

2021 RVLA Board Reports

2021 RVLA Presidents report

We had some good news this year and again some Covid-19 restrictions to deal with in 2021. Let's start off with the good news.

We were able to secure two grants this year; the first was a community initiative program (CIP) for \$35,000.00 from the provincial government; this grant was pursued by one of our past board members for us and I'd like to thank Jodi McCaw for her efforts in not only the application but the follow up. This CIP grant will be put towards purchasing the second half of our clubs' new jerseys, the order has been placed and we should receive them before the new year. The second grant was from the Rocky View recreation governance committee it was for \$15,000.00 and these grants funds are to go towards our operating costs and will be put toward floor time for the 2022 season, this will offset the cost increase we are seeing across the board from all the facilities we use for the RVLA club.

Covid -19 still had significant effects on the 2021 lacrosse season, and it hit us right after our first weekend of evaluations. After a lot of back-and-forth interpreting new restrictions from the government and what our facilities interpretations, were we able to hold our evaluations within these new restrictions.

The board was very aware of saving costs where ever we could and the Pay as you go program for registration did limit our funds at the start of the year but we did our best to get the sticks back into the hands of our players, I think the pay as you go registration did give our player's parents some comfort in that if Covid restrictions did shut us down again they would not be out pre-paid registration fees.

We did not use the Team Genius software or hire outside evaluators to cut costs this year, the Evaluation process was a bit different and done primarily by board members and a few of our long-term head coaches in a shortened time frame. We were able to manage evaluations in this format as our numbers were significantly lower than usual. We had a drop of about 35-40% in registration vs the 2020 numbers.

The intent going into this year was development after a lost season and to get the sticks back into our players hands and to focus on individual skill development vs game play. Looking back, I think we were able to do that even with the 5-week shut down that we had only a few weeks into our practice season. When we returned to play again, we switched up the focus of just practicing to providing scrimmages to those who returned as best we could, and I know a few teams were even able to set up some exhibition games outside what RVLA was able to provide.

Financially we are in a good place after the last 2 years. The grants will certainly help us out in the coming year by completing the jersey replacements we started in 2019 along with the rebranding of our club's logo after our 20th season and helping us not have to increase player registration fees for the 2022 season. We are still scheduled to be the next host of the Canada

Day Tournament when it returns and the funds from hosting will help refill the club's coffers for future seasons.

This paragraph below was pulled from my 2020 president report. I think we were able to do what I had felt at the time would be the reality of our 2021 lacrosse season.

I can say this, their will be RVLA Rage box lacrosse next spring/summer we may not be back to a normal programme being able to play other CDLA clubs or attend tournaments but with how the cohorts are working so far with other sports we will be able to at least run a club-based lacrosse season, where our members will be able to practice and play organized games within RVLA.

RVLA President

Keith Berg

Executive Director Report - Melanie Burnsed

2021 was another year that was a tough one on the administrative front. Setting up multiple payments at the last minute once we had the green light, creating and contacting each person with their individual promo codes, adjusting fees and applying credits. I'm happy to say that everyone's accounts balanced out and there is very little outstanding. We had a good drop in reservations which was to be expected after speaking to other sport user groups and how their winter seasons went and with the hesitation of closures. We did the best we could with keeping kids on the floor and sticks in their hands. None of it would have been possible without the volunteers, I want to thank all the coaches and team managers for staying positive with the kids and keeping everyone engaged and all of our board members for helping out throughout the season.

We ended the season with:

6U - 33
8U - 58
10U - 35
12U - 52
14U - 47
16U - 32
Total: 257

I applied for a grant through Rocky View County that was approved and they kindly gave us a \$15,000 grant. I also applied for a VSP (Volunteer Screening Program) which will also cover the costs of the background checks for all of our coaches and team managers, this was approved back in March.

For 2022, we will need to create new Promo codes for credits left over from 2020. For equipment, I have ordered 2 boxes of the 6U balls and already had ordered first aid kits so we shouldn't need to order anything else.

We got all of the goalie equipment cleaned again so it's ready to go for next year.

The floor in Airdrie and Cochrane has been booked and I will start booking space in Crossfield in the new year. We won't have access to Genesis Place from March 20th to early May as they are replacing all of the boards with 10 ft tall glass all around both fieldhouses.

I'm sad that this will be my last report as I've enjoyed being in this role for the last 7 years but I'm looking forward to just being a parent in the stands for my son's final year.

Melanie Burnsed

2021 RVLA EVALUATIONS REPORT

Summary

Due to COVID-19 the evaluation process was deviated from the previous years. As we came closer to the start of the season, it became more and more apparent that it would not resemble a normal season, and league games were unlikely. In order to save funds, and because of the uncertainty, we decided to go back to a manual evaluation process. The evaluations committee members did all of the evaluating.

Given the circumstances the evaluations went really well. Overall the following teams were created: 10U Maroon, 10U White, 10U Green, 12U Maroon, 12U White, 14U Green, 14U Maroon, 14U White, 16U Maroon, and 16U White. We decided to adopt a color scheme to name the teams this year rather than an A, B, and C scheme. This will likely not carry forward to future years.

Board members took turns running the evaluation floor times, and it went fairly smoothly. There were a few incidents with parents not complying with mask mandates, and parents concerned over the evaluations, specifically pertaining to their kids, and although this seemed to be more frequent than in years past, it was the exception, not the norm.

For kids who did not attend evaluations, we used past evaluations to determine placement to the best of our ability.

Recommendations Going Forward

As long as circumstances permit I would recommend returning to the use of a third party evaluation software and independent evaluators (Like the Sr. B Knights).

I would highly recommend instituting a coach ranking of the players list at the end of each season to be used as part of the evaluation process for the subsequent year. This ranking can be used as one part of team selection for the year after the rankings were provided, weighted however the organization feels appropriate, or even to help place bubble kids. This technique is being encouraged by John O'Sullivan and his "Changing the Game Project".

Missing players do have a **major** effect on the ability to properly place a player. The organization should continue to communicate the importance of attending the evaluations. The answer to the question of how many evaluations must we attend is “All of them”. If they say that is not possible, we must encourage players to attend as many as possible.

10U Director Annual Update for the AGM

Unfortunately, this was another challenging year for community-based sports and specify the Rockyview Lacrosse Association. While we did hold tryouts and a modified schedule of practices/inter-squad games. It was not the season we had all hope for. For the 2021 season enrollment at the 10U level was only 35 players. This is a significant reduction from pre-Covid where we saw 90 – 100 players registered.

Going forward, it is my hope through the dedicated work of the Board to grow back the game and the Rockyview Association to a place where we have similar or even more youth at every age level out enjoying the game of Lacrosse.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nick Thain

10U Director