sport community and that our game has a bright future. I have a year remaining in my current term as Chair and I look forward to returning in my role as BCLOTSG Chair for at least one more season.

Sincerely,

Doug Wright
Chair,
BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group



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July 24, 2024

BCLOTSG Official in Charge (OiC) Report on the 2024 BC Summer Games in Maple Ridge

The 2024 BC Summer Games were held in Maple Ridge July 18 through 21 and comprised a total of 15 games played between 7 teams. Eleven games were played at Planet Ice (Cam Neely Arena) and four games were played at Mission Leisure Centre, which is approximately 25 minutes' drive away. We would like to extend our thanks to the staff at both facilities for their kind assistance throughout the games. There were no major issues experienced at either venue, however there were a couple of small problems experienced in Mission: During one of the games on Saturday July 20 the main game clock suddenly quit working. This problem resolved itself and the game was able to continue after a short delay. A ball struck and damaged a light fixture at this arena during a game also, and again after a short delay for clean-up the game was able to resume.

No major problems were encountered during this tournament, however there were a couple of instances where a bench minor for unsportsmanlike conduct was assessed. Fortunately, there were no instances where a coach needed to be assessed a game misconduct. Abuse of officials was generally quite minimal, but there were some team benches that were "vocal" at times, these incidences were not overly problematic. There were also a couple of major penalties, which are somewhat rare in the history of this tournament. We received one written expression of concern regarding officiating from a coach, and one brief meeting during the tournament to seek clarification and to share concerns about officiating.

We had one instance where an official became sick later in a game. This was attributed to a bad reaction to a sandwich provided at lunch by the games' organization. The official had to miss the 3rd period of game (game A5) and was replaced by an alternate official. This official was able to recover and returned to complete their next game assignment later that day.

Ten referees were utilized on floor for this tournament, eight of whom were participating in their first Summer Games as a lacrosse referee. Approximately 19 officials formally expressed interest in the games, a record number in recent years, of whom approximately 12 responded to a preliminary communication and confirmed their availability and interest. A final list of eight officials were chosen in addition to two officials in charge, both of whom also did a pair of games in the tournament. We also utilized one local official to assist with the offensive time clock for 3 of the 4 games held in the offsite venue (Mission Leisure Centre).

My sincerest thanks to Josh Beauregard, who volunteered as an assistant Official in Charge, for taking the floor to fill in for a couple of games and to assist with supervising games. I am very grateful to our team of officials for their hard work and dedication in representing the BC Lacrosse Association on the floor during this competition. The officials selected for these games were: Brent Rippberger – Vancouver, Danny Ortutay – Chilliwack, Garrett Watson – Nanaimo, Jarod Lego – Burnaby, Katerina Service – Kamloops, Kerry Neratini – Burnaby, Lisa Hibbeln – Burnaby, Matt Justason – Victoria, and on the offensive time clock, Robyn Cochrane – Mission.

In assigning officials for these games, it was decided to utilize three officials (instead of two) for most games. Of the 15 games in the tournament 3 officials were used in all but two of the games. I believe this was a very successful measure that allowed for more consistent and effective coverage of the games in question. The on-floor officials also assisted with the majority of offensive (30 second) time clock assignments, with the OiC's and a couple of local officials helping as well.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Lower Mainland Minor Lacrosse Commission for their generous financial support. They have pledged to provide \$1500 to help pay game fees for the officials. In addition, I managed to secure an anonymous donation of \$300 to help with payment for some of the 30 second clock assignments. Since these funds were insufficient to cover the additional costs of assigning 3 officials per game, the eight on floor officials for these games have agreed to equal shares of the \$1500 regardless of how many games

they were assigned to. In total each official was assigned to 4 or 5 games each and will each receive payment of \$187.50, plus up to \$20 for each 30 second clock assignment completed. These funds greatly enhance our ability to recruit and retain officials for these games.

For future games I would like to encourage future planners to again consider securing funding to support paying game fees for the on-floor and 30 second officials. Additionally, I would like to recommend expanding the usual roster from 8 to 10 on floor officials to support assigning 3 officials for all games in this tournament. A larger pool of officials will provide future OiC's with greater flexibility when it comes to assigning games, especially when faced with a situation where the playing venues are a significant distance apart.

I would also encourage future planners to communicate clearly with potential officials to make clear the availability requirements for the entire tournament. There were instances of limited availability on the part of the 8 on-floor officials for this tournament that made assigning games to officials somewhat more complicated than it might otherwise have been, with one official unexpectedly becoming unavailable on the final day of competition.

I would like to mention by name those officials who were chosen for games on the final day of competition, these were as follows:

- Consolation Game (5th place): **Jarod Lego and Doug Wright**
- Bronze: **Brent Rippberger, Lisa Hibbeln, Katerina Service**
- Gold: **Matt Justason, Garrett Watson, Danny Ortutay**

I would also like to extend a very special thanks to **Greg Toll** whose kind and generous assistance throughout these Games, and so many others over the years, makes it such a pleasure to return and lend a hand with these events. Additionally, I would like to thank Rob Arden and Jeff McCauley for their help as the Coaches' coordinators for the Summer Games, and to sport chair Dennis Herslet and his army of volunteers for their help. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to Dave Showers, Deb Heard, and Jill Krop at the BC Lacrosse Association office for their invaluable help behind the scenes.

Sincerely,

Doug Wright
 Official in Charge (Box Lacrosse) 2024 BC Summer Games
 BC Lacrosse Association Officials Technical Support Group



2024 – Vice-Chair Senior Box Lacrosse - Year-End Report

Sept. 8, 2024

In my year serving in as vice-chair of senior box lacrosse officiating for the BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group (BCLOTSG), I was again humbled by the amount of work our leadership team has and continues to put in each and every year. Of significant note, there are a number of things emerging and being added to this and other volunteer portfolios that are making it increasingly difficult to fulfill the obligations of the role effectively. Due to demands professionally and with other volunteer commitments, I am not seeking re-election as I don't have the critical time required to be effective in this role. I will, however, be happy to support any incoming vice-char of senior box lacrosse as time allows/permits.

I want to extend particular thanks to Doug Wright who took over from me as chair of officiating – it's a particularly challenging role and Doug has done well to help lead our group. I also extend my thanks to Sean Lehman, the outgoing Vice-Chair, Senior Box Lacrosse, for his efforts in this role before me for six years.

