



Alberta Lacrosse Association
Memo: Team Alberta 17U Boys

Hello Team Alberta 17U Boys Family,

We hope this message finds you well as we approach the upcoming holiday season.

We thank you for your patience as the ALA transitions into a new Executive and new staff. Over the last 6 months we have gone from a Board of many with dedicated staff, to a Board of one with a single interim staff member.

Currently our Board is almost full and we have an interim staff member helping to onboard our new Executive Director, Robin Bauer, with more support staff coming the near future. Note that each member of the current Board has no less than 10 years lacrosse Board experience, but regardless of the experience there is still a learning curve to any new Board. Your current ALA board consists of:

- President, Sean Aggus
- Director of Marketing & Communications, John Kilbride
- Director of High Performance, Tracey Haining
- Director of Development, Keith Berg
- Executive Director, Robin Bauer

Over the last few weeks, it has come to the attention of the Executive that there are questions with respect to the ALA's 17U Boys Team Alberta Program. The following information should answer those for you.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The current version of the 17U Boys Team Alberta Program shifted from short, event-based programming to a year-round development program. It is regrettable that this may not have been effectively communicated by the previous administration.

Essentially, the current program consists of two components: 1) The Developmental Phase which runs till March 31, 2022; and 2) The Event Phase which starts April 1, 2022 and includes the Canada Games tournament in August 2022.

All players in the Event Phase should have completed the Development Phase, and all players on the final roster will have completed both phases to one degree and another. The Development Phase began with the August 2021 tryout sessions that included 158 athletes and has since been trimmed down to the 30 athletes you see regularly at scheduled events.

The Event phase will begin April 1, 2022 with the final Canada Games roster of 16 runners and 2 goalies selected from the 30 athletes on or before June 1, 2022. The final roster date will be released shortly thereafter.

TEAM MANAGER

A new team manager has been put in place, thank you Meghan Mann, and has been provided with all the documentation that was sent to the teams' previous manager. This includes:

- Canada Games Technical Package.
- Integrated Team Support Document.

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- Team Alberta Important Dates Document.
- Team Alberta Flight Information.
- Box Lacrosse (Male) Sport Schedule.
- Administrative access to TeamSnap.
- Team Store details and process.

The entire ALA Executive, the new Executive Director, the Team Manager, and any incoming ALA staff make up the off-floor management team for all Team Alberta programs. However, the Director of High Performance will oversee the program and will work closest with Team Managers.

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

As is standard practice for high performance programs, parents with questions or feedback should direct them to the Team Manager. That individual will take the appropriate steps to have them answered.

Athletes themselves however should be taking ownership of their own development by taking their questions and feedback directly to the coaching staff.

CRITICAL PROGRAM TIMELINES / DATES

In collaboration with the coaching staff, the Executive has established the following critical program timelines / dates for the CSG boys team:

- End of Development Phase: March 31, 2022.
- Start of Event Phase: April 1, 2022.
- Declaration Deadline: May 16, 2022.
- Final Roster Deadline: On or shortly after June 1, 2022.
- Canada Games: August 6 – 21, 2022 (the boys tournament begins August 15, 2022).

DECLARATION DEADLINE: MAY 16, 2022

All Team Alberta programs face a dilemma when it comes to determining where the athletes' loyalties lay. Do you prioritize your club team or your Team Alberta team? This dilemma is particularly pronounced with the Canada Games team as this team consists of many first-year Jr players, some of whom may have conflicting opportunities such as playing in a Founders Cup or a Minto Cup.

The general philosophy of the ALA Board of Directors when it comes to Team Alberta programming is that the Club team comes first, but the reality is that athletes tend to prioritize Team Alberta because they want the high-performance experience.

As is historically true with the ALA, rather than mandate what a player must do, we leave the decision in the hands of the athlete (and family). However, we must set a reasonable deadline by which a player decides if he will commit to the Team Alberta team regardless of whether his Jr team is making "a run" for the Founders or Minto Cup. That deadline has been set for May 16, 2022 – the declaration deadline – which is the latest we can get into the calendar and still provide reasonable time for final team selection and securing travel arrangements.

Unfortunately, few Jr clubs will have much sense of what their playoff hopes will be as of the declaration deadline (although some will), and so players will have to make an educated guess to determine if they will declare to the Canada Games team or not.

