**Vancouver Island Minor Lacrosse Commission**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**May 2, 2022**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**ATTENDEES**

**Voting Executive**

**Chair Tim Frost**

**Vice-Chair Ryan Hyland**

**Secretary Krista Gregory**

**Treasurer Christine Mavin (absent)**

**Zone 6 Representative Doug Kampen**

**Web Master/Scheduler Liaison Stephanie Prizeman**

**Female Coordinator Lisa Seel-Thompson**

**VIMLC Executive**

**BCLOA Rep Tyler Boyer**

**Indigenous Development Bryan Baxter**

**BCLCA Rep Philip Kontouris**

**Mini-tyke Phil DiBattista**

**Tyke Phil DiBattista**

**Novice Wendy Hall**

**Pee Wee Adam Gow**

**Bantam Kate Blass**

**U16 Allison Logan**

**Female Andy Stuart**

**Association Representatives**

**Alberni Valley Kelly Fines**

**Campbell River Philip Kontouris**

**Comox Geoff Garbutt, Francis Laplante**

**Cowichan Valley Chris Claxton**

**Juan de Fuca Gord Anderson, Niki Williams**

**Nanaimo Brande Terris, Lonny Sullivan**

**Oceanside Jason Hassey**

**Peninsula Phil DiBattista**

**Saanich James Scott, Nancy Passfield**

**Victoria-Esquimalt Kate Blass**

**1. Call Meeting to Order: 7:07 pm**

**2. Adoption of Previous Minutes:**

**Motion** made by Francis Laplante, seconded by Doug Kampen **Carried**

**Motion** to adopt additions & adoption of Agenda made by Phil DiBattista, seconded by Kelly Fines **Carried**

**3. Additions and Adoptions of Agenda:**

Clarification on suspensions for penalties given in the last 10 minutes of a game

**4. Business arising from old minutes: none**

**5. Correspondence and Handouts: none**

**6. Financial Report:**

**Motion** to adopt financials as presented by Christine Mavin made by Phil DiBattista, seconded by Geoff Garbutt **Carried**

Please get your payments to me as soon as possible

Not much has changed with the bank account this month, I have paid the scheduler. I have received a cheque from Cowichan but am still waiting on the payment from Campbell River and Peninsula. I will have the 2nd half of the fees out by the end of the week, my apologies for the delay.

**7. Zone 6 Reports:**

**A. Chair, Tim Frost:** It has been a very busy month and I am so glad we are back to playing lacrosse.

We have experienced some bumps in the past month with some of the delayed impacts of two years with no formal league play.  Hopefully we have ironed most out - but a huge thanks to all of the volunteers who have helped.

A gentle reminder that we are starting to see some behavior from parents / coaches/ managers and other association people that cross the line.  Please reinforce to all that it is really important that we are respectful, polite and recognize that we are not a business but a volunteer board. While it is ok to express frustration it should be done in a calm and respectful manner.  Please make sure your association follow the 24 hour rule.  Also - please remind folks that requests for information to the Elected executive - should be filtered through your association executive.  We are seeing an increase in direct correspondence from coaches and managers direct to the commission chair and I need this to go through the presidents and commissioners.

As per my previous email - unfortunately we have had to replace our Tyke commissioner.  Thanks Phil for stepping in to take a dual role.

We have learned a lot about some of the challenges fulfilling a 16 game schedule and how difficult it is to get it pulled together with the limited floor space available.  We need to consider going forward changing our scheduling parameters.  It is clear from the incredible volume of game change requests that your coaches and managers are not all aligned in expectations.  Simply put - we cannot sustain this model of scheduling 16 games and allowing for teams to reschedule.  I will be proposing some policy changes for next season to address some of the challenges. You all should consider if we really want or need 16 games in our competitive divisions.  To allow flexibility for you to pursue tournaments, exhibition games, Team BC tryouts and non lacrosse activities - it may be better to consider a lighter schedule.  We also do not have enough time to build the schedule without clear floor time arriving until weeks before we start our season.

We also need to be sure going forward that the declarations made represent a commitment you are making to the other associations.  We have had team folds and mergers that create unnecessary work for all of the volunteers.  I will propose some policy changes to address consequences of this going forward to further discourage late declaration changes.

We will keep the meeting as brief as possible - so that the elected executive and commissioners can meet to discuss tiering.