In our third post-pandemic season, we continued to face challenges around staffing. This is going to become even more critical in the years ahead. A shortage of officials – particularly at the L3, L4 and L5 (aka senior) levels – continues to create challenges for allocators, schedulers, officials-in-charge, and organizers from all facets of our game. I'm tremendously proud of the smaller-than-normal group of officials who continue to step up to make sure most games were covered. But we were stretched, leading to burnout, stress, impacts to consistency/quality, and teams seeing the same officials consistently. This is not ideal for the health of our sport.

Speaking with other provinces, I can safely say we continue to manage this challenge with innovation and creative thinking that led to fewer games being cancelled relative to what we saw in other provinces (notably Alberta, Ontario and Quebec). In part, this is due to the incredible efforts of our allocators – Ashley da Silva (Lower Mainland and Interior/Okanagan) and Serena Boyer (Island). We had several long weekends in June and July where we really should have cancelled more games but with creative assigning, we were able to miraculously cover games. We were forced to reschedule only eight games (primarily Junior B Tier 2 on the mainland) provincewide (and with minimal impact to travel teams as promised in Whistler). We also only had to reschedule one game in North Shore this season which is a massive improvement on the 10 rescheduled in 2023.

As noted in my chair report last season, we continue to need a long-term solution for referee recruitment and retention. Abuse continues to plague our indoor game, and we also face a labour-market challenge in retaining officials who are lured away by jobs with higher pay, less abuse and more flexibility in hours. Referees are also in a position now where they are trying to create balance in the summer with year-round lacrosse officiating creating the need to recharge during the summer. We continue to seek long- term solutions focussed on ongoing improvements to pay, travel, scheduling and accountability for abusive coaches.

Pay, in particular, is something we're going to need to enhance to continue to keep officials in a spot to prioritize officiating over other hobbies/activities.



While referees are the only people in the sport receiving compensation, this is consistent with what we see in other sports; however, lacrosse officials continue to fall behind what we see in other indoor contact sports and we need to do a full review and adjust to match what we see elsewhere and build in increases to remain competitive. Alberta and Ontario offer compensation gains through travel that helps to bolster game fees. We are still lagging far behind other jurisdictions in this regard.

To help the senior officials pool to grow, we need to work effectively on a graduation program for top-end minor box lacrosse officials. A regional approach (similar to Ontario's Qualifier program) should be considered between Western provinces (B.C, Alberta and Saskatchewan, possibly Manitoba) and venues could rotate (B.C. in Year 1, Alberta in Year 2, Saskatchewan in Year 3) at major tournaments (think the Wingrove) – you could include three-ref mechanics here and on-floor sessions leading into the events. I believe this is crucial to long-term recruitment and retention and I'll be putting a funding proposal together for discussion at the AGM in the recruitment/retention session.

I'm proud of our representation of officials at the national level. I'd like to publicly acknowledge our senior box lacrosse officials for national, international and major events in 2024:

- Mann Cup – Lee Brien, Tim Carlton
- Minto Cup – Cameron Anderson, Nico Beaudoin, Riley Lo, Nick Thomas, Ryan White (OIC Andy Watson)
- President's Cup – Vince Burelle, Nathan Chiasson, Nicholas dos Santos, Jason Syrotuck, Braden Wilkins (OIC Sean Lehman)
- Founders Cup – Josh Beauregard

I'm also proud to note B.C. had the most representation nationwide at national and world lacrosse events in box lacrosse this year (for the World Box Lacrosse Championships in Utica in September, we had 13 officials selected to represent the province on floor: Cameron Anderson, Vincent Burelle, Nathan Chiasson, Nicholas Dos Santos, Keith Gagne, Jacoby Krassman, Angie Reid, Jason Syrotuck, Nick Thomas, Ryan White, and Braden Wilkins (Ashley da Silva and Riley Lo had to decline due to work), and I was named as a deputy official-in-charge with the leadership group.

For 2025, I recommend the following focus areas for the new vice-chair of senior officiating:

- **Retention of officials:** pay, travel and recognition will be focal points.
- **Recruitment of new officials to senior lacrosse:** in particular, how do we recruit adults graduating from senior leagues to be able to help support us (can move them into Senior C and top minor more quickly than a teenager given their transferrable work skills and game-understanding).
- **Recruitment of female, Indigenous officials:** With the growth of the women's game at the international level, we are lacking a pathway for female officials to be successful and must create a plan. We also lack Indigenous officials in our sport and must look at finding ways to recruit and retain officials who identify those officials.
- **Year-round education:** focus on influencing at the national level on training, educational and information resources; enhancing our clinic for L3-5 referees in indoor/outdoor lacrosse.



- **Centralized provincial assigning:** There needs to be better alignment with all leagues year-round to help with assigning. There were some gains made this year but a new assigning software (Ramp) took away the ability to do this effectively with many gaps found in the software.
- **Professional development and recognition:** We must build more reciprocal relationships with non-BCLA leagues to allow for long-term officials – this includes the ALL, World Lacrosse, the National Lacrosse League, US Lacrosse and the National Collegiate Box Lacrosse League. These leagues offer year-round development opportunities which can benefit our officials and give them additional exposure and opportunity for recognition outside of B.C.

A special thanks to Deb, Dave, and Jill at the BCLA Office (along with Shannon who was great in her short time in her role). We are incredibly grateful for the support and coordination from our PSO team. Like the volunteer portfolios building up, the office has way more on their plate (this will continue to shift in years ahead as the Olympics are on the horizon). The office could use additional staffing support and I am hopeful there are funding opportunities to assist them in this regard. We could benefit from oversight of administrative tasks (more hands on support at weekend clinics; payment collection; support with systems etc...) but the staff is already stretched too far and it would be unfair of us to ask for additional support. Next time you see these folks, say thank you. They are critical to the functionality of our group.

I'm looking forward to seeing some new ideas and momentum come to fruition for the 2025 senior box lacrosse season with a new vice-chair of senior; I will be there to support them in transition.

I am confident in the leadership group that will be in place to continue to move things forward. In particular, since taking on this role, I'd like to thank Doug again for his advice, patience, guidance and candor.

Yours in lacrosse,

Andy Watson, Vice-Chair, Senior Box Lacrosse, BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group

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 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 Beauregard (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



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This year the U13 provincials were hosted by the North Okanagan Minor Lacrosse Association (NOMLA). Our games took place at two different locations first Kal-Tire North and Kal-Tire South in Vernon Thursday through Sunday(July 11th to 14th)in addition games also took place at an Arena in Armstrong called Nor-Val on the Thursday and Friday of the tournament.(July 11th and 12th)

This tournament saw 27 teams playing across different divisions. A1 consisted of five teams A2 consisted of two pools of four for a total of eight teams, B consisted of two pools of four with a total of eight teams and C consist of six teams where two pools of threes occurred. We roughly had over the tournament 60 games to be allocated. The use of RAMP was a great tool compared to the old-school method used in the past tournaments, such as the pen and paper method or an Excel document. Overall, this year the tournament saw minimal issues with either coaches or players in general.

