



NOTICE TO PARENTS OF CDLA MIDGET PLAYERS

AFFILIATION TO JR TEAMS

As a parent/guardian of a Midget lacrosse player in the Calgary District Lacrosse Association (“CDLA”) you should be aware that your son or daughter is eligible to be “called-up” to play “Major” or “Junior” lacrosse. In order to help you understand what this means please read the information set forth below.

“Minor” lacrosse is governed by the CDLA and covers players who play from Mini-Tyke (4/5 years old) to Midget (15/16 years old. Depending upon the age group, with the exception of Mini-Tyke and Tyke, each age division is broken into “Divisions”. These divisions are largely based upon the skill levels of the players and it is the goal of the CDLA to have parity between teams within each Division.

“Major” or “Junior” lacrosse is organized and governed by the Rocky Mountain Lacrosse League (“RMLL”). Like minor lacrosse it is also broken down into divisions based largely upon the skill level of the players, **HOWEVER, UNLIKE MINOR LACROSSE EACH DIVISION IS COMPOSED OF PLAYERS FROM 17-21 YEARS OF AGE.**

Basic Structure of “Major” or “Junior” Lacrosse

The “top” level is Junior “A” and there are 2 teams in the Calgary area, the Calgary Mountaineers and the Calgary Raiders, each of these teams are independent and have no formal affiliation with any other team or Club. Players for these teams are, for the most part, drafted out Midget and Junior “B” Tier I, therefore there are no geographic restrictions on players playing for these teams however, their “rights” are owned by the team which drafts them and they cannot play for another team at that level without either a release or a “trade”.

The next level is Tier I Junior B, commonly referred to as Junior “B”. There are 4 teams in the Calgary area, the Chill, the Mountaineers, the Shamrocks and the Silvertips (which operate out of Rockyview). Like the Junior A teams all 4 of these Teams are independent and have no formal affiliation with any other team or Club. Players for these teams are, for the most part, like the Junior “A” teams, drafted out of Midget and Junior “B” Tier II, therefore there are no geographic restrictions on the players playing on these teams however, their “rights” are owned by the team which drafts them and they cannot play for another team at that level without either a release or a “trade”.

The next two levels for males are Junior “B” Tier II and Tier III, commonly referred to as Tier II and Tier III, respectively and for females Junior Ladies. There are some important differences to remember with respect to Tier II and Tier III and Junior Ladies teams. These teams in the Calgary area, unlike Junior A or Junior B, these teams, are not independent as they are run by the same Clubs that run “Minor” lacrosse. It is important to note, however, even though they are run

by the “Minor” Clubs they are governed by the RMLL NOT the CDLA. The number of Tier II and Tier III teams in any particular Club may vary from year to depending on the number of players which are registered and the Club’s assessment of the relative skill level of the pool of players. The other significant difference for Tier II, Tier III and Junior Ladies teams is because they are run by the Minor Clubs the players that play for these teams are generally subject to geographic limitations. (ie players at these levels living in SE Calgary will play for the Axemen, players living in the SW will play for the Sabrecats, etc). Where a particular Club does not have a team in a given category, either Tier II or Tier III or Junior Ladies, eligible players in that category are “free agents” and can register and try-out for that level with a different Calgary area team of their choice. Players in Tier II, Tier III and Junior Ladies are not drafted by their teams they simply register with their home Club at the same time as registration for “Minor” lacrosse. In addition, male players who are “drafted” but fail to make a Junior “A” or Junior “B” team will “fall back” to their respective Clubs and are eligible to play Tier II or Tier III. The placement on a Tier II or Tier III will be made by the Clubs based upon their evaluation process. Each Club has a slightly different approach to evaluations and parents should contact their home Club with any questions with respect to this process.

It is important to remember that each of these levels have their own level of commitment, generally becoming greater with each higher level, and therefore players can match their level of time and commitment to the appropriate level of play, no player is “forced” to play at a level that they do not want to participate.

Parents and players should also be aware because this is a 5 year age category, that competition at the higher levels is intense and players graduating from Midget may have to “work their way up” through a number of levels in their 5 year Junior lacrosse “careers” to reach these levels.

“Call Up” Process

As a general rule, males playing Midget that are being called up, will be called up to Tier III, although certain highly skilled players may be called-up to a higher level. Female Midget players can only be called up to Junior Ladies as there is only the 1 level in female lacrosse, at this time.

A call up is generally initiated by the Junior level Coach or manager of a team which is short players for a particular game and in all likelihood they will contact the Coach of the Midget team inquiring about available Midget players. Junior Coaches and managers will generally inquire about issues of skill, experience and size and once they gathered the information they are looking for they will ask the Midget Coach for “permission” to contact the player to see if they are interested in playing-up. Junior Coaches are encouraged to contact the parent of the Midget player to determine if they are willing to let their son/daughter play at the higher level. Sometimes when families are contacted neither of the parents are available and the Coach or Manager will discuss the matter directly with the player and ask them to “check” with their parents. At the present time there is no formalized written documentation which is used in this process.

Call-Up Considerations

When a player is being asked to play up, there are certain considerations which both the player and the parent/guardian should consider before accepting the invitation: **The final decision on whether or not to play up must be made by the parents/guardians of the Midget player after discussing the matter with their son/daughter.** These considerations include:

1. The primary consideration must be the **SAFETY** of the player. A player's individual factors and characteristics must be considered, including:
 - Skills
 - Experience
 - Size – Height and weight
 - Athleticism
 - Level of physicality or aggressiveness of play
2. Parents should talk to their son/daughter to determine the player's "comfort" level with playing up, hesitancy may be a sign that the player is not yet ready to make the "jump". All players develop at a different rate, choosing not to play up is not a negative reflection on a player, there will be other opportunities.
3. If you have any questions talk to your Midget Coach, the Junior Coach or your Club's Junior Coordinator, **DO NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS.**
4. It should always be remembered that Junior Lacrosse consists of players from **17 to 21 years of age, regardless of level (17 to 25 in the case of Junior Ladies).**
5. The game at the Junior level is generally a faster pace than in Midget lacrosse and so there is less "time and space" for players to react.
6. Because of the 5 year age spread in Junior lacrosse (9 year in Junior Ladies) there will be some older, larger and stronger players on the floor and therefore Midget players will find the game to be more physically demanding.