

Rockyview Lacrosse Association 2019 AGM

BOARD REPORTS

President's Report - Keith Berg

The 2019 season started out really well with evaluations to kick off the year. RVLA used a new app called Team Genius that the evaluators inputted the scores into. As soon as they log out at the end of a floor time the player's scores are locked and the information is real time so the evaluation committee can review scores and make any adjustments that are required. We also used helmet stickers this season. (One drawback was players did not show up to the evaluations with both a Plain black and white jersey, we will have to review the way this information is provided to parents for next season).

As usual we had a difficult time finding head coaches for teams, predominantly at the mini tyke and C level teams. For the 2020 season RVLA is going to be hosting our own in house coaching mentorship sessions during the late part of April and early May on weekends. Similar to what I have been doing for the CDLA the past 2 years. Along with this we are going to look at our own in house goalie sessions, again late April and early May to help provide some structured goalie coaching and development.

Our 20th anniversary fun day event was very well received, we moved the location last season to Crossfield as this was one of the original arenas RVLA used when it started out 20 years ago. Consensus is we will go back to Crossfield for the 2020 season. At the event we unveiled our new jerseys for the 2020 season, we will start to purchase new home and away jerseys for the upcoming season along with new club shorts that will be provided to all players this season. The amount of new jerseys will be based on the funds we receive from co hosting the Canada Day tournament this last year. At this year's Fun day we will continue with vendors, Team Photos and 50/50 but may not be doing the Raffle items, the board feels we can better spend our time at Fun day holding a few manager meetings and coaches information meetings while the majority of our teams are present over the weekend.

As in years past RVLA teams did fairly well overall we had 6 teams qualify for the playoffs and 8 that didn't this season. Division that we had 2 team in Novice div 2, Peewee C and Bantam C both teams in each division had similar records. We did seem to have an issue with our peewee B teams as one finished first place and one almost in last place. We will review the teams make up again to see why we had such a difference between the two teams that should have been balanced to start the season.

Over all we had very few disciplinary issues with the club this past season it was better than years past but we must strive to be even better with the players on the floor, our coaches conduct on and off the floor and our parents conduct at any facility. The CDLA's "What not to yell" App that was tried out last season did provide the CDLA some very valuable information that they will be able to help address coaches and parents conduct at games for the upcoming season.

I would like to congratulate all of our member players that also extended their lacrosse season by playing with team Alberta or the Jr Roughneck programs last summer.

Vice President Report - Martin Burnsed

As RVLA Vice President goes it was a pretty quiet year, we didn't have a lot of issues like years past and everything seemed to go fairly smoothly.

As always we had a couple of issues throughout the year that I was involved with, attending team practices, mediation, etc.

I volunteered for the CDLA's boundaries meeting which is yet to be held but will report on that hopefully soon.

I also attended the CDLA planning meeting for 2020 where I participated in the breakout session of a cultural diversity and development. We discussed the "What Not to Yell" program and moving forward with the app more.

Overall I look forward to a solid 2020 Rockyview lacrosse season.

Executive Director Report - Melanie Burnsed

2019 brought a lot of new faces to our board with some fresh and fun ideas! We implemented a different advertising strategy, going more towards social media and less on paper which also was less expensive. For 2020 we are going to look more into our google analytics and push more for digital marketing.

We anticipated with the loss of the girls divisions that we would have around 425 players, we ended the season with 420 which is great! We had another steady year unlike a lot of other clubs that saw a drop in numbers. We had a record 8 Mini Tyke teams this year!

Fun Day was a much bigger undertaking than usual with the Fundraising/promotions Director position not being filled, plus it being the 20 year anniversary, but I still think it turned out amazing! For 2020 I'd like to keep it out at Crossfield, spread over the three days and hold some manager/coaching meetings.

This was the first year I was involved in co-hosting Canada Day and I feel it ran really well. Our club had issues fulfilling all of the required volunteering spots, for next year we will have the "Committee" consist of our entire board and not just 3-4 people. We will also stress the importance to teams that everyone on the team that gets a spot in the tournament must volunteer, maybe set up a fine of some sort.

Registration with the new Ramp system was a nightmare and there were MANY MANY extra hours put in between all of the registrars in CDLA. We had a meeting in August with Lisa from the ALA and Ramp and it seems like the kinks have been worked out and they've added all of the items we need to run smoothly, I think we will all see an easier opening registration day for 2020.

Looking to purchase a few more goalie pants, gloves and possibly sticks for this next season, we have a lot of goalies now and less are buying their own sticks and gloves.

Mini Tyke & Tyke Director Report - Michelle Anhorn

Mini Tykes had 8 teams which was up from last year, no problems in Mini Tyke to report.