A reminder of some key dates

**May 7**

Last date to send "C" team lists to the League Commissioner (MD 5.04)

No more criss-cross of players between teams in the same division (MD 4.03)

Last day to permanently transfer players to another team within the same playing caliber or league (MD 4.09)

**May 11**

Final date of registration of coach for playoffs (BCLCA 2.03, BCLCA 11.01)

**May 15**

One copy of each player's registration form and all copies of the Team Registration Lists submitted to BCLA Office (MD 3.05)

No more player registrations to be accepted unless approved by Commissioner (MD 3.06)

Last date to send list of grandfathered players to the Minor registrar (MD 8.09)

**May 31**

Last date for house league areas to send additional Team Lists for combined teams marked "Tournament/Provincial Team" to BCLA Office (MD 3.04)

**June 1**

No Team Movement (MD 5.03)

**June**

Mid month is the deadline for Provincial declaration forms to be received at the BCLA office, not to be confused with the May 31 team list requirement. The declaration form is separate and additional (dates set by MD).

Mid month is the deadline for Zone Directors to receive nominations of Zone Lacrosse Players (dates set by MD).

**B. Minor Directorate Rep, Doug Kampen:** I have been helping where required, mostly with commissioners. Some bumps in the road in the beginning but things seem to be smoothing out

Kelly Fines and I will be setting up summer games evaluations soon. Stay tuned for more information.

Registration for Summer Games has been extended, Presidents please pass this along to your players that may be interested

**C. BCLCTSG Rep, Philip Kontouris:** It has been extremely frustrating dealing with the complete lack of communication & scheduling from BCLA pertaining to clinic availability.

I am not being made aware of any clinics from BCLA, rather hearing from associations directly.

I have been fighting to put a clinic on in the North Island, with every attempt being ignored despite offering facilities and accommodations for facilitators.

I have been made aware of a last-minute level 1 clinic in Nanaimo this upcoming weekend, however I do not feel it is fair to coaches to place this last minute burden on them.

Please Register your coaches for the level 1 clinic this weekend if needed.

We are trying to put together a level 2 clinic in the North Island as there is still a big need between Comox, CR & Alberni.

I have not been made aware of any coaching suspensions as of yet.

**D. BCLOTSG Rep, Tyler Boyer:** All clinics have been completed and we have a total of approximately 150 officials certified for Zone 6 - Vancouver Island this year. Down from 225 in 2019, so approximately between 30-35% reduction in officials. There was a U16 tournament this past weekend which was great to have back. Thank you to all of those volunteers and parents who help put that on. Also, a big thank you to all the Commissioners and other Members here for VIMLC for everything you've been doing to start the season. I know it hasn't been easy, but we will get through it.

A small issue we've run into is the rescheduling of games and the potential it has on allocating officials. Especially when a game is rescheduled from a later date to a sooner date as we have most of our official assignments already done and they may be booked up elsewhere. Please ensure we are being given adequate notice to changes as it can have effects on whether or not we can easily fill the game. As well, any game that has been cancelled last minute, or a team no-shows - we have had a couple of those occur so far - the referees will still be paid for this.

I haven't got a lot of reports regarding official abuse, so I will take that as a good thing thus far. There were a couple of incidents I've been made aware of: one in Nanaimo with a parent approaching the officials in the penalty box the first weekend of play, but NDLA has handled it and we are hoping this is the end of that, and one in Peninsula during the Bronze game of the U16 tournament. I have had some good conversations with people around the Island regarding Officials, and I hope that this continues - it feels like we, the officials, have support at this time from the people in these higher positions and it is very welcomed. So thank you all for that, and also to those who have vocalized these positive things to me. Let's continue together driving down the negative behaviour in our sport.

Please also continue to let your coaches know they can fill out an evaluation on officials and make sure they abide by the 24-hour rule. This can be used as a good tool for us to help our officials develop and are passed onto the Head Ref to work with said individuals. Please encourage them to not only fill this out when they are not satisfied with officiating but also when they'd like to praise an official or they believe they had a well-officiated game. It is always a nice feeling for an official to get something positive forwarded to them from a Coach or an Association and will lead to more of them wanting to continue on.

I have been very happy with how all the Association's Head Referees are working together to ensure their games are being filled as necessary. Officials are very busy, but the games are being played and that is the most important part. We have a great group here and I have full confidence in this group moving forward. We have some issues that need sorting out regarding Tyke and Novice rules, but will be working diligently over the next few weeks to correct this and give the young officials the proper development needed to confidentially officiate this. We can discuss this further at the meeting tonight.

It will be an interesting next few weeks here as the number of tournaments ramp up and Jr/Sr leagues start that can take some of our officials elsewhere during regular season play. So far, I am not aware of any games that weren't able to be played due to a lack of officials - I'm hoping this continues.