This year, we used 20 officials for the tournament, about 10 of them were considered from out of town. Luckily, some of the officials happen to be coaching other teams during the tournament as well. The process of retention/recruitment for this tournament was challenging this year, I'm not sure what the reason for the challenges were. Could it be the location of the tournament, or could it have been the fact that there were two provincial championships going on the same weekend? That said for the longest time my roster was only 13 names or so, but with support from the TOMBLC commission, I was able to have a much more manageable roster when the tournament was beginning. I think going forward it may help the U13 provincial tournament if they were to have their own stand-alone weekend away from the female provincials going forward.

I would like to celebrate our metal crews for the championship Sunday please see below.

<u>U13 C Bronze:</u> Kian Yargeau and Charlton Li	<u>U13 C Gold:</u> Colten Colomorgan and Jonah Rampone	<u>U13 B Bronze:</u> Kolby Koran and Jessica Nakasimada	<u>U13 B Gold:</u> Nathan Davis-Lent and Caden Peters
<u>U13 A2 Bronze:</u> Katerina Service and Daniel Cowen	<u>U13 A2 Gold:</u> Nathan Davis-Lent and Kristen Armstrong	<u>U13 A1 Bronze:</u> Charlton Li and Nathan Jaramillo	<u>U13 A1 Gold:</u> Ty Clark and Josh Jaramillo

Lastly, these events cannot happen without the support of our hosts. I would like to thank all the volunteers and organizers from NOMLA for putting on such a well-done event. I would also like to thank Richard, Wuilbert, John, Michael and Heather from the Minor Directorate for helping keep things to run smoothly at the rinks over the weekend. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Connor Black as the assistant OIC for the tournament this year. Your dedication to feedback and growth of our officials was greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,
 Dylan Taylor
 OIC U13 Provincials



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September 2, 2024

BCLOTSG Official-in-Charge (OiC) Report on the 2024 BCLA U15 Box Provincials in Comox

The 2024 BCLA U15 Box Provincials were held in Comox from July 4th to 7th and comprised of a total of fifty-seven (57) games played between a total of twenty four (24) teams across 4 tiers – A1, A2, B, and C. All games were played at the two floors at the Comox Valley Sports Centre. We would like to give our sincere thanks to the staff at the arena and the CVRD for their assistance and attention throughout the games and across the event.

Additionally, I would like to thank Dan Chetner and Kelly Fines for their help as the Coaches' Group representatives, Tim Frost, Brande Terris and Doug Kampen for their help in the various Provincial Management roles, to the Host Director Heidi Grootenhorst and her amazing volunteers for their help. I would also like to give sincere thanks to Dave Samson, Dave Showers, Deb Heard, and Jill Krop at the BC Lacrosse Association office, and anyone else involved I may have missed, for their invaluable and incredible help behind the scenes and throughout the week and weekend in Comox.

There were no major issues experienced on either floor. Shot clocks on Floor #2 suddenly quit working halfway through the first day and the shot clock officials had to use their phone or apps to time the 30-seconds and buzz for expiration. The host was able to secure a 3rd set of shot clocks and they were replaced after one-and-a-half games had to be played with this method. There were several major penalties, approximately 2 Match penalties, 1 Fighting penalty, and 1 Gross Misconduct penalty assessed throughout the event.

On Saturday, July 6th, on Floor #2, a Comox player was checked from behind in front of the opponent's net and sustained an injury. The player was attended to by the staffed Athletic Therapist, and noted to them something that caused them to continue monitoring while not moving them. In caution, 9-1-1 was called for an ambulance to be sent to the arena. There was a parent who was a Nurse who was able to assist with the assessments. Both OiCs were eventually on-floor for this. During this time, we sent the teams to their rooms during the delay. The player was eventually able to leave the floor on their own-will and met with the paramedics to further assess. Teams returned to the floor, warmed back up, and completed the game. During this incident, an official was unable to finish the 3rd period due to a previous personal experience that brought them into an improper mental capacity to properly complete their officiating duties. The official had great self-awareness, brought this to our (OiC's) attention before the game resumed, and removed themselves from the game with the reassurance that the official team was fine to handle this. Thankfully, this game had 3-officials and the crew completed the game in the 2-official system. This official was able to return for games the next day and did a phenomenal job in their assignments that day.

There were a few instances where bench minors for unsportsmanlike conduct needed to be assessed, and in three (3) incidents they lead to the removal of a Coach. Abuse of official specifically was generally minimal. There were some team benches that were "vocal" at times, which is to be expected at this level of competition, but these incidences were generally not overly problematic.

Fourteen (14) officials were utilized on-floor for this tournament, with approximately seven were participating in their first Provincials as a lacrosse official. Approximately twenty-four (24) officials formally expressed interest in this event. We utilized one young, local official to assist with the shot clock duties throughout the event.

I can't give enough thanks to **Vince Steigel**, who was the Assistant OiC, for all of his help on the lead-up to the event. As well, his excellent help during the week / weekend and for assisting with supervising games and mentoring all officials. We received a lot of feedback about the value that the officials felt they received from a close working relationship and consistent input from the both of us during the course of the tournament.

I am very grateful to our team of officials for their extremely hard work, excellent commitment, and dedication in representing the BCLOA during this event. We received many compliments for the officials throughout the entirety of the event and after. The officials selected for these games were: **Ryan Beauchamp** – Comox, **Nathan Sutter** – Comox, **Adam Donald** – Campbell River, **Sarah Dmytruk** – Nanaimo, **Marc Caruth** – Nanaimo, **Bryan Norby** – Nanaimo, **Matt Justason** – JDF, **Katerina Service** – Kamloops, **Jaedon Mooney** – Shuswap, **Nathan Davis-Lent** – Shuswap, **Nick Bodo** – Semiahmoo, **Darya Saed** – Maple Ridge, **Kody George** – Langley, **Benji Dos Santos** – Surrey, and the lone shot clock-only official, **Logan Hildebrandt** – Comox.

In assigning officials for these games, it was decided to utilize two officials for all round-robin games. Of the fifty-seven (57) games in the tournament, the 3-official system was used in sixteen (16) of the games – approximately 30% of the games. I believe this was a very successful measure that allowed for more consistent and effective coverage of the games in question. The on-floor officials also assisted with many 30-second shot clock assignments, with one local official helping as well.

