

Vancouver Island Minor Lacrosse Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2023

Via Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Voting Executive

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Chair | Tim Frost |
| Vice-Chair | Doug Kampen |
| Secretary | Krista Gregory |
| Treasurer | vacant |
| 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 |
| Mini-tyke | Phil DiBattista |
| Tyke | Phil DiBattista |
| Novice | Wendy Hall |
| Pee Wee | Adam Gow |
| Bantam | Kate Blass |
| U16 | Allison Logan (absent) |
| Female | Andy Stuart |

Association Representatives

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Alberni Valley | Stephanie Prizeman, Dennis Bill |
| Campbell River | Mark Labowka, Tyler Spiers |
| Comox | Doug Kampen |
| Cowichan Valley | Chris Claxton |
| Juan de Fuca | Niki Williams, Jesse Lawson |
| Nanaimo | Bryan Norby, Jesse Kemp |
| Oceanside | Jason Hassey |
| Peninsula | Phil DiBattista |
| Saanich | Andy Stuart, James Scott |
| Victoria-Esquamalt | Kate Blass |

1. Call Meeting to Order: 7:05 pm

2. Adoption of Previous Minutes:

Motion made by Mark Labowka, seconded by Stephanie Prizeman **Carried**

3. Additions and Adoptions of Agenda:

Motion to adopt additions & adoption of Agenda made by Lisa Seel-Thompson, seconded by Adam Gow **Carried**

A. Scheduling Committee

4. Business arising from the Minutes: none

5. Correspondence and Handouts: none

6. Financial Report: no report

7. Zone 6 Reports

A. Chairperson: Tim Frost, no report

B. Vice Chair: Doug Kampen

I was tasked with soliciting feedback from the associations with regards to shortening the regular season from 16 to 12 games.

3 associations are in favour

1 association is opposed

3 associations would consider 14

3 associations did not reply

C. Minor Directorate Rep: Brande Terris

I have emailed all Presidents looking for them to canvas their membership to find a treasurer for the Island and have had no response at all with any names. I am also trying to get in touch with the LMMLC to find out how their trial with the electronic scoresheets went from last year and still have not received any info back. I will continue to follow up and get the info as soon as possible. If everyone can please ask around for a treasurer it would be greatly appreciated.

D. BCLCA Rep: vacant

E. BCLOA Rep: Tyler Boyer

We will be doing our Learning Facilitators clinic at the end of the month in Vancouver in order to train/prepare for hosting clinics from the end of February through March. We will also be having a meeting with all of the Head Referees so that we can help with anything heading into the pre-season. I am also working in conjunction with a few Senior Officials through the offseason to develop a "VIMLC - Best Practices for Officials" to aid with the knowledge and development of our Head Referees and Officials.

If any associations do not have a Head Referee position filled, please contact me ASAP and we can work together to fill that position. I was not aware of any vacancies opening up at the conclusion of last season, so if we need to do some last-minute Head Referees I would be more than happy to work with you to have it filled in your Association with my, or my colleagues, knowledge of the officials in your area.

F. Indigenous Development Coordinator: Bryan Baxter

I am currently working with Russell Sam to host a CMD clinic on the weekend of Jan 28/29.

It will be in the Peninsula area. When details sorted out, Dave Showers will post on BCLA website for registration.

I will be talking to Dave in the near future to ascertain other times for Island coaching clinics.

G. Female Coordinator: Lisa Seel-Thompson

Not much to report on just yet.

Back to the box/ice breakers/try lacrosse/Drop-in sessions for female lacrosse are starting in both Victoria & Nanaimo.

Since we will be moving to Combined Association teams with the greater Victoria female teams the number of releases we need to process and approve will be significantly reduced. That being said for all other associations releasing female players I will be sending out an email to all of you to outline the process.