**E. Indigenous Development Coordinator, Bryan Baxter:** Wanted to update everyone that a recent CPI coaching clinic took place in Nanaimo with 24 coaches in attendance.

Cody Cook delivered a CMD clinic over the past weekend and 31 coaches were in attendance.

Going forward, I will be delivering an on floor CMD for all coaches who were trained on line and still require this piece to finish their training. This will take place on Friday May 6 at one of the outdoor boxes in Harewood from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Jim Gow will be delivering a CPI clinic in Victoria on May 14, 2022. Details for this clinic are forthcoming. Initial plans are to have the classroom portion delivered in Tsawout. Follow the BCLA website for details of this clinic.

In addition, I am in talks with Geoff Garbutt about staging a CMD clinic in the north island to capture any remaining coaches who need this training for this season. Stay tuned.

**F. Female Rep, Lisa Seed-Thompson:** I am happy to report that we have been finally provided with a full schedule that has all of the Lower Mainland teams slotted in, thanks to Stephanie who has added these to the website.  I have been sending out this information along with the contact information for Lower Mainland team managers as it pertains to teams but I do plan to send out the rest as a whole in the coming days.

If Island teams need to reschedule any of their games against the Mainland that have been scheduled the process that Andy & I have set is that Island teams request approval from Andy, I contact the Mainland team to let them know we are having to cancel and reschedule a particular game and then the Island team manager is responsible to work with the Mainland team manager to reschedule to an agreeable time for both teams. Once the new date & time have been confirmed please let Andy and I know so that we can ensure it is accounted for in the schedule.   I think that process has been working well so far.

A big thank you to Stephanie and Andy for helping manage all things female box this season and to everyone else who is working hard to provide our female players with a great season!

**G. Webmaster, Stephanie Prizeman:** I had no report last time so here are two meetings' worth of my thoughts...

It's been a tough month for all volunteers, I think. Personally, I will echo others' praise for the fans and the players/coaches overall - it's so nice to see kids out there playing and enjoying the game, and folks in the stands and on the floors seem to be happy to be back after a long couple of years. In my role, however, I have noticed the same as others, with numerous game changes, challenges with folks not following/understanding process - even some who are not new, and the crunch of trying to fit so many games into a short season with limited floor space. I would like to thank the Commissioners for all their hard work and their efforts to help us with scheduling issues and requests. They have learned quickly and been under a tremendous workload due to game changes, personnel changes, and regular commissioner work, and have still been very responsive to my requests and very helpful with getting teams to follow process. Dallas and I have been doing game changes pretty much every day since the start of the season - should one of us take a "day off", it becomes challenging to stay on top of things, so I appreciate the patience of the commissioners on this!

The following is my Debbie Downer paragraph...fair warning. Working with Dallas to get the draft schedule out and corrected and then posted has been good - I think that we have been able to work well together, and went from draft to "final" in a matter of days. There were some errors at the start which were accompanied in some cases by complaints and rudeness from various folks out there - I will not tolerate that sort of behaviour at all next year, and will not accept folks disrespecting the process, the scheduler, or my position as a volunteer. To expect that a schedule be perfect the first time when the scheduler was given only a week to do so is not reasonable given the manner in which the schedule was put together. This, compounded by numerous game changes right off the bat while there were still some errors to fix, made it very challenging at the start. This was part of people's frustration - even though the fixes happened pretty much as we received them, without delay of more than a few hours. I thought at the start of this that I could go over the schedule to comb for errors before sending out, to try to alleviate this stress for folks, but quickly found that to be an unreasonable expectation of myself. Schedules went to commissioners and presidents to check their own division/association before being posted, again, it was a very quick turnaround, unfortunately, and I believe that process should be good enough when enough time is given.

As of right now, the website schedule is up to date with all commission-approved changes. Any spreadsheets that have been sent out are now well out of date. Please disregard any "paper" copies of the schedule that you may have kicking around so that there is no confusion. I can export a sheet that provides the current (that moment) schedule from the website per division or per arena should folks wish to have those, but again, things are changing pretty much daily, so I encourage Presidents to make sure teams are checking the website for their games. Competitive division commissioners, please continue to send me your scores weekly so I can keep those up to date!

As for any other content on the site, I'd love to update anything that need to be updated - and I think I can add photos or news to the site and would love to have any great stories to make the site better.

I'm looking forward to future discussion and reflection on how we can do better as a commission to make the scheduling work better for everyone!

**8. Commissioner Reports:**

**A. Mini-tyke Commissioner:** Second weekend of games. Lots of questions from coaches and managers who are new to lacrosse but that is to be expected with the last couple year off. A few games cancelled due to weather which is normal this time of year.