For future Provincial competitions, I would encourage planners and the BCLA to consider supporting all games to be run with the 3-official system. We felt that the games were very well received utilizing a 3-official system by the teams, players, officials, and tournament representatives. If that is undertaken for a full Provincial event, I would recommend expanding the usual roster of required officials from 14 on-floor officials to approximately 18 on-floor officials. The benefit to this would be to keep officials to 3 games a day, and most importantly, giving more officials the opportunity to take part in a Provincial tournament, leading to further and more meaningful development. A larger pool of officials – more than 18 on-floor officials – may need to be considered if playing surfaces were to be located a significant distance apart.

I encourage future OiC's to communicate clearly with the applicant official's Head Referee(s) and get an additional reference and/or formal evaluation completed to make clear they are suitable and fully capable for the level at the tournament. There was one instance of an official having to be put to shot-clock only duties after two days of competition due to a few larger mistakes. This did make scheduling more fluid and complicating for the final two days as we had to let a few other officials go away to cover Jr games in the North Island.

I would like to highlight the officials who were chosen for the various division's medal games on the final day of competition. They were as follows:

- C Bronze: **Katerina Service, Jaedon Mooney, Nathan Sutter**
- C Gold: **Sarah Dmytruk, Katerina Service, Darya Saed (**All Female Crew**)**
- B Bronze: **Nathan Davis-Lent, Jaedon Mooney, Darya Saed**
- B Gold: **Bryan Norby, Marc Caruth, Benji Dos Santos**
- A2 Bronze: **Matt Justason, Nathan Davis-Lent, Bryan Norby**
- A2 Gold: **Marc Caruth, Ryan Beauchamp, Nathan Sutter**
- A1 Bronze: **Benji Dos Santos, Sarah Dmytruk, Ryan Beauchamp**
- A1 Gold: **Kody George, Matt Justason, Adam Donald**

Yours in lacrosse,

Tyler Boyer
 Official-in-Charge 2024 BCLA U15 Box Provincials
 BC Lacrosse Association Officials Technical Support Group

BCLA Under 17 Provincials OIC Report

OIC's – Nico Beaudoin and Braden Wilkins

The 2024 U17 provincials were held in Langley from July 25 through July 28 and comprised of 46 games at two separate arenas. We would like to extend our thanks to the staff at both facilities for their kind assistance throughout the games. There were no major issues experienced at either venue, however we did have to make adjustments on day one at the Langley Events Center as proper "minor" lines were not present on the floor. We made teams aware that we would adjust the "10-second count" to center line. All teams agreed before the start of the tournament and this was not an issue moving forward.

There were very few instances of referee abuse or misconducts from coaches. Most notably, the coach from the Nanaimo U17 A2 team was assessed a bench minor and a game misconduct on Saturday morning.

There was one official who had car issues on the Friday morning and had to miss his game but this was not an issue as we were able to have another tournament official who was already at the arena into the game as the Shot Clock official and move the shot clock official onto the floor.

19 officials were used in total throughout the weekend. Officials worked both on-floor and as SCO's. There were approximately 30 officials and officials were selected based on the OIC's and assistant OIC's previous knowledge of officials, and the written applications.

In assigning officials for these games, it was decided to utilize three officials (instead of two) for all crossover and medal games. An optional session was held by the OIC and assistant OIC for all officials who had never ran a three-ref mechanic before and almost every official was present. I believe this was a very successful measure that allowed for more consistent and effective coverage of the games and many kind words were passed onto me from coaches and tournament volunteers. I highly recommend that we move forward using a three-official mechanic in all crossover and medal games at future provincials championships as this prepares our officials for national tournaments, junior lacrosse and beyond.

For future tournaments, I would encourage the organizing committee to provide lunch for officials at the arena's. As lunch was not provided for on-floor officials, they were limited in their options for healthy food. Over the course of the four days, I believe that this could have had an effect on their ability to physically prepare for their assignments. As these tournaments can be physically demanding, I believe that it is important for us to take care of our crews both on and off the floor. Officials were provided with granola bars, sports drinks, and water throughout the tournament.

I would like to mention by name the officials who were chosen for gold medal games on the final day of competition:

A1 gold: Vince Steigle, Adam Donald, Benji Dos Santos

A2 Gold: Ryan Beauchamp, Angi Reid, Kody George

B Gold: Austen Goertz, Craig Labranche, Ty Clark

I would also like to recommend the following officials to be moved up to level 3 next season:

- Ryan Beauchamp
- Brent Rippeberger

I would like to thank the tournament organizing committee, the BCLA, and all players and officials who helped to make this tournament a success. I would also like to thank Braden Wilkins who did a tremendous job in his role as assistant RIC in both mentoring, preparing and guiding officials throughout the weekend.

Sincerest regards,

Nico



August 1, 2024

BCLOTSG Official in Charge (OiC) Report on the 2024 Female Provincials Port Coquitlam

The 2024 U13-U22 Female Provincials were held on July 11-14, 2024 in Port Coquitlam BC. There were 90 games scheduled with 270 officials positions to allocate. The venue had all three floors in the one location which was amazing. It was so great to have everyone together in one place. There were no major issues experienced except for a clock issue in the Jon Baille arena on the Saturday and Sunday. The officials handled this well and I was able to support them in this to ensure the future games did not present an issue.

No major problems were encountered during this tournament, however there were a couple of instances where a bench minor for unsportsmanlike conduct was assessed. This did result in coaches being removed from the games for unsportsmanlike conduct and not abuse of official. There were also a couple of match penalties assessed and the officials documented these events on game reports. The commissioner was able to issue any suspensions which may carry over to next season. Overall though, it was a pretty smooth tournament.

To allocate the games, I employed 45 officials including shot clock officials from the home association of Poco. A huge thank you to all the officials who came out and officiated this weekend. We had only one travel official from the island because many went to the U13 Provincials in the Interior. Many did apply and almost all attended the event. I also did a call out over RAMP to see if there were other Level 2 officials who would be interested in attending. I also contacted Coquitlam (Head Referee and Allocator) on multiple occasions. I was able to obtain a list of officials from the Head Referee and contacted them to attend. A few were able to attend. Through evaluations, it was determined a couple officials needed a bit more mentoring and support and so my hope is they will work in the upcoming season and apply again next year.

My sincerest thanks to Sam Paterson, who volunteered as an assistant Official in Charge, for taking the floor to fill in for a couple of games and to assist with supervising games. He was able to evaluate officials and provide feedback and learned a ton while assisting me in this Provincials.

