

Vancouver Island Minor Lacrosse Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2023

Via Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Voting Executive

Chair	Tim Frost
Vice-Chair	Doug Kampen
Secretary	Krista Gregory
Treasurer	Michelle Vecqueray
Zone 6 Representative	Brande Terris
Web Master/Scheduler Liaison	Stephanie Prizeman
Female Coordinator	Lisa Seel-Thompson

VIMLC Executive

BCLOA Rep	Tyler Boyer
Indigenous Development	Bryan Baxter
BCLCA Rep	vacant
Commissioners	Phil DiBattista (absent), Wendy Hall, Adam Gow, Andy Stuart

Association Representatives

Alberni Valley	Stephanie Prizeman, Kristine Douthwright
Campbell River	Mark Labowka, Tyler Spiers
Comox	Chad Robinson, Doug Kampen, Joy Hildebrandt
Cowichan Valley	Chris Claxton
Juan de Fuca	Ryan Hyland, Niki Williams
Nanaimo	Bryan Norby, Jesse Kemp, Shawn Swanson
Oceanside	Jason Hassey
Peninsula	Jason Alford
Saanich	Andy Stuart, James Scott
Victoria-Esquimalt	Kate Blass, Amanda Welch

Scheduler	Dallas Lister
Victoria Shamrocks Jr B2	Rob Cook, Tyson Leies

1. Call Meeting to Order: 7:02 pm

2. Adoption of Previous Minutes:

**Motion** made by Doug Kampen, seconded by Brande Terris **Carried**

3. Additions and Adoptions of Agenda:

**Motion** to adopt Agenda made by Niki Williams, seconded by Lisa Seel-Thompson **Carried**

4. Guest speakers Rob Cook and Tyson Leies

A. Currently there are 6 Junior B2 teams on Vancouver Island and they are looking to expand the league further. This league is a great option for players who have aged out of minor lacrosse and would like to keep playing. Last year an All Star game was held in Nanaimo (with 8 players from each of 5 teams). The event was well attended and they would like to run it again in 2023. They are looking for an association who would like to host the all star event who would share in the cost and subsequent revenue (floor time, refs, BBQ, 50/50 etc). Please contact Rob Cook if you are interested.

B. Victoria Shamrocks Senior B: players are available to come to games, practices, tournaments etc in any capacity that may benefit minor lacrosse associations and players. Please contact Tyson Leies to arrange.

The Senior B Shamrocks would like to give every minor lacrosse player on Vancouver Island a Head Case head cover.

**5. Business arising from the Minutes:** none

**6. Financial Report:** **Motion:** To accept financial report as presented by Michelle Vecqueray made by Tim Frost, seconded by James Scott, **Carried**

As of December 30<sup>th</sup>, the bank account balance remained unchanged at \$18,014.01. The most recent bank reconciliation is included here.

I should receive the January statement in the next week or so.

There are 2 small cheques from last season that have not been cashed; I will be following up on these as they will likely need to be re-issued.

I will be sending out the first half invoices to associations shortly. As a reminder the invoices will need to be paid by cheque as we are unable to accept e-transfers.

The proposed budget for the 2023 season has been sent out under separate email earlier today.

Finally, a big thank you to Christine! She has provided me with the prior financial reports and has brought me up to speed for the season and hopefully a seamless transition.

Please feel free to reach out if there are any questions about this report or the proposed budget

**Motion:** made by Niki Williams, seconded by Kristine Douthwright “To table the budget until the next VIMLC meeting on March 6 so that associations have time for review. Associations will provide written feedback to Tim Frost and Michelle Vecqueray by **February 15**” **Carried**

**7. Zone 6 Reports**

A. Chairperson: Tim Frost: Another busy month for us preparing for our 2023 season.

Brande and I attended the Minor Directorate meeting in January. Most of the meeting was spent reviewing and approving tournaments for 2023. Again this year tournaments and dates will be published in mid March with registration opening April.

There was also some discussion about changes to the referee training this year to include a on floor component to the introductory program. Dallas Lister (officials vice chair minor) will attend our meeting as a guest to discuss the changes.

We have a couple special guests who have asked to speak to the commission. Tyson Leies from the Senior B Shamrocks and Rob Cook from the Pacific Northwest Junior Lacrosse League have asked for a few minutes to talk about their respective programs.

As per my earlier email we also have recruited Michelle Vecqueray who will join us as Treasurer. We need to fill our open commissioner positions soon so please forward nominees.

We will review schedule parameters for the season. All associations please include in your reports the following information.

1) number of teams by division including preliminary view of tiering.

2) number of players registered in each division

3) any division that is full or has a waitlist started.

