

December 9, 2020

RE: 17U Division - Update



Hello Members,

There has been a degree of unofficial discussion as it relates to the 17U age division and the change that was made by the Canadian Lacrosse Association (CLA) and the Alberta Lacrosse Association (ALA) regarding the exclusion of the 2004 age group from Minor lacrosse in 2021, thereby maintaining the 16U division classification for the 2021 season, and maintaining the existing division structure where 2004's move into Jr lacrosse, while at the same time maintaining eligibility for 2004 athletes playing Jr lacrosse in 2021 for the CLA 17U National Championships.

We hope this memo helps clarify the rationale for this decision, which is ultimately a retraction of an early change.

To summarize, the Canadian Lacrosse Association's (CLA) Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) recommendations are to be provided to the CLA Box Sector and the CLA BoD in May of 2021 at the Semi Annual Meeting. The CLA LTAD committee is evaluating all age divisions for male and female athletes and presenting recommendations, if any, which subsequently will need to be approved by the Box Sector. Approved changes to age divisions would then come into effect in the 2022 playing season.

As such, the ALA BoD thought it prudent to wait for the CLA LTAD recommendations so that we are better informed by their analysis and recommendations, and therefore voted to retract our earlier decision to implement 17U for the 2021 season, and instead maintain as much status quo as possible.

COMMON QUESTION

Q: Does this mean a player born in 2004 must register for in the 'RMLL Intent to Play' for the 2021 season?

A: Yes. Players born in 2004 now age-out of Minor for the purposes of league play and therefore must register in the 'RMLL Intent to Play' for the 2021 season thereby making them eligible for Jr lacrosse (register at <http://rmll.rampregistrations.com/>).

Q: *Can a player born in 2004 and playing Jr lacrosse be eligible for Team Alberta 17U and therefore participate in the 2021 CLA 17U National Championships?*

A: Yes. As per CLA Policy 24.3 and ALA Regulation 3.04 as shown below.

CLA Policy 24.3

24.3 BOX LACROSSE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS

24.3.1 In order to be eligible to play in any CLA National Box Championship, a player must meet the eligibility requirements of their respective MA's regional play-downs. For Minor

ALA Regulation 3.04

3.04 All Team Alberta Players must be registered with an ALA Member Club in

Nationals, a player must be eligible to play in play-downs in any jurisdiction in the MA where they are registered. They may play for the MA where they are registered, or they may play for the MA where they reside or for the First Nations MA if they are a member of the Iroquois Confederacy. On an annual basis, upon approval by the Box Sector, exceptions to this policy may be made by the Board to allow an MA to pick up players from another MA without the necessity of a transfer.

the applicable discipline of lacrosse that the player is trying out for prior to Team Alberta Tryouts.

Member Association (MA) – Province or Territory who belongs to the CLA

Please note that while not an ALA policy, there is an unofficial expectation that Team Alberta rostered players will prioritize their Team Alberta commitment for 17U CLA National Championship even if their Jr team qualifies for a CLA Major National Championships (e.g. Founders Cup, Minto Cup). We would encourage players in such a scenario to communicate their involvement with the Team Alberta 17U program early on with their new Jr club, and work with their Jr club to establish expectations.

These are unprecedented times with many unknowns for the 2021 registration period. We have already lost the 2020 season and cannot fully predict what degree of attrition will hit the 2021 season. As such, it is our hope that holding off on 17U implementation in 2021 will provide us all with some breathing room while we absorb the impact of COVID-based attrition on the 2021 playing season.

I hope this communication clears up questions for parents and athletes regarding the matter of postponing the creation of a 17U division, at least for the 2021 season. If you require further clarification, please contact Lisa Grant (lisa@albertalacrosse.com).

Thank you

Yours in lacrosse,



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