In assigning officials for these games, I wanted to ensure the Thursday and Friday were utilized for evaluating officials to determine who would be the best fit for crossover and medal games. Many I had not seen this year excelled and showed they deserved to be in those games. They made my job more difficult trying to assign those games because we had many deserving officials. Overall, I think the allocation went well but I would like to explore the 3 official system next year for crossover and medal games. Other Provincials this year were able to utilize this, so I would like to do the same next year.

I also utilized RAMP this year, but first used a google sheet document to organize the officials, have them review and then I added the assignments to RAMP. This made it easier to send the payment report to Deb to send out payment to the officials.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Port Coquitlam Association for their support, hosting such a great tournament. All the volunteers kept us fed and were there whenever we needed them. I would also like to thank all the Minor Directorate volunteers who were quick to support my officials any time the parents or coaches were getting animated in the stands or benches. We all really appreciate it.

I would like to mention by name those officials who were chosen for games on the final day of competition, these were as follows:

U13A Gold	Lincoln Wall	Jane Beaton
U15A Gold	Erik Forsselius	Bill Sinclair
U17A Gold	Ashley da Silva	Erik Forsselius
U22 Gold	Spencer Pollock	Ashley da Silva
U13A Bronze	Elise Lonsbrough	Kayla Stewart
U15A Bronze	Joe Smith	Elise Lonsbrough
U17A Bronze	Wes Sims	Vince Steigel
U22 Bronze	Vince Steigel	Wes Sims

U15B Bronze	Joe Smith	Connor Pattison
U15B Gold	Sam Paterson	Brent Rippberger
U17B Bronze	Brent Rippberger	Xander Viger
U17B Gold	Katrina McCurrach	Marc Sheridan

While the Provincials went well there were a couple things of note:

- The game reports link was not set up correctly and when officials would submit game reports, there were many who did not receive it and should have. We should consider a new game report system.
- Officials who were doing multiple games per day, were not provided meals but just a couple snacks, water and gatorade. While this did help, officials had to purchase their own meals. In the future, if it is too much trouble for the host to provide food, I would like to request a budget to be able to provide officials with some healthy meals for them to keep on going.
- All medal games on Sunday were scheduled at the same time. This caused the volunteer base to be strained on the last day. When there were issues in one arena (ie parents, coaches etc), then other arenas were not watched. On the final day tensions can get pretty high, so its important to have the representatives available to assist.
- When selecting the color for the volunteers (MD reps and Host reps) it would be best not to choose a color that is worn by a team. For example, the shirts this year were red and when

New West parents would be getting out of hand, having a rep show up in the same color they were wearing did not have the same effect as in years past when the colors differed.

- Overtime for Round Robin: Since after the first OT it remains a tie, it doesn't make sense for scheduling purposes and keeping games on time. We should consider removing this.
- Medal game times: For the 3rd period, if the score is less than 6 goals apart, the period starts with stop time. If during that stop time the goal spread is 10 or more then it goes to run time for the duration of the game. If at the start of the 3rd period, it is 6 or more goals apart, then it is run time for the duration of the 3rd period. This was managed well in our Provincials because everyone had the same interpretation. This caused issues in other Provincials (U17) where there were several interpretations. I propose we clarify this better for next year.

I really enjoyed being the Official in Charge for Female Provincials and one of the things that helped greatly was having all three floors in one location. Having been the OIC in previous years and having the games in 2 locations, it can prove difficult. So in future, I am hopeful the Female Provincials can be hosted in a similar facility.

Again, thank you to all the officials, my assistant OIC, the host and all the volunteers that made this happen. Looking forward to next season!!!

Angie Reid

Official in Charge (Box Lacrosse) 2024 U13-U22 Female Provincials

BC Lacrosse Association Officials Technical Support Group

BCLOTSG Zone #2 Rep Report

This was my first season in the role. And to be honest, at first, I wasn't really sure what to expect when taking on this new role overall, I felt the season went smoothly overall.

Zone two is one of the larger, more geographical challenging zones in the Province. This zone encompasses everywhere from Merritt down to Princeton up through Kelowna, Penticton into Vernon, and ends with Kamloops as well.

The season started out on a bit of a rocky note. Many of the local clubs and presidents were not happy that our clinic dates were happening the first few weekends of the league season. That said, after consultation, we were able to work out new dates prior to the season in most cases and are already starting to engage in the process of organising dates prior to the season next year.

Given the challenges of various city locations games are often played on the weekends in doubleheader formats mostly.

Officiating games were met with some challenges and concerns when it comes to abuse from parents. We did have one situation this year, regarding an official and parent interactions that ended with the local RCMP being called. Later in the season when these two teams played, again no parents or fans were allowed in the area. That said, minimal games were cancelled or rescheduled for lack of official availability this season which was a huge success. Because of that, I would like to thank all the local head officials and allocators for working together to make sure that all these games were completed with minimal interruptions to the schedule.

Our zone hosted many different tournaments this season. These tournaments were a great opportunity for many of our officials to work different calibres of games and see various teams from other regions of the province and country in some cases that they normally would not see. I was at a few of these tournaments over the course of the year and have been truly impressed by the skill and strength of officiating in many of these cities within our region.

Lastly, zone #2 was the host for the U13 provincial championships. Many officials from the zone had the opportunity to officiate games. This was a great chance and opportunity for them to experience a provincial tournament and learn and grow from mentors like myself and Connor Black. Many of these officials from the zone got to work various metal games on championship Sunday of the U13 provincials.

Respectfully
Dylan Taylor
BCLOTSG Zone #2 Rep



BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group

#101-7382 Winston Street Burnaby B.C. V5A 2G9 Tel: 604-421-9755

August 1, 2024

BCLOTSG Zone 345 Report 2024

This was my first year in the role of the Lower Mainland Coordinator for Zones 3, 4 and 5. In previous years, I was the Head Official for Surrey Lacrosse so this was a much more challenging role for me. There were many game reports, emails, coaches evaluations, RAMP troubleshooting and evaluations to fill up my time. I am also officiating many games this season for several associations.

I really enjoyed this role. I learned a lot over the course of the season and know there are many things we can do to improve. I worked closely with Dallas Lister (BCLOTSG Minor Box Chair) and had the support from Doug Wright (BCLOTSG Chair).