Tyke had 5 teams which was down from last year, no problems to report.

Everyone seems to like weekends only and the times were never a problem for people. Overall a great season.

Novice Director Report - Nicholas Thain

For the 2019 season the RVLA was well represented at the Novice level with 4 teams. The group included kids with playing experience and some who were completely new to the game. Over the course of the season it was fun to watch all teams improve. While early into the season there were some questions about the new evaluation software, I believe we created fair teams. During the season both parents and coaches asked good questions, including ones about kids safety. These conversations

prompted the board to review current policies with a specific focus on concussions. During the off-season work will be done to help provide clarity around processes that best support the safety of our kids.

Season results:

- Novice development 1 had a very strong regular season finishing 1st in the regular season, making the playoffs and unfortunately bowing out early.
- Novice development 2 finished 3rd & 6th (out of 15 teams) With one team finishing 2nd overall in playoffs
- Novice development 3 finished 7th (out of 11th) just missing the playoffs.

A big thanks to the coaches, managers, volunteers and parents whose dedication to the teams are what allow us to improve skills and promote the game.

Peewee Director Report - Jennifer Berg

Season Results:

Peewee A finished the regular season 3rd out of 7 teams, with 16 points, behind the Hornets and Axemen teams who were tied at 22 points. The team won 8 of their 12 games. The playoff format indicated that the top 4 teams from the division would square off – 1 V 4, 2 V 3. The Rage lost their initial playoff game, ending their season. There were several serious injuries that affected the team, some of which were obtained while playing for the Bantam B team(s).

Peewee B, there were 2 teams in the B division. The two teams were intended to have similar skill set and should have ranked similarly throughout the season. The two teams finished nearly on polar opposite ends of the standings, with one team finishing 1st overall and the other team finishing 14th out of 15 teams. There are many reasons why 2 teams who are built very similarly on paper can have 2 very different results come the end of the season; coaching, attendance, player investment, PIMs, along with other measurable and non-measurable reasons. It is in the player's best interest for the Club to better understand why such a gap in parity was exposed to better ensure player development and retainment moving forward.

The B2 team finished with a 10-1-1 record. Their playoff experience left them with a City Championship.

The B1 team finished with a 2-10-0 record. Their final placement didn't offer them a spot in the playoffs this season.

Peewee C, we had 2 teams in the C division. These 2 teams finished 6th and 7th out of 11 teams. The 6th place team, C1, lost their first playoff game ending their season. With only the top 6 teams moving into playoffs, the C2 team didn't qualify. We had much better balance between these two teams for the season with each team finishing 1 and 1 against each other.

C1 team record was 6-6-0

C2 team record was 4-7-1

Overall – there were relatively few major concerns throughout the season. A few common complaints were inconsistent refereeing, increased injuries, late travel on weeknights. These are not new complaints

and since nothing has been done in the past to rectify these complaints, I recommend increasing the priority of alleviating these issues.

Bantam Director Report - Brent Boynton

2019 was a challenging season for the Bantam Rage which fielded 4 teams (1A, 1B and 2 C's) The A finished sixth in their division, B finished 12th and the two C teams finished 7th and 9th. The main challenge for a lot of the year was attendance as teams were consistently playing shorthanded and pulling from any available affiliates. Lack of assistant coaches was also an issue for some teams with one C team playing the season with two coaches, one of which had never touched a lacrosse stick until this year.

The main concern that seemed to come out of the year from a playing standpoint was the reffing and the inconsistency with calls being made or being made correctly resulting in quite a few injuries (reports were filed with reffing association where applicable).

In the Canada Day tournament our A team came in 6th out of 12 teams, B came in 10th and we fielded one C team coming in 9th.

I think moving forward with evaluations there should be some consideration to the players previous year and coach involvement in the placement. There was some seriously undersized teams that were pulling affiliates and that were close on the evaluation scores but looking at a number of paper doesn't necessarily reflect their play in the previous season or them as a player.

Midget Director Report - Jodi McCaw

2019 was a good season of growth, overall skill development and team building. Rockyview Rage declared one Midget A team and one Midget B team with CDLA. Enrollment numbers and skill base played a large factor in this decision.

Evaluation & Team Placement:

Evaluations ran smoothly. Some parents expressed their frustration with large rosters and such a broad divide of player experience.

- There were 32 players registered for the "A" Tryouts
- Players/families who registered to play "C" were given the option of playing on a "C" team with the Knights, all declined this option.

2019 Midget division breakdown of players

- 23 second year Midget players
- 15 first year Midget players
- 3 players who have never held a stick or played the game.
- 2 Players who registered withdrew their intent to play for the season before it began.
- 5 Players were imports from surrounding teams.

