

January 2023

Hello U17 Athletes & Families,

In 2022, the Alberta Lacrosse Association (ALA) was pleased to announce, in partnership with the Calgary District Lacrosse Association (CDLA) and the Greater Edmonton Lacrosse Council (GELC), the inaugural season of a stand-alone U17A league called the Wild Rose Lacrosse League (WRLL). The WRLL created a new and exciting game play as the CDLA and the GELC U17A teams play in an interlocked season.

For parents/player who may not be familiar with this league, the WRLL is split into 2 regions (shown below) in which each region will play one home and one away game versus every other team their region, plus each team will play one cross-over game. This format produces a 15-game regular season with the top 4 teams from each region qualifying for a regional playoff series and concluding with a league championship.

Wild Rose Lacrosse League (WRLL)

South Region (CDLA)

Calgary Sabercats
Calgary Hornets
Calgary Axemen
Calgary HOKS
Rockyview Rage
Red Deer Chiefs

North Region (GELC)

Edmonton Warriors
Edmonton North
Sherwood Park Titans
Parkland Posse
Saskatchewan SWAT

Given the increase in games played and the travel involved, it will be necessary to schedule some league games on weekends and so an effort will be made to align the WRLL with Jr A and Jr B games of the RMLL so that we may create an enhanced playing experience for our athletes. Benefits of such an alignment include but are not limited to:

- Allows for increased availability of not just more officials but more experienced officials if WRLL and RMLL games are scheduled together.
- Allows for more rapid development and advancement opportunities for younger officials who may wish to advance their officiating career into Major lacrosse by providing an opportunity to work as a 3rd official alongside more experienced referee.
- Provide an opportunity to increase the exposure of our U17A athletes to the coaches and management of the Major teams, which in turn could help with the transition of players from Minor to Major.
- Provide more opportunities for Minor players to watch Major lacrosse and therefore see more advanced lacrosse played at the highest levels which is a great way for self-improvement, but also may further ease the transition into Major lacrosse.

We know that U17A teams tend to participate in independent, out-of-province tournaments and so to ensure that each WRLL team has this opportunity without creating regular season schedule conflicts, the WRLL will have 2 pre-determined weekends with no games scheduled - one weekend in May, and one in June. This will provide each team with a great opportunity to attend out-of-province tournaments if they so desire.

Registration for the WRLL (i.e., U17A) is conducted through each teams respective Club website.

In addition, for the 2023 season the Minor Box Provincial Championship format has changed. The tournament will now have the top 2 teams from each LGB competing for title of provincial champion. Tournament dates are as follows: July 14th-16th, 2023 in Edmonton and are mandatory for U17A.