This season was also the first time we used RAMP as an assigning software. There were some great things I liked about RAMP such as the linking to the game sheets app, the ability to enter dark days through the computer and app, accepting games on the fly and being able to see all the officials who were assigned games in RAMP. What I found difficult was having an association (Coquitlam) not using the same software. I had no idea who was reffing what games in order to evaluate officials for Provincials. It also made it more difficult for those officials to get games in other associations having to keep track of two apps for assignments. My hope is we will all be on the same allocating software next season, to make this easier.

RAMP Assigning has done several improvements to their assigning software over the course of the season. Dallas and I have had the opportunity to bring our concerns to RAMP and have some upgrades done. We will be able to draft, save filters, look at games in several zones at a time etc. The software is looking closer to Arbiter which we used last year and had many features we missed. I am looking forward to piloting the new upgrades in Women's field season allocating.

RAMP Gamesheets has been in use for a couple seasons so far and some officials have done well with it. They have made a good practice of looking at the game sheet prior to the game, after each period and at the end of the game. Many, even with constant reminders, were not. We would receive game reports indicating they did not have the penalty notated on the app because they didn't get a chance to review it or the scorekeeper had left prior to the signing off of the game. Next season, we hope to reiterate the importance of this document for tracking purposes for officials, commissioners and teams. We may want to consider some sort of repercussions if an official is constantly NOT completing the scoresheet.

Over the course of the season, we saw several game reports. Some of these game reports were against coaches for abuse of official infractions. Several instances of this type of behavior were also NOT reported or even dealt with correctly on the floor. Some officials need some more mentoring and training on how to deescalate situations and to also administer USC penalties early, to prevent the escalation. Officials also need to continue to review the rules and referee handbook to ensure they are officiating the game to the best of their ability to prevent some of the frustration coaches feel. We can do this by revamping our clinics and providing on-going teaching whether it be online or in person.

One big area where many associations fall short is in the role of their Head Official. Some associations don't have anyone in that role or they have a Head Official who is also coaching or helping on teams. As with many volunteers, they are pulled in many directions and are unable to give the officials the support and mentoring needed. I implore the associations to recruit a competent Head Official to support the local officials in their area.

I am hopeful to return to this role next year and look forward to continuing to improve processes and ensure our officials are supported in any way I can.

Angie Reid

Official in Charge (Box Lacrosse) 2024 U13-U22 Female Provincials
BC Lacrosse Association Officials Technical Support Group

September 11th, 2024

Zone 6 (Vancouver Island) Official's Rep Report - 2024 Season

There were less minor clinics ran than last year. This was due to the anticipated low registration numbers – being similar to the declined number of officials we saw the previous year – and combining all Entry Level and Level 1 clinics into one. The registration was updated to use Google Form, which I believe was better than previous years but still leaves a lot to be desired. There was only one Level 2 clinic in Victoria, which should be increased for next year. We also found that we need to have a properly scheduled catch-all, potentially virtual clinic to certify those people who are not able to attend the scheduled dates, or those who are away for school. Thankfully, this is the first year in a while where we did not have to cancel clinics due to low registration numbers! We lost two Learning Facilitators (LF's) to our Island group this year, coupled with the reduced number of clinics, this did not stretch our LF group thin. We will be losing an LF for this upcoming year – therefore **it would be my recommendation to bring in a clinician to our zone to fill this spot if we anticipate any increase to the number of clinics.** Thanks to all the LF's, the BCLAOTSG, and BCLA for working diligently to have these all completed. Moving forward, I believe we still need to improve and simplify the registration process for the Official's clinics which would hopefully lead to an increase in registrations, or at least make it easier to appropriately schedule and allocate resources. We also **desperately** need to work on our **retention of Level 2 officials.**

The on-floor clinics for Entry Level and 1st year Level 1 officials across BCLA was mandatory for this year, however, it was required that myself and the Head Referees schedule the time and locations for them instead of the BCLA completing this. I feel like this was not implemented in the best way to get officials registered for these clinics and should be included in a BC-wide application process. The timing to have these clinics should also be dialed in for future seasons to best incorporate it prior to the season. This is a valuable tool to assist early officials become confident and gain experience and exposure as an official prior to being in the pressure of a game situation and we need to ensure this continues across BC. As well, the roll out of the green armbands for minor Officials (those under 16 years of age) was rolled out in a poor manner with some officials not receiving them and them coming too late. If we are going to proceed with this in the future, then we need to ensure that **these green armbands are prepared for distribution in the clinics.**

As for the season itself - it seemed to go fairly well after a bumpy start to the year and a last-minute implementation of our new assigning software – RAMP. The biggest issue we faced this year was RAMP Assigning. There has been a lot of feedback received from those involved in assigning games that this was a detrimental change with features and ease of assigning. A major step back from Arbiter. The ability for scheduling and game sheets to be paired with the assigning is a nice feature, but a severe lack of communication and protocol in game scheduling issues and game changes all year caused a lot of chaos for our Assignors, Head Referees, myself, and Dallas for these games anyways. Thankfully, we rolled with it as best as we could and eventually worked through, and got through, some issues RAMP creates as best as possible. A massive thanks to all the Associations, Association Head Referees and Allocators, and the Officials who all stepped up to ensure games were assigned and played for the kids. With the huge reduction in total officials, and various Assignors/Head Refs, we had to have a few Assignors cover multiple areas and work closely with the Allocators and scheduling to re-schedule some games to make sure games were played.

Official Abuse – I do feel as if there was good support at our Executive and Association levels for handling issues and issuing discipline or action to combat it within their organizations. Thank you to all those

involved that have taken the stand with us. I feel like there is still something left to be desired with a more punitive stance to remove problem people from their positions. We need to be more proactive in dealing with these abusive issues and potentially punish Associations financially for letting this continue.

I have had multiple discussions with my fellow Zone Reps, as well as people throughout various Associations and the Coach's Group, regarding the automatic one-game suspension for a Major penalty in the last 10 minutes of a game. It seems quite unanimous that this punitive measure has completed what it was intended to do – reduce the amount of issues at end of games and reduce fighting/brawls – but that it has now ran its course as being a beneficial measure. There is a large agreement that the additional push for a minimum of 5 min for High Sticking has lead to a lot more suspensions that in seasons past. I hope that this can be moved at the Minor Directorate level to be removed for future seasons for the benefit of all the participants in the game.