With regards to the LMMLC & VIMLC inter-locking Female league this year, we will need to have our numbers of island teams sent to the mainland scheduler, and Dallas by mid-March at the latest. Then both will work together to schedule the games. Games will not be

booked on long weekends and during tournaments, but tournament games could be used as league games if approved. Teams not showing up for games will face a fine, that goes for island teams traveling to the mainland too.

We are excited and hopeful for a super successful female season!

H. Web Master: Stephanie Prizeman

I have updated contacts for VIMLC Exec as well as for the associations who replied to my request. I have a few documents to update later this week - policy and some minutes to post. There was a query along with Doug's question to association presidents about fewer games in the season - about number of game changes last season. I asked the scheduler to check on that and the estimate I was provided with is between 75–125 changes (for any reason) last season. I look forward to working with the group to make any changes (or returns to past practice) that will tighten things up this season.

8. Association Reports:

A. Alberni Valley: We have filled all of our elected positions as well as the most important of the appointed ones, and it is a great group of people. We predict we will struggle with numbers at the older divisions and will be doing some focus on younger divisions and retention of players/families.

We will be putting in to host our annual Novice tournament during Mother's Day weekend and look forward to welcoming as many teams as we can!

B. Campbell River: We are happy to have filled all of our executive positions this year. Registrations just opened on January 1st, they have started to slowly trickle in. We are about to start an ad campaign on social media and the in local paper, hopefully we can turn the trickle into a steady flow. We are hoping to have a team in each division except the female one for the moment. We are working through coaching scheduling issues but are planning to offer a free learn to play again this year. We are also continuing our free stick and ball to 1st time players initiative.

We have submitted our application to host a U17 Tourney on Father's Day weekend. "The U17 Ravens Fathers day Rally" June 16-18.

I have reached out to our association for a VIMLC treasurer, so far nobody has stepped up. Given the amount of begging and bargaining that was required to fill our own local positions I am not super optimistic.

We also will only have 1 floor available to us this season as Strathcona Gardens will be keeping 1 ice sheet in this year.

C. Comox Valley: no report

D. Cowichan Valley: AGM went smoothly. We adopted some changes regarding online abuse and discipline. Elections went well and for the elected board all positions are full. Positions like equipment manager are being filled by other volunteers etc.

We opened registration in early December and it is slowly growing. I think it is slow as we were much later in the past.

Drop in sessions have been scheduled and we are excited to get going.

Cowichan also got approval from the PNWJLL to join the league. This will allow players to play jr lacrosse in the valley.

E. Juan de Fuca: JDF registration opened Dec 1 and numbers are steady and as per normal, We have enough numbers now for 2 teams in the lower divisions and expect to have more, we currently have enough numbers for 1 team in both U15 and U 13 but not enough yet for U17. I have put in place a registration deadline of Jan 31st for players that wish to tryout for an A team to encourage the U17 players to register.

We will be starting our Bring a Buddy and Try Lacrosse sessions this month and will also begin with open sessions for all ages to shake off the rust and get the excitement back in the game. I am excited with our executive this year at JDF and look forward to a great season.

F. Nanaimo: Our registration numbers are looking good so far. Teams filled across the board, less U17 Female. Our executive board has the majority of positions filled, and gracious former members willing to wear multiple hats and keep us going until they can be replaced. We have submitted application to host the the Tim White Memorial Tournament, though the divisions represented in the tourney may change this year. Going to be a struggle this year in terms of level 2 reffs, we have multiple reffs either not returning or having limited availability. We look to work on recruiting any way we can. Also, lots of competition for floor time this year. Looking forward to getting drop ins started asap.

G. Oceanside: We are still trying to fill 2 executive positions and some director positions to fill out our Board. Registration opened January 3rd and we are starting to see some trickle in. OMLA has once again partnered up with the RDN and held 2 new to lacrosse try-it sessions in December and have booked 8 more sessions starting January 18th until March for U7, U9 and U11 ages. I have contacted all last years coaches reminding them the season is fast approaching. Also at this time I am waiting for contact info for our Officials to begin the recruiting process. Unfortunately we will not be holding our U9 Shark Attack tournament this season due to the lack of volunteers.