Analytic Stats:

Games played -13

Candy bags issues -38

dilly bar parties - 1

Smiles on players faces - priceless

**B. Tyke Commissioner:**

**C. Novice Commissioner:** Novice is up and running with 12 teams, divided into Novice North (5 teams) and Novice South (7 teams).

A total of 32 games were scheduled between Apr 9/22 and May 1/22....17 games for Novice North and 15 games for Novice South.

Based on game sheets reviewed to date, there have been:

- no suspensions

- three 5 min penalties (two high sticking and one roughing); one of those also had a game penalty assessed

- eight 4 minute penalties (seven back checking and one cross checking)

I’ve had discussions with various team managers. Completion of game sheets is improving. I’ve been told many of the challenges for managers and other volunteers are the result of a combination of 1) learning and 2) getting back up to speed post-covid.

There has been a huge learning curve for me and I appreciate all the support I’ve been getting.

**D. Pee Wee Commissioner:** All team rosters were received prior to first games. Many many updates given!

·      Games Played: 32

PW A – 11   /   PW B – 21

·      Majors: 19

PW A – 4   /   PW B – 15

·      Suspensions: 7 (all 5 min majors in last 10)

PW A – 2   /   PW B – 5

All current Peewee aged players or coaches have served their carry over suspensions.

Most scores seem competitive except several of the games (A1 vs A2). B is normally 1-6 goal spread. A2 scores very close also. Game play in B particularly looks like Novice lacrosse but with contact now, many players still adjusting to being hit. With the current skill level any team that has a skilled player or two is finding it easy to score it seems. Appears to happen when association don’t have an A team. One team has asked about moving to C division unofficially.

Minor issues with scoresheets but managers correcting fast, getting better every game. Emails coming in quickly post games.

Game rescheduling has been an issue with some teams assuming games cancelled prior to final request. Emailed Division and advised to follow all steps to end. Some exhibition games have been scheduled with mainland teams.

**E. Bantam Commissioner:** 9 B teams, 3 A teams. 19 majors (1 A, 18 B), 2 (B) suspensions. 23 B games, 7 A games recorded.

Bantam has had numerous game change requests- most for valid reasons. Potentially retiering a team will keep things interesting. I'm looking forward to attending the upcoming Tim White tournament to meet more managers, players, and coaches.

Lastly, I really just want to thank the organizations, executive, and anyone else who feels under appreciated for all that you do. I'm especially appreciative of Stephanie, Lisa, Doug, and Phil. You all have been ace at helping to extinguish dumpster fires. I'm confident this season would fall apart without your efforts. You've done it all with class, humor, and patience.

**F. U16 Commissioner:** As of today there have been 25 league games played (A teams - 7, B teams - 18).

There have been 17 major penalties (A teams 4, B teams 13) and I’ve given out 8 suspensions (7 to players, 1 to a coach) for a total of 12 games.

**G. Female Commissioner:** The number of female players is significantly down from previous seasons. The Junior Division is the only division with more than two teams (Nanaimo x2 and JDF). The Juniors have played 6 games and the three teams are well matched.  The Bantam's have played two games. The first of the exhibition games vs. mainland teams is set to happen the May 1st weekend. All the teams are attending tournaments off the island.

Thank you to Lisa Seel Thompson and John Hamilton for exceptional work arranging games with the lower mainland teams. After two full seasons with no travelling the re-start has been a lot of work for Lisa and John. At the end of the season we will evaluate the process and make decisions on what the best way to schedule games with the lower mainland. A huge thank you to the managers, floor and ref allocators working to schedule the games as we work thru the mainland games.

Two major penalties have been assessed which resulted in one game suspensions. I have not had any reports of unsportsmanlike behaviour or concerns with fans at the female games.

There will not be any re-tiering required for the Female teams

**9. Association Reports:**

**A. Alberni Valley:** the season has started out well. We have a team in every division. We are gearing up for our novice tournament this upcoming weekend. Looking forward to some fun lacrosse. A few learning curves with our younger teams due to lack of parent experience.

A big thank you to the Peninsula association for hosting the 16U tournament this past weekend. They were fantastic hosts and the volunteers did a fantastic job.

**B. Campbell River:** Our two tyke teams are needing additional clinics for parent volunteers who wish to help with the respective teams. The kids are loving getting on the floor and playing lacrosse.

Our U14 team under an oversized roster has been challenging to manage, however we are making due.

U16 has been challenging with the group consisting primarily of first-year players, but we are remaining positive as the season progresses.