A total of 41 players were registered to play at the Midget level, with the season rounding out with two teams consisting of the following player rosters:

- Midget A team consisted of 19 players (5 first year players), coached by Head Coach Keith Berg

- Midget B team consisted of 22 players (10 first year and 3 who had never played lacrosse previously), coached by Head Coach Daryl Powers
- RV Rage Midgets attended several tournaments representing RAGE as follows:
- Midget A attended tournaments in Saskatoon, The Midget Showcase and at the Canada Day Tournament.
- Midget B competed in Cranbrook, St. Albert, Canada Day and Provincials.

The season was filled with many broken bones on and off the lacrosse floor for both teams which made filling the bench interesting at times.

RV RAGE MIDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

- Congratulations to Jacob Berg, Josh Pilsner and Hayden Moffat for making Team Alberta Midget Box
- Congratulations to Garren Dumanowski and Brock Fargey for making Team Alberta U15 Field
- Congratulations to Zackery McCoy for making the AB U16 2020 Indigenous Male lacrosse team
- Congratulations to Brayton Powers for making the Jr. Roughnecks Midgets

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR:

Coaching certification: It is imperative that coaches at this level are properly certified as per ALA guidelines prior to season start to avoid issues with interprovincial tournaments and bench requirements. ALA is very clear on what is required and will not make exceptions.

Well done 2019 Rage Midgets that's a wrap on another great season of Lacrosse. Go Rage Go!

Evaluation Directors Report - Shane Viste & Brad Foote

Summary: Overall the evaluations went really well. The whole process was very transparent, and all kids were placed in the fairest way we possible could. Politics didn't enter our placement decisions at all. We had a few inquiries from parents about scoring upon which we supplied them with the child player report and we never heard back from most of them again.

SYNOPSIS:

1) SUMMARY:

We placed 243 players and 15 goalies onto 15 teams.

Novice Div 1 – 17+1	Novice Div 2A – 16+1	Novice Div 2B – 15+1
Novice C – 18+0	Peewee A – 16+1	Peewee B1 - 16+1
Peewee B2 - 16+1	Peewee C1 - 18+0	Peewee C2 - 17+1
Bantam A - 15+1	Bantam B - 15+2	Bantam C1 - 15+1
Bantam C2 - 14+1	Midget A – 18+1	Midget B – 18+2

2) ATTENDANCE

- Missing players for evaluation sessions does have a major effect on placement.
- The Board members must 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.

c. Another message we should convey is that when making a decision between two "like" players, the preference will be given to the one with better attendance.

3) LOGISTICS/TIMING (I realize this is a contentious issue)

a. I recommend conducting the A tryouts earlier and have some separation in between the A group and the B/C Group. Target the end of Feb to have "A" evals completed.

b. Spring Break – Let's try and avoid Spring break; there were so many missing kids. I know every school district has a different spring break, so this may be difficult but worth trying to maneuver around.

4) COMMUNICATION

a. I have no problem with trying to accommodate requests from parents on certain placements but we need to formulate a better method of tracking requests.

b. Player Jerseys – Although most kids were respectful of what we were trying to accomplish with the Jerseys, there were a lot of kids, mostly with the "A" tryouts that were wearing ELEV8 jerseys or other such Jerseys. We should try and do our best to eliminate that for next year. Maybe we make a tryout pinnie mandatory next year?

Discipline Director Report - Janet Dunford

Overall the 2019 season was a success, we started out this year implementing a discipline matrix. The format would create structure & fairness when conducting discipline issues. The scale consists of 3 components; minor, moderate & major:

RVLA Discipline Guidelines

TYPE OF INCIDENT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR
First	Warning Letter	2 Game Suspension	4 Game Suspension
Second	2 Week Probation	3 Game Suspension	8 Game Suspension
Third	1 Game Suspension	4 Game Suspension	Indefinite
Fourth	2 Game Suspension	5 Game Suspension	Indefinite
Fifth	3 Game Suspension	6 Game Suspension	Indefinite

This season we had a few minor issues which required action, each individual situation was addressed & resolved with no further action required. We had no moderate issues & one major incident which is still under review.

This year we tracked the penalties incurred by division, fortunately very few game suspensions issued this season, one in Novice & one in Midget. We did have over fifty game penalties this season with Midget A & Pee wee A holding the majority. We incurred 12 penalties from the Saskatoon Tournament.



Penalties will be tracked going into the 2020 season and players with a high degree of penalties will be subject to further game suspensions.

The penalty numbers by player and division above do not include any play after June. Looking forward to the 2020 season, I believe that with the current matrix in place along with player/penalty stat tracking we are in a good place to start in 2020.