H. Peninsula: Registrations are coming in on pace per normal. We have enough for 1 team in all divisions and are hoping to get to two teams in U17/ U15/ U11/ U9/U7. We start our back to the box days Jan11th.
****On a registration note we are yet again, faced with families holding off on registration hoping for a full division/ team so they can be released to play at a higher division or specific coach (with Saanich) apparently two field managers have spoken with at least 7 peninsula families telling them to hold off registration so they can get released to Saanich. While this information is obviously not accurate, it has been a regular occurrence over the last couple of seasons and is frustrating to manage especially when it comes to the team declarations. (AMALGAMATION!!!!) Yup that's right I said it.
We have applied to host our U17 (May 5-7) and U9 (June 16-18) Tourneys again this year. (Hopefully not disasters like last year!)
We have an almost full executive with only 2 of 13 positions vacant.
I have canvassed our association for a VIMLC treasurer but we ourselves just got a full time treasurer after the position was vacant for 3 years so I have come up with no names.

I. Saanich: Registration is open and seeing decent numbers at most levels. We have our early registration discount offered until January 31 and usually see a jump later in the month. We are going to be using paid social media advertising and see if this increases our player registrations.

U7 - 7
U9 - 26
U11 - 12 *apparently Phil and Penlax have a few players at this level to help us out :)
U13 - 20
U15 - 21
U17 - 15

Back to the box is starting this week for all divisions.
James Scott has taken the initiative to identify coaches earlier and communicate with BCLA that we need coaching courses well prior to the season. Thus far we have a great number of coaches

identified and we think it will be successful as getting coaches L2 certified in advance of the season helps with the initial front end work of season ramp up.
A huge thank you to Kate Blass for taking the lead on female divisions and VELA hosting in the Greater Victoria area. This should prove successful in building the female divisions so we can have a proper island league.

J. Victoria/Esquimalt: VELA opened registration early December. We are on target for better numbers than last season. We've been pushing early registration to avoid all of the late registrations like last year. We've orchestrated a collective social media rodeo for Female lacrosse on the south island and it's created a ton of interest. Our free drop-ins started last weekend. We were happy to see new faces. We still do the free stick program for U7 and U9 as well as the refer a friend bonus which we've extended to all female players from other associations.

Our executive is full minus two positions: Head Official and Treasurer which is currently covered by a few former treasurers. As I said to Brande, I've asked around for an island treasurer but obviously haven't had any luck yet.

Overall, I feel confident heading into my second season as president.

9. New Business:

A. League play parameters

Motion: made by Tim Frost, seconded by Doug Kampen: *To adopt a 12 game schedule for league play for 2023 season.* This would allow for more room to accommodate changes to the schedule and challenges like tournaments, travel, Team BC tryouts, lack of floor availability etc. Exhibition games and other team activities could be added by individual teams. Reduced number of games may deter some people, influence registration/retention of players.

Amended Motion made by Niki Williams: *To adopt a 14 game schedule for league play for 2023 season.*
Carried

Other season parameters will be revisited next meeting, including start dates, tiering break, playdown time frame etc.

B. 2023 commissioner appointments

Commissioners willing to return for 2023: Andy Stuart, Adam Gow, Wendy Hall, Phil DiBattista, and Doug Kampen. Associations please consider others who may be willing to volunteer for these roles.

C. Electronic score sheets

LMMLC used electronic score sheets last season with success. Stephanie Prizeman will contact Ramp, who also hosts our website, regarding using them on the Island as well.

D. Island Head Coach nominations

The BCLA is responsible for filling this position, but any suggestions of possible candidates are welcome and can be forwarded to Tim Frost.

E. Scheduling Committee

A report was prepared in 2020 (emailed separately to members) and will be revisited this season, chaired by Andy Stuart. Anyone interested in participating please contact Andy or Tim.

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

11. Motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm made by Tyler Boyer, seconded by Phil DiBattista **Carried**