Please ensure that any requested releases, playdown or oversize roster requests are all submitted as soon as you can.

B. Vice Chair: Doug Kampen: no report

C. Minor Directorate Rep: Brande Terris: Nothing to add to Tim's report from the minor directorate meeting.

Just another reminder that when you are at the point of a full team and starting a waitlist, per our policies, you need to inform the VIMLC.

If anyone has any questions or needs clarity to any of the Minor Directorate policies please do not hesitate to contact me.

D. BCLCA Rep: vacant

E. BCLOA Rep: Tyler Boyer: Learning facilitators workshop was last weekend and we are in the process of having clinics scheduled around the island. We will be doing an Adult Level 2 clinic mid Island which should be very beneficial to their learning. Head Referees will be instructed to ensure only people 18+ will be registered for this clinic. Clinic dates to follow shortly.

A few associations have reached out to me with no current Head Referee. I will be working with them in the next few weeks to have a game plan in place for the season.

F. Indigenous Development Coordinator: Bryan Baxter: Thank you to those associations who submitted coaching needs for the upcoming season.

I had a conversation with Dave Showers today and the following dates have been set for clinics on the island.

Sunday February 26 – CMD Nanaimo – VIU and outdoor box – LF Bryan Baxter

Saturday March 4 – CPI Nanaimo – VIU and outdoor box – LF Bryan Baxter

Saturday March 4 – CMD Victoria – JDF Rec Center – LF Cody Cook

Saturday March 11 – CPI Victoria – TBD – LF Bryan Baxter

Saturday April 1 – CMD Victoria – Tsawout First Nation – LF Bryan Baxter

To the best of my knowledge, these dates are firm and should take into account all coaches needing training on Vancouver Island.

Please get your coaches registered as soon as possible. Class size is limited to 20.

G. Female Coordinator: Lisa Seel-Thompson: Thanks, Jesse for sharing your female numbers for Nanaimo, I won't include those here again. Way to go Nanaimo, outstanding female numbers!

Victoria's numbers to date unfortunately are not as impressive but are a work in progress and expected to increase.

U11 - 1

U13- 4

U15- 5

U17- 12 (this includes a goalie)

Junior- 13

For those not aware VELA is hosting all of the Greater Victoria female divisions this year, this was a move that was made to put a focus on female lacrosse in Victoria and prioritize marketing, drop-in sessions & recruitment. VELA has been hosting regular female only drop-ins/bring-a-friend sessions which have seen strong participation including lots of new players, those will continue through the month. VELA has reached out to the Capital Region Female Hockey Association to request cross-promotion and there are plans over the next couple weeks to go into schools to do some sessions.

Chris has shared that Cowichan is working on having a junior female team this year and are currently working to confirm they have enough players to do so.

A couple reminders: to the associations not hosting female-only teams in any or only in some

divisions please be sure that you have your releases in for those players wishing to play female-only in to me as soon as possible, so they can go through the commission's approval process.

The commission will need to have Island female team numbers for each division confirmed before no later than the middle of March so that VIMLC & LMMLC can start working on the interlocking female schedule.

H. Web Master/Scheduler Liason: Stephanie Prizeman:

Schedule Liaison:

Thank you to those who gave time to be part of the scheduling committee, both the previous and current iterations - I look forward to adopting the report that Andy sent out and using it to guide our work this season. I have reconnected with our scheduler and we will be ready to take this work on as soon as it's time.

Web/Electronic Game sheets:

-I am slowly trying to update and cull on the website - hoping to have it all ready to go before March so I can just add teams.

-Brande and I have reached out to LMMLC regarding their experience with RAMP (electronic) Game Sheets, and I have now had a chance to test it both from a webmaster/commission and team manager perspective. It is seamless with our website, the app would be available for team managers to use and it will be both user friendly and time efficient. The LMMLC has had very positive feedback from their associations - not one wanted to go back to paper.

-Game sheets can be filled out via the app and online on the website. The app is VERY easy. As an example, I was able to learn the app used for minor hockey during one game in a U21 tournament and found it pretty easy - this is even easier. It's user friendly, simple, and can be used on any device. Managers will fill out team rosters once and then have access to it for each game - no more stickers or writing out players and coach numbers - it's very easy to check off (as well as add/delete as needed) players/staff. Once the game is selected as finished, the data is uploaded to the main VIMLC site automatically, saving the Commissioners and/or webmaster time as well! Working online for the actual scoring is optional, so no need to stress if there are any tech difficulties. (Paper backup is a good idea just in case). Teams still verify and referees still sign off on the sheet.

I will have guidelines for presidents/associations for both website/game sheet items as well as for scheduling forthcoming, so please stay tuned for those.