Once again, the declaration deadline has been set for May 16, 2022.

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30-MAN ROSTER

As mentioned, the Development Phase currently consists of a pool of 30 athletes. There is no such thing as a 'red shirt' or 'taxi squad' with this program. In other words, all players in the Development Phase have a chance to make the final Canada Games roster. The Development Phase will allow the coaching staff to prepare the athletes as best as possible prior to shifting their mindset to that of player selection and determining the final roster.

It is recommended that all athletes make best effort to attend all floor times, regardless of region, as coaches will be using these floors to assess developmental progress and suitability for the final roster.

After the declaration deadline has passed, declared players must find a balance between Canada Games programming and Club team programming.

We recognize that a game with a Jr team in which the athlete is playing (i.e., not a healthy scratch) is more valuable than a practice with the Canada Games team, but regardless, we encourage all athletes to communicate your status to the coaches of your Club team and work to find a balance optimizes participation in both programs. All CSG and Club coaches are encouraged to support their players regardless of their choice.

FINANCIALS

Team Alberta financials are available for viewing on the ALA website as part of the documents listed under the heading "AGM" on the ALA website (<https://albertalacrosse.com/content/ala-agm>).

The budget consists of a combination of player fees, government grants, and ALA contributions with sponsorships and team-driven fundraising efforts falling above and beyond.

Grant submissions beyond March 31, 2022 have not yet been approved and therefore, at this time we are not able to estimate the cost of the Event Phase to the parent. However, we anticipate our grant funding for the final stage of the process to be approved and therefore we hope there will be little to no additional financial commitment required by families.

The budget is managed in its entirety by the ALA Office. Should the team wish to make purchases outside of what is budgeted (e.g., helmets) then such purchases will be "out of pocket" for parents (i.e., either outright paid for or via fundraising), but such purchases must be pre-approved by the Director of High Performance.

Note that camp tryout fees do not qualify as team-driven fundraising as those funds are utilized at the discretion of the ALA Board of Directors, some of which are allocated to Team Alberta programming for sure, but some is allocated to other ALA programming initiatives.

TEAM TRAINER

A team trainer is available (i.e., budgeted) for all Team Alberta Canada Games practices and exhibition games leading up to Canada Games. During the Canada Games themselves, trainers are provided by the tournament host.

Team Alberta programs do not have a dedicated/assigned trainer for teams. Rather, we use various individuals who are wired into our provincial lacrosse trainers' network and they in turn assist Team Managers with populating all floors with a trainer. If a trainer is not present on a floor, it is because none were available



TEAM SCHEDULES – BOYS & GIRLS

Regarding allocation of floor times, both the girls' and boys' programs are allocated an identical number of practice hours, and in fact, for logistical purposes, both schedules were the same.

Since the tryout process began, the boys head coach has cancelled several floor times, presumably with plans to make them up in 2022, and therefore there may be some discrepancies between the girls and boys schedules.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Team apparel was delivered to the Team Manager on December 4th.
- The ALA provides an equipment bag, game shorts and jersey, practice pinnie, t-shirt, and practice shorts.
- Items such as helmets, gloves, or other desired items can be purchased via team fundraising. Teams can organize their own fundraising events however for the purpose of reconciliation, all monies raised must be deposited into the ALA account but will be earmarked for the appropriate team. The funds raised and spent will be done so in accordance with AGLC and ALA regulations. The ALA Director of High Performance must be consulted on purchases prior to them being made to ensure they are approved items. Any monies remaining at the end will be refunded to the parents.
- Access to ALA / Team Alberta social media accounts is done through the ALA office but we welcome content submissions. For example, perhaps you have a team pic, individual shot, player bio, or a kudos to share? If yes, then please email your content to media@albertalacrosse.com.
- We recommend that each team identify at least one parent to take on the role of a media liaison and photo team activities or communicate team news to the ALA via media@albetalacrosse.com.
- In addition to parent-driven media content, the ALA staff will generate exposure for our athletes via several initiatives. We are proud of our Team Alberta athletes and therefore make every effort to promote their participation.

Sincerely,

Alberta Lacrosse Association
ALA Executive