



Annual Report - VP Women's Field
Heidi Bates
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SUMMARY

The 2023 AFLA women's field season ran well given our LGB's current numbers of players and officials. Informal women's field games were held at every field day and were generally well-organized. Lack of certified officials and coaches continues to be an issue. In addition, there was an imbalance in player numbers between northern and southern Alberta registrations. To support gameplay, this meant that players were randomized to either a north or south team and they played as a collective of players rather than as their true club teams. While parents appreciated the value of this approach as a mechanism to support play opportunities, it was also viewed as a negative. Parents, particularly in the north, expressed concerns about the costs of driving to Red Deer to play when the majority of female players registered for the 2023 season originated in Edmonton.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

AFLA WOMEN'S FIELD LACROSSE - REGISTRATION NUMBERS 2022 VERSUS 2023		
DIVISION	2022 REGISTRATION NUMBERS	2023 REGISTRATION NUMBERS
U12	27	2
U15	5	56
U19	65	44
TOTAL:	97	102

Overall registration numbers in AFLA's women's field lacrosse sector were relatively static between 2022 and 2023. However, while the total numbers were the same, there was a significant skew towards there being significantly more female players registered in the north versus the south in 2023. Of the 102 total registrations in the women's field sector in 2023, the majority were registered with one club (Edmonton Razorbacks).

ACTION INDICATED: There is a need to grow overall women's field registrations, across all clubs, to achieve the vision of organized league play in the future. Dedicated promotions and outreach by all clubs that are focused on introducing the women's field game and targeted at female athletes are indicated.

OFFICIALS

For the summer 2023 AFLA season, owing to a shortage of certified officials, uncertified, NCAA players and/or coaches served as officials during gameplay in the women's field sector. Alberta currently has a

dire shortage of certified and active women's field lacrosse officials which has the potential to limit the growth of the game.

ACTION INDICATED: Proceeding the 2024 season, the AFLA needs to collaborate with the ALRA to host several women's field lacrosse officiating clinics to increase our officiating pool.

COACHING

The AFLA is fortunate to have a pool of very experienced women's field lacrosse coaches who are prepared to dedicate their time to the grassroots growth of the game. However, the pool of certified coaches is very small and several clubs lack certified coaches.

ACTIONS INDICATED: Proceeding the 2024 season, the AFLA needs to host at least two Community Development – Women's Field Lacrosse coaching workshops. In addition, the AFLA, in collaboration with Team Alberta, should consider offering at least one Competitive Development and Competitive Introduction Workshop to support the appropriate certification of our more experienced coaches. collaborate with the ALRA to host several women's field lacrosse officiating clinics to increase our officiating pool.

TEAM ALBERTA

One women's field lacrosse team was supported by the Team Alberta program in 2023 at the U19 women's level of play. Team Alberta U19 Women's Field Lacrosse finished in third place behind Team BC and Team Ontario at the 2023 Women's Field Lacrosse National Championship in St. Eustache, Quebec.

For 2024, Team Alberta will again field a U19 Women's Field team at the National Championship to be held in Winnipeg, MB in early August. Manitoba Lacrosse will also hold a U15 women's lacrosse festival in tandem with the National Championship and Team Alberta intends to send at least one team to this event.

Congratulations to Lesley Hawke on being named Head Coach for Team Alberta U19 Women's Field for the 2024 season. The call for coaches for Team Alberta U15 will occur in early February.

SUMMARY

Unrealized opportunities exist to support the growth of women's field lacrosse in Alberta. There is a need to grow registration numbers at the club/grassroots level to support a more organized play structure and high-performance programming in this sector. In addition, the AFLA, in collaboration with other stakeholders (ALA, ALRA) needs to act to increase the number of certified officials and coaches, who are so integral to our game.

Yours in Sport,



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VP – Women's Field Lacrosse