What continues to be my biggest concern for future seasons is official's numbers continue to decline or stagnate. This has made it much more difficult to fill higher-level games with the amount of capable, experienced officials and left other officials (in smaller numbers) to pick up the slack. We need many seasons to get the current young officials to the point where they can acceptably and safely handle these levels, with proper, valuable mentorship continuing. We will need to extremely diligent in retention in the coming years, and specifically target age groups where we can have experienced officials for higher level games. Obtaining officials from other sports may expedite this process, however, this is a multi-year commitment that we must make. **We must try and get officials who have previously left to return to assist us.**

Mentorship for younger officials must continue to be the major focus for the upcoming years to expedite these younger officials as best as we can. Once again, this year on the Island there was a solid group of senior, seasoned official evaluators giving as much mentorship and feedback up-and-down the Island, which resulted in multiple Provincial, Summer Games, and National selections. However, the rural/smaller Associations still tend to be "left behind" as we have had a decline in people step into leadership or Association roles. We desperately need experienced officials to return to our sport to assist in these areas. The development of our officials is going to continue to be nuanced because we will need to have the official numbers up so that our older, experienced officials are not going to be spread too thin for all games – Minor and Senior – constantly being on the floor or evaluating. I was able to obtain an Official's Development budget of \$500 for this season from the VIMLC and utilized it all. **Continual growth and utilization of this budget in the VIMLC – along with further, growing developmental funds contributed from the BCLA – will be key to increasing the amount of development** we can actually complete. I believe that it may be worth it to incorporate a **recommended minimum amount that Associations pay as a "Mentor fee" for games where one is present – similar to what we did when we started to implement Shot Clock Officials being paid.**

Reduced official numbers continue to have the biggest impact on the future of lacrosse. This is my biggest concern moving forward, which will lead to burnout and fatigue by those constantly going above and beyond for game – which will cause them to eventually leave and further lower our numbers. Continued leadership from the Executive, Chairs, and others, paired with effective communication and teamwork between all of us, is critical for the success of us as an Officials group.

Yours in lacrosse,
Tyler Boyer

Zone 6 (Vancouver Island) BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Group Representative

2023-24 BCLA Field Lacrosse Special Session

VC – Mens Field Report

A total of 155 officials were certified this season up from 107 last year:

- 104 Entry Level/L1 an increase of 10 from last year
- 43 Level 2 an increase of 13 from last year
- 27 Level 3,4,5 a decrease of 4 from last year.

Even with the increase (+19) in the number of officials there were games in all three leagues had to be rescheduled, postponed, or cancelled outright due to lack of officials.

There were 3 in season tournaments this year (Ridge Meadows, Langley, and Richmond) all hosted between Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day. The timing of the tournaments early in the year allowed for a lot of mentoring/evaluating of the younger officials that set them up for success throughout the year. The mentoring program that was initiated by the PCFLL in 2022 was again implemented this year. Thank you to the league, Susan and the senior officials who provided their support.

The U11 tournament was held in Nanaimo Feb 9-11. A total of 12 officials were used including 7 from Nanaimo and 4 from Victoria. Thank you to RIC Wes Tyre and the Nanaimo association for hosting the event.

Youth provincials were held in Richmond Feb 16-19, a total of 35 officials were used across the 4 days. That included 4 from Victoria, 1 from Nanaimo and 1 from the Interior. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who made the event possible. One downside to having all four age divisions compete on the same weekend – very few U17 and U19 aged officials were available as they chose to focus on playing. Thank you to Pam Mason as host and Susan Dos Santos as referee allocator for all your hard work in putting on a fantastic weekend.

The Mens League is nearing its conclusion at the time of this report. Both the CWFLL and the Island have completed league play. There is a 5 team provincial tournament scheduled for Easter Weekend in Coquitlam.

Thank You

Ryan Nose
VC Mens Field BCLOTSG

BCLA 2024 Vice Chair Women's Field Officials Report

This last season, we had 65 Women's Field officials (56 on the mainland and 9 on the Island):

- 9 Level 2 officials
- 20 Returning Level 1 officials + 5 Island
- 28 New Level 1 officials + 3 Island

It was so good to see so many more interested in learning how to officiate Women's Field.

Due to a lack of clinic and field space, the clinics consisted of an online session followed by an on field portion during live games for new level one officials. Next season, I would like to return to using a pre-clinic online portion, then an in class portion plus the on field portion. I will also be providing a level 2 clinic next season with hopes to move up some officials from last season.

We began the 2023-2024 season with the Big Al 7V7 tournament hosted by Coquitlam. This was a great way to start the season. Many officials were able to complete their on field portion and received good mentorship to begin the season.

Another great opportunity was the Langley Thunderstrike Tournament. This tournament enabled us to provide feedback and evaluations to officials early in the season to set them up for more success as the season continued. This also provided us the opportunity to see who would be looking to move up to Level 2 and to mentor and encourage them to do so.

We have had a couple adults sign up to officiate and it continues to prove successful. I would encourage associations to continue to recruit adults as well youth to umpire next seasons. With many U19 and U15 officials moving on to university or other endeavours, we are going to need as many as we can get. My hope is we can continue to recruit adults so they can eventually mentor new umpires in years to come.

On the mainland, we have many games starting Saturday mornings, which spreads the officials thin. We also had to compete with the ALL West games in the Saturday afternoons which appeared to cause some conflict. Games were being cancelled due to lack of players. The ALL West schedule for next season appears to be on Sundays so this should help.

For Women's field Provincials, we were able to run the entire Provincials with no weather issues.

I want to thank Charlie Jones for scheduling officials all season with my support and Stacy Paterson for working so well with us on the schedule. She helped to move games around when needed so we had fewer cancellations. Central allocation continues to prove successful.

My recommendations for this next season would be as follows:

- Associations continue to recruit more adults as well as youth starting in early August (especially since all umpires must be certified (or recertified) by November 11th of the playing season. This would include recruiting back those officials back from university.
- Continue with on field mentorship of newer officials and officially evaluating umpires for continued improvement.
- Looking at the potential ability to hold 'play days' at 2 or 3 different locations every weekend. This would allow officials to be mentored and enable them to have more games (since they would not be spread thin in the am) – These would be like mini one day tournaments.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Angie Reid

Vice Chair Women's Field Officials

We continue to face challenges in regard to referee recruitment. When speaking with the Chair of Officials, Doug Wright, he outlined the continuing problem with obtaining and keeping entry level referees. The reason for this is there are not enough scheduled games to keep them interested and involved. Level 1 & 2 referee numbers are at 60% of what they were pre-covid. Field lacrosse referee numbers are still low and as all games are played on a Sunday, this creates further challenges in recruitment. In some associations we cannot guarantee games if we do not have a larger base of referees to draw upon. Many games were cancelled this past season in all areas of the province due to lack of officials. Doug Wright said that some organizations have tried to use the three referee system if numbers allow having that extra person on the floor.