**C. Comox Valley:** Season has started well but as an association we are struggling with new families, coaches and managers not knowing the system and requirements but in reflecting we hadn’t really documented all those things that long time volunteers know and take for granted. Work to do on our end to build capacity for change and continuity. Case in point, late start by team and low interest led to the cancellation of our bantam tournament.

Our approach to try and attract and retain through our skill development Tuesday for MT, Tyke and Novice also has had limited success. Great commitment by development coach and the 4-6 kids who are coming regularly. Thanks to JDF for downloading from their media recruitment guru to us last weekend! Hopefully we can utilize the approach.

Thanks to our commissioners, refs and to VIMLC who are keeping us all on track and playing the game.

**D. Cowichan Valley:** I would like to mirror what Brande said in her report.

We have lots of eager people but they have forgotten the basic things about league play etc.

I am trying my best to educate everyone with the teams and it’s been a slow process.

I am going to be addressing our bantam b teams parents. One of our board members was at a recent game and it was a gong show from our parents.

**E. Juan de Fuca:** As with most associations there are hiccups as we are getting back to a normal season. Parents are forgetting things and there is a lot of rust to shake of internally for JDF but we are getting back to normal slowly. One thing I would like to bring up is that teams are cancelling games with not very good excuses, if a JDF team is attempting to cancel a game I would like to be notified as to the reason they are giving. Next season we need to discuss tyke and mini tyke team sizes as this has been a problem again this season as far as scheduling, referees and floor space

**F. Nanaimo:** The season has seemed to be more challenging this year than past years. While everyone is happy to get back to lacrosse, I think some of our parents, coaches and players have forgotten some of the basic items and seem to have more questions than ever before. All teams are playing and working through their individual team issues. I would like to thank Lisa & Andy for their work with the female program to get games arranged with the lower mainland. Also thank you to all of the commissioners that are working so hard keeping everything going. I believe we do need to look at game changes going forward and only allow them for tournaments.

**G. Oceanside:** Season has started out well.  Players and parents are excited to be back playing lacrosse.  We have a Mini tyke, Novice and Peewee team this year.

8 new coaches have taken the level 1 course this year.

Most of our managers and coaches are new this season which has led to some bumps and to lots of questions.

We are having a meeting on Thursday night to discuss our tyke tournament.

**H. Peninsula:** Like most associations there have been a lot of questions and hiccups as we get back to normal. My thanks to the VIMLC for allowing us to create a second novice team after a flurry of late registrations and for re-tiering our two bantam teams to A2/B from B/B.

We just hosted our 16U Tournament of Warriors. Our sincerest thanks to the island 16U B teams for coming to our event. AND huge thanks to Allison as she probably double her player suspension tally after this weekend. All and all the teams reported having a good time at the tournament. Unfortunately we stand to lose over $6000 from the weekend. We had 14 teams registered in our A2 and B divisions and every mainland team bailed on the event despite communicating with us that they were coming. Those that run tournaments know that it is just as much work running a tourney with 6 teams as 14 teams just not as busy with people coming and going. We are highly unlikely to host a tourney early in the season again  unless there are changes made to how BCLA manages tournament registration and is willing to hold associations responsible for their coaches and teams actions.

Also a big piece of news for us in the win column is that two weeks ago the province confirmed we are receiving a grant for just over $2 million dollars to build/ replace our outdoor box and build a roof over it. The district has also agreed to kick in $800,000 for the project. We are now in discussions with the district of design etc.

**I. Saanich:** For the most part, I have noticed good energy when walking into the arenas and seeing teams playing. It feels like it did in the 2019 season. I am hopeful this continues and parents, fans and players have a new appreciation for the sport that carries on.

Saanich supports the proposition that we have less than 16 games. One of the reasons for supporting this is some of the competitive divisions only have 3 teams and this makes for a long season when you continually play the same two teams.

Saanich is hosting our 3 on 3 Showdown, after a 3 year hiatus. This is an internal club day where teams divide into smaller groups for 3 vs. 3 cross court play, no goalies and no contact. The event has a hardest shot competition, BBQ and prizes for the team with the best costume.

**J. Victoria/Esquimalt:** We are coming up with strategies to rebuild and learning as we go. Our board is essentially brand new. Our main focus has been creating a positive reputation with officials, finding weak spots in leadership, and taking care of our teams. Late registrations were deeply disappointing not only because we could have potentially hosted more of our teams at home, but because of the inconvenience the releases placed on the other organizations and volunteers as a whole. We have a plan in place to lessen those late numbers. Our new executive is capable and willing. The future looks bright.

**10. New Business:**

**A.** Major Penalty in the last 