



Year in Review from the Wheatland Lacrosse Association,

Wheatland Teams 2024

	Lloydminster	Lakeland-CL	Ft Mac	Vermillion	Wainwright	Lakeland-BV	Lac La Biche	Flag Staff	Total Teams
U5		1				1			2
U7	1	1	1	1		1			5
U9	1	2	1	1	1	2			8
U11	3	2	2	1	1	2			11
U13	2	1	1	1		1			6
U15	2	2	1	1	1				7
U17	1	1	1	0					3
U19				1					1
						Total Amount of Teams			41

Wheatland Players 2024

	Lloydminster	Lakeland-CL	Ft Mac	Vermillion	Wainwright	Lakeland-BV	Lac La Biche	Flagstaff	Total Players
U5(Sparks)		10				6			16
U7	13	9	18	13	3	11			67
U9	16	22	14	9	9	27			97
U11	38	36	32	9	13	27	1		156
U13	25	16	13	13	3	21	4		95
U15	24	25	13	13	7	2	5		89
U17	15	15	19	3	0	2			54
U19		5		9		12			26
						Total Amount of Players in Wheatland			574

This past year Wheatland was able to see some growth again post covid. We welcomed a new club from Two Hills and seen the revival of Wainwright Lacrosse, which were both great additions. This year we focused more on weeken play for U7, U9, U11 and U13 which seemed to help allow Wood Buffalo and Lac La Biche to be more active in league play as well.

U7 Division

We had a mixed bag of age groups ranging from 3-7 year olds. They participated in throw in sticks mini-scrimmages at our weekend festivals and was well received by all.

U9 Division

We had 8 teams and they were able to play each other and develop throughout the year. Overall it was a great experience for most.

U11 Division

We had 9 teams and all got to play each other a few times throughout the weekend festivals. This year Wheatland used 3ft x 3 ft nets in this age group to help develop our goalies and keep scores closer. It had mixed reviews at the start of the year but at the end of the year it was well received. We didn't see the blowout scores that we did in the past and will make this a league regulation moving forward (when playing in ALA Sanctioned tournaments our teams are aware 4 x 4 nets will be used). Bonnyville was this years U11 Champions at our year end finals.

U13 Division

We had 5 teams to which all teams played each other with some of teams going out and playing in tournaments elsewhere on weekends. Over the next few years we are hoping to see the number of teams increase in this age group. Our year end finals seen Vermillion win the league and go onto win gold at provincials.

U15 Division

We had 4 teams in this division. They played their games on weeknights, except for Wood Buffalo who were able to get in a few weekend games. There will be changes to the scheduling next year to allow more participation from Wood Buffalo. This years league champions was Lloydminster, they went onto win bronze at provincials.

U17 Division

We had 5 teams in this division. They played their games on weeknights, except for Wood Buffalo who were able to get in a few weekend games. This year Wheatland hosted the SALA/Wheatland crossover in Vermillion. This crossover weekend was successful again and gave lacrosse exposure to a small center within the Wheatland. Next year, there will be changes to the scheduling to allow more participation from Wood Buffalo. This years league champions was Lloydminster, they went onto win silver at provincials. With anticipated numbers in this age group next year being low, Wheatland may have to look at reaching out to other leagues as well in order to keep this division alive for a couple years.

Wheatlands Future

This past year we had difficulties getting instructors into our schools and this was not from a lack of trying. Wheatland may have to increase fees to our members so that we can hire a technical director just like SALA did. This would help not only recruit more players but also be a great resource for our younger coaches.

Wheatland is also running into a volunteer shortage that hopefully won't last long but are in definite need of new people and ideas. This year Wheatland had vacancies in Vice President and scheduler, so extra duties were put onto an already stretched out BOD. This is also an issue with many of our clubs.

Referees

Wheatland as many LGB's seen a shortage in referees this year but hopefully with some recruiting can get a few more. Wheatland tried an new initiative this year for our 2nd year U15 and all U17 players to attend a game/referee traing day prior to one of our clinics and season in early April. This was put on by our RIC and ALRA President in Vermillion and was well received by the ones that attended. This will be planned again for next year in a different center.

Mike Groves

President – Wheatland Lacrosse Association