[Motion to accept reports made by Adam Gow, seconded by Jason Alford, Carried](#)

**8. Association Reports:**

**A. Alberni Valley:**

We have some Try-it sessions scheduled for the month of Feb as a push for more registrations, especially at the younger divisions. We have a new executive member who is working social media hard, and we will be hitting up hockey teams next! We have a total of 35 players registered so far and are hoping to have teams in all divisions (Tyke/Mini-tyke combined), but so far it's not looking great at the top and bottom end, with most of our numbers in U11/U13/U15. We will keep a close eye on things and be ready for the declaration deadline.

We put in our application to host our annual Novice Ice Breaker tourney again this coming May (Mother's Day weekend) and are looking forward to hosting many of our island friends again this year!

### **B. Campbell River:**

We are continuing our Learn to play drop in sessions every Tuesday until the end of February. We are seeing 40-50 kids each time. We are in the paper, have been on the radio and are running Facebook ads. At this point our numbers are low, people up this way tend to sign up at the last minute for some reason.

Our current numbers as of Sunday:

U7 - 5

U9 - 6

U11 - 2

U13 - 0

U15 - 5

U17 - 2

At the moment we are still hoping to field a team in each division. U13 is most likely the age we will not get numbers for as we did not have a U11 last year. U15, U17 will be tiered B and I expect them to fill more closer to the end of hockey.

### **C. Comox Valley:**

We started an initiative in December to reach as many kids as possible by holding demos at district elementary schools as part of their phys. ed. curriculum. We saw over 1000 children in that time and are hoping that it will help build our registration back to pre-covid levels. We are holding drop in sessions for new players on Saturdays in February. The first one was well attended and we are hoping that the sessions result in a boost in registration.

Our current numbers:

U7 - 2

U9 - 6

U11 - 5

U13 - 4

U15 - 12

U17 - 7

We are hoping to field a team in each division with mini-tyke/tyke combined, U13, U15, U17 will be tiered B.

### **D. Cowichan Valley:**

- Coed numbers so far are not looking good in the younger groups. We are hopeful that by scheduling some practices instead of drop ins that are currently running it will gather more interest. In the meantime we are starting a phone campaign to call everyone from the past season who has not yet registered to see if they are, and if not-why?
- Bantam is waitlisted at 22 for now. If we reach 30 players total we will open up again. If it ends up at 25 we will apply for an oversized roster OR entertain releasing the 3 players.
- Midget looks like it is going to be one team.
- We are waiting to be contacted by BCLA and their provincial group. Our association covenor is assembling a committee to oversee the planning of the Provincials. Our division is very excited and the parent group is also, so I am confident it will work out well.
- We have a radio add coming up and also some more adds in the local paper.
- Jr B is thriving with more players coming out of the woodwork to play. I am hopeful we can be a competitive team in the league but who know how that will work out until we see some games! We have named our HC and AC and I am working at the GM duties.
- Chris will email a letter to associations that they can send to members to let them know that Junior B is a great option for those players who have aged out of minor lacrosse.

- I have put a call out to all eligible girls from CVLA to come and play Jr B girls this season. On paper we have the numbers but unless we get 15-18 runners and a goalie, we will most not likely field a team and will release all the players who want to play elsewhere.

Numbers are as follows

- MT-9
- Tyke-5
- Novice-8
- Peewee-6
- Bantam-22
- Midget-17

#### E. Juan de Fuca:

We have had many successful try lacrosse sessions this past month. We are getting lots of interest at the lower divisions. We will again be hosting a U11 tournament as well as U13. For the competitive age groups, we are hoping for 2 teams in each division.

U7- 28

U9 -58

U11-52

U13 - 33 (A2/B)

U15 - 36 (A2/B)

U17 - 26 (A1/B) \* waitlist implemented \*

#### F. Nanaimo:

Co-Ed

U7: 29

U9: 58 (Some indication this may push past 70) Creating a house league

U11: 36 (2 teams, will start waitlist at 44)

U13: 33 ( A2 + B)

U15: 32 (A2 + B)

U17: 16 (In need of a committed goalie)

#### Female

U11: 22 (Includes 3 call downs, waitlist started)

U13: 20 (Will start waitlist at 22)

U15: 22 (May move up a goalie and two players to support U17)

U17: 14 (No goalie)

Junior: 25 (Waitlist already at 4) Would like to discuss Junior Girls following Junior Boys roster rules

We are running drop-ins and 'bring a friend' currently. Also collaborating with minor hockey to boost registration and promote cross-sport training. benefits. Our Female program is approximately 40% of our registration!