We need to make a concerted effort to recruit clinicians, coaches, referees and volunteer's province wide. We need a united effort to increase our officials and explore avenues of support in regard to abusive behaviour during games. Abuse of officials is still a huge problem especially of young referees. Generally, the parents attending the games are the ones that are being abusive and organizations should monitor this behaviour and offenders should be disciplined and sanctioned. There is no room in lacrosse for this kind of behaviour.

Thank you to Doug Wright for his tireless efforts in serving as Chair of Officials this past year.

A special thank you to everyone at the BCLA office for their dedication and hard work.

Dennis Quigley

VP Technical Programs.



**2024 BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group Special Session
October 2024
BCLA Technical Director Report: Dave Showers**

In this report, I have highlighted the activities that the BC Lacrosse Coaches Association (BCLOTG) has had in the last year, along with some statistics. First of all, I would like to thank everyone involved with the BCLOTG, from Doug Wright, Andy Watson, Dallas Lister, Ryan Nose and Angie Reid for all your hard work in overseeing/running the clinics and spending tireless hours working on new and improved materials. To all those who stepped into a classroom or into an arena or onto a field to teach, evaluate or officiate we thank you in helping keep our sport strong and successful in British Columbia.

In this report I have gathered data from September 2023 to April 2024. My role with the BCLOTG includes the co-ordination of the clinics and preparation of resource material.

Clinics

BOX

The BCLOTG offered **41** In-Person clinics and **6** Online Sessions across B.C in 2024, with a total of **847** Officials being trained and re-trained.

Entry Level = **194** attended.
Level 1 = **359** attended.
Level 2 = **224** attended.
Level 3-5 = **70** attended virtually online..

FIELD Officials Clinics

The BCLOTG offered **14 Field** clinics in 2023/2024; with a total of **169** overall participants being trained and re-trained. The Level 3-5 session was done virtually with **63 participants**.

FL1 = **137** attended
FL2 = **32** attended
FL3-5 = **63** attended virtually online.

WOMEN'S FIELD Officials Clinics

The BCLOTG offered **11** Officials Field online clinics across B.C. in 2023/2024; with a total of **77** participants being trained and re-trained.

WFL1 NEW – **26** Attended
WFL1 Returning – **32** Attended

WFL2 – 19 Attended

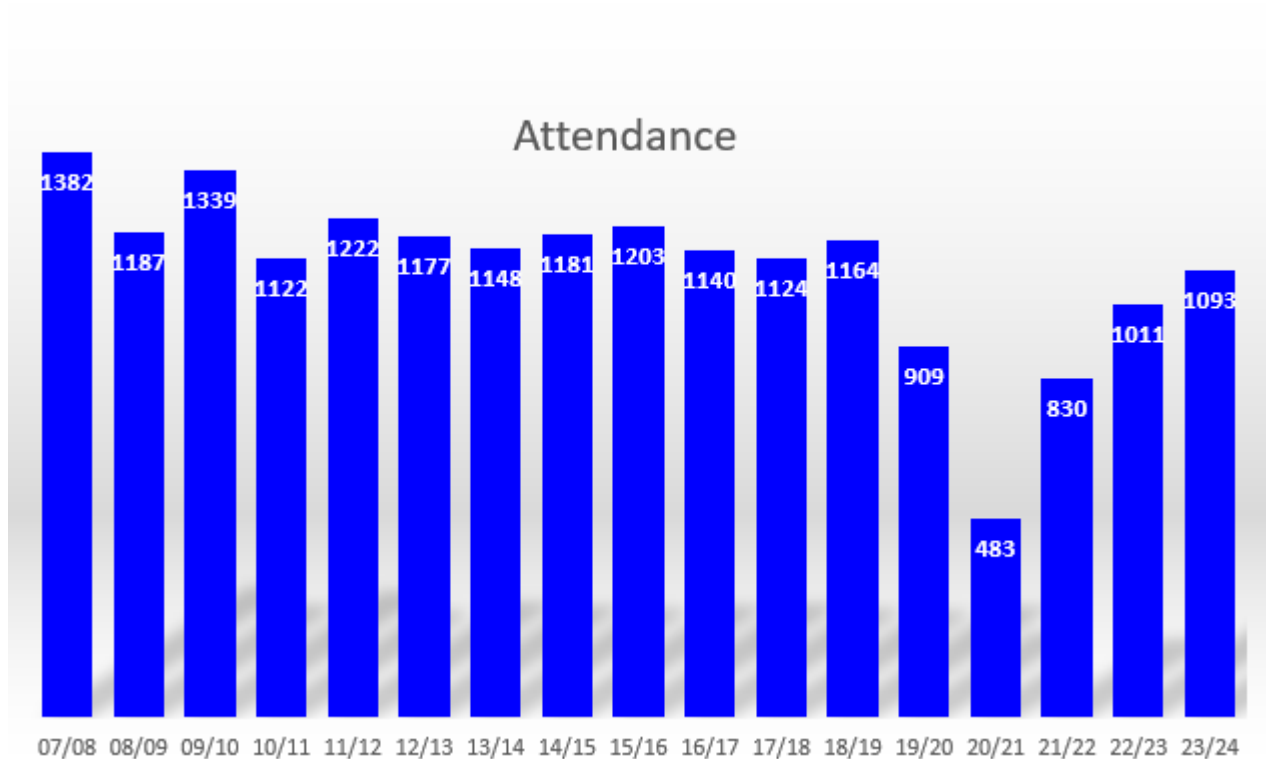
Total Number of Clinics 73 - Officials attending these clinics: 1,093

Number of Clinics by Zone in all disciplines (Minor Directorate Zones)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0	8	4	28	1	15	0	0

17 Online Sessions, including sessions for only Zone 1 and 8 Officials (Cranbrook, Fort St. John, Prince George, Quesnel, West Kootenay and Williams Lake).

CLINIC ATTENDANCE – Clinic Referee/Official/Umpire attendance from 2007/2008 to current



Reminders

- Head Officials need to know certification levels of officials for an accurate pre-registration listing for clinics.
- New and returning referees need to register for clinics through the Head Official of his/her Association. Forms should be filled out correctly, accurately and legibly.
- Head Officials should try to register officials at least one week prior to clinic, as clinics fill up fast.

Recommendations

- Create a job description manual for new Association Head Officials.
- Find ways of recruiting more officials for all areas of BC. Start at the minor levels.
- Encouragement of Senior Officials to mentor the growth of minor officials.
- Run Zoom Training sessions for Coaches and Parents to go over the basic rules and have a Q and A Session.