



Saanich Lacrosse Association: Evaluation Policy & Procedures

Approved February 2025

General

- 1) The Assessment Coordinator (AC) will assume overall responsibility for the evaluation process. The President and Divisional Vice Presidents (DVP) will support the AC as required.
- 2) The Saanich Lacrosse Association (Association) will create “A”, “B” and/or “C” teams, based on registration volumes, for the Under 13 (U13), Under 15 (U15) and Under 17 (U17) divisions.
- 3) The Association will create balanced teams for the Under 7 (U7), Under 9 (U9), and Under 11 (U11) divisions. The Association may create balanced teams in U13, U15 or U17 divisions to comply with Vancouver Island Minor Lacrosse Commission (Commission) using its team formation and tiering policies.
 - a. U11, U13, U15 and U17 teams will be balanced a player draft overseen by between the Division Vice President (DVP), Assessment Coordinator (AC), and Head Coaches.
 - b. U7 and U9 will be balanced through mutual agreement between DVP and Head Coaches.
- 4) The DVP will recommend the appropriate number of players on each team roster after consultation with the Assessment Coordinator, Head Coach for the “A” team and the President. Roster size may increase or decrease if players register and/or withdraw during evaluations but will not exceed British Columbia Lacrosse Association (BCLA) maximums.
- 5) Balanced teams shall play a small number of intra-Association and league games to assess relativity. The Association may move players between teams to achieve better balance. Player movement may occur within the first few weeks of the season to comply with Commission and/or British Columbia Lacrosse Association (BCLA) policies/deadlines.

Player Participation

- 1) Players will be selected for U13, U15 and U17 “A” teams through a formal evaluation process. The AC will oversee the selection process.
- 2) Each registered U11 to U17 will receive equal opportunity to participate, if desired.
- 3) Any registered player wishing to try out for an “A” team may attend initial “Open” evaluations. Assessors will select 20-25 players to attend a “Closed” evaluation (i.e. Coach Led Evaluations). The precise number of invitees depends on the size of the “A” team and how many players attended the “Open” evaluations. The Head Coach for the “A” team in the division will not be involved in this decision. Evaluators will still attend the “Closed” session.

- 4) Players that do not participate “A” tryouts will be placed on the lower tiered team in the division. This is typically a “B” team but may be a “C” team depending on registration volumes and division-wide evaluation results. The Association will advise members if it intends to form balanced “B” teams or a “C” team prior to the final evaluation session for each division.
- 5) The Association will schedule three tryouts for the “A” team in each competitive division. The Association highly recommends players attend all evaluation sessions. Players **must** attend at least **one** of the three available sessions to be considered for the “A” team. The Association may consider exceptions for illness, injury or unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Parents or guardians must contact the DVP to advise when a player may require special consideration. The DVP will seek input from the AC to accommodate, if warranted and practicable.
- 6) U13 to U17 Players that do not wish to tryout for an “A” team do not need to attend the evaluations. The Association will make supplemental arrangements to evaluate “B” players that choose not to attend assessments in seasons where it becomes necessary to form two balanced teams in the same age division.
- 7) A player shall not attend evaluations until healthy enough to participate in all drills and scrimmages. Players unable to participate in evaluations due to injury must inform the DVP. The DVP will consult with the AC and President to arrange for the injured player to participate within a reasonable time frame once healthy.
- 8) Players participating in “A” tryouts are expected to play on the “A” team if selected. Players should consider their ability to meet this commitment prior to going through the evaluation process.

Player Evaluation Methodology

- 1) Evaluators will use five criteria when rating players:
 - a. Offensive Ability
 - b. Defensive Ability
 - c. Stick Skills
 - d. Game Awareness (Lacrosse IQ)
 - e. Athleticism
- 2) Evaluators will assign a quantitative score of 1 to 5 for each criterion relative to other players in assessment pool.
- 3) Evaluators will also take notes on each player to supplement quantitative evaluation and to provide feedback to players if requested.