#### G. Oceanside:

We continue to hold our weekly learn to play drop-ins for U7 through U13. These will continue until spring break. We are running Facebook ads and using other social media.

Our numbers are low and we are hoping to field teams in all divisions tiered "B". Although it's not looking optimistic for U11, U13 and U17.

U7- 3

U9- 5

U11- 1

U13- 3  
U15- 10  
U17- 5

**H. Peninsula:**

U7- 7  
U9- 11  
U11- 13  
U13- 16  
U15- 23 1 team  
U17- 26

We are doing back to the box for our competitive divisions and will start assessments in U17 end of February.

Back to the box for non competitive will start next week.

Both our U17 and U9 tourneys will be moving ahead as planned

**I. Saanich:**

U7 - 14 Registered - 2 teams  
U9 - 39 Registered - 3 teams  
U11 - 32 Registered - 2 teams  
U13 - 41 Registered - 2 teams (A2 and B) will waitlist at 44  
U15 - 40 Registered - 2 teams (A1 and B) will waitlist at 44  
U17 - 28 Registered - 2 teams (A2 and B)

**J. Victoria/Esquimalt:**

U17- 9  
U15- 2 (this is our missing division)  
U13- 13 will declare  
U11- 11 will declare  
U9 and U7- one team each

Hopefully we get a few kids from other associations at U13 and U11 just to buffer the numbers.

We also anticipate late registrations as this seems to be the norm for these families.

I'm looking to release U17 so the kids have an opportunity to play at their correct level. If they are released too late they miss assessments. We've made calls to get more players, had players age up. This is where we are. It's tough. We fight the battle against players "sneaking" to Saanich or JDF and also against losing grandfathered players who are tired of playing B.

U15 will also need to be released, obviously. The sooner the better. There won't be anymore kids registering for U15.

I say one team at U7 and U9 because we are finally back in schools. We've got multiple teams of volunteers heading into schools all across the south island, this month so numbers will hopefully change especially at those divisions. Hopefully, we end up with 2 teams each. I'm optimistic.

We've been hosting dropins and try lacrosse sessions since January. The turnout for female drop ins has been amazing but the catch seems to be getting them to register.

We've got the Express and Sr B Shamrocks coming to our end of the month dropins to help boost excitement. I've personally taken over social media and built a brand new website. We also will be setting up registration tables at the rec centers.

We've got coaches, volunteers, floors, and effort. We just can't get the kids.

**9. New Business:**

**A. Referee Training Floor Time: Dallas Lister**

The referee training process is changing. Entry level and Level one will only spend 4 hours in the classroom, and then participate in on floor stations followed by a “game” played by U11 players. All of this will occur prior to the start of the season, and will require associations to provide players for the “games”. These will take place in Nanaimo, Victoria area and north island.

Clubs are also encouraged to have a mentor on the floor with new refs (ie. a higher level 2 or senior ref)

**Motion:** made by Tim Frost, seconded by Stephanie Prizeman “VIMLC will support referee development by paying for floor time for referee clinics. Associations will agree to support referee development by supplying players” **Carried**

Dallas will coordinate logistics and provide budgetary numbers to Michelle.

**B. 2023 League Schedule Committee Report: Andy Stuart**

**Motion** made by Andy Stuart, seconded by Tim Frost “To accept the Scheduling Committee report and its recommendations” **Carried**

Dates of note from the Report: March 5: Team declaration deadline, information emailed to Tim Frost

March 15: Floor contract deadline.

**C. Change to Bank Account Co-signers:** We need 3 signatories on the bank account, need to remove previous treasurer and add new one

**Motion** made by Time Frost, seconded by Ryan Hyland “To make Time Frost, Michelle Vecqueray and Lisa Seel-Thompson signatories on the VIMLC bank account” **Carried**

**D. Commissioner Appointments:** We are still short one commissioner and have not received any nominations. The commission is asking associations, especially those who are under represented on the commission, to find someone suitable. The list of commissioners goes to the Minor Directorate on March 1.

**E. Electronic Score Sheets:** All Lower Mainland associations who used this system last year gave positive feedback. It is straightforward to use and will make reporting to commissioners much clearer and simpler. Cost is \$400 per year, to be paid by VIMLC.

**Motion** made by Tim Frost, seconded by Niki Williams “To adopt electronic game sheets for 2023 season” **carried**

**F. Registration Numbers:** see spreadsheet attached

**G. Season Parameters:** see spreadsheet attached. **Motion** made by Tim Frost, seconded by Niki Williams “To accept the league schedule parameters as presented” **Carried**

**10. Next meeting: Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7 pm**

**11. Motion to adjourn at 8:29 pm** made by Tim Frost seconded by Doug Kampen **Carried**