Evaluation Session Format and Process

- 1) The AC will receive available floor time from the Floor Allocator and produce a balanced schedule U11 to U17. Each floor time will be 60 to 90 minutes subject to availability.
- 2) The Association will develop a standardized evaluation methodology that will be used for all divisions. The AC will form a working group to review and/or update the methodology each year prior to evaluations for the following season.
- 3) The Association will retain at least two neutral evaluators in each division. The evaluators will work with the Assessment Coordinator to give players an objective evaluation. The Association will make reasonable efforts to select evaluators that do not have a family member playing for Saanich Lacrosse whenever possible.
- 4) The AC will ask a Head Coach from an “A” team to run on floor sessions for evaluations or suitable qualified coach if a Head Coach is unavailable.
- 5) Tryouts will be closed to parent viewing to limit distractions to players and coaches. Parents should sign in their players and return 10 minutes prior to completion of the evaluation session.
- 6) The intent of the evaluation process is to ensure players of comparable athleticism, experience and skill play together. To that end, evaluators will identify three categories of players:
 - a. “A” Player: Evaluators reach consensus “A” rating.
 - b. “B” Player: Evaluators reach consensus “B” rating.
 - c. “A” Candidate Player: Evaluators do not reach consensus (i.e., Player receives a mA and B rating)

“A” players will be assigned to the “A” team upon completion of tryouts. There is no quota so the number of “A” players will vary on a year-to-year basis based evaluation results. “A” players will attend the coach-led evaluation for their division.

“A” Candidate Players will be eligible to attend coach-led evaluation by invitation. The Evaluation Coordinator and DVP will determine the number of invitations in consultation with the Head Coach.

“B” Players will be assigned to the “B” team upon completion of tryouts. No further action is required.

- 7) The coaching staff may attend assessments to gather player information. However, coaches are not to engage or share information with evaluators until after the evaluations for the division are complete.

- 8) The Association will notify players not invited to Coach Led Evaluations by email after evaluations for the division are complete. communicate releases at this stage.

Coach Led Evaluation Format and Process

- 1) The Association will host one Coach Led Evaluation session. Players selected by the evaluators and “A Candidate” players will be invited to attend.
- 2) The DVP will provide the names the players selected by evaluators to the “A” team coaching staff in advance for planning purposes.
- 3) The session will be 60 to 90 minutes depending on floor availability.
- 4) The coaching staff will have access to evaluators’ assessment information. They may also consult with evaluators on hand at the Coach Led Assessment to get additional advice.
- 5) The coaching staff has discretion to select players based on team requirements (i.e., more offence, more defence, size, speed, handedness, attitude, effort, coachability, etc.). Final selections must still be supported by quantitative and qualitative evaluator information. Final selections will be referred to the DVP if further consultation is necessary.

Feedback

- 1) The Association will provide evaluation feedback if requested.
- 2) Feedback will consist of evaluator quantitative scores, evaluator qualitative feedback and qualitative feedback from the Coach Led Evaluation, if applicable.
- 3) Feedback will focus on the individual player and will not include direct comparisons to other players that participated in the evaluation process.

Roster Formation: Competitive Divisions

- 1) The DVP is responsible for finalizing rosters based on results provided by the AC from evaluations and the “A” Head Coach from Coach Led Evaluations.
- 2) The DVP must review “years played” after evaluations are complete when there is sufficient registration volume to create three or more teams in a division. This will determine whether it is possible to create a “C” team consistent with BCLA policy. Players will remain on a “B” team if this is not possible. The Association may adjust the roster size for the other teams in the division to accommodate this.

Roster Formation: Balanced Teams

- 1) The Association will use a player draft overseen by the DVP and AC when balancing teams in the same division.
- 2) The Association will not accept friend requests in U11, U13, U15 and U17 divisions.
- 3) The DVP is responsible for communicating the process to families so they are aware the intent is to achieve competitive balance, and that player movement may be necessary to achieve this objective.
- 4) Players will be evaluated prior to the draft and assigned a rank from 1 (most skilled/experienced) to 5 (least skilled/experienced). Players that were not yet released from a higher designated team will be considered "1" for the purposes of the draft.
- 5) The DVP, AC and Head Coaches will review rankings. The majority of the of Association officials participating in the draft must agree to the rankings. Any rank change must be completed before draft the draft commences.
- 6) Coaches will draw cards to establish draft order. The Association will use a "snake draft" format (i.e., 1-2-3, 3-2-1, 1-2-3 etc.).
- 7) A coach will protect their own child. That player must be the first selection in that rank category (1 through 5).
- 8) Non-parent coaches do not have any protections.
- 9) A coach may pass only once during the draft.
- 10) Trades may occur immediately after the draft if Coaches' consent and the DVP approves.
- 11) The Board may consider other player movement (i.e., siblings, commuting, etc.) on an exceptional basis upon the recommendation of the DVP.
- 12) The Association will arrange exhibition games between drafted teams to assess competitive balance. The DVP has discretion to move players between teams if they are determined to be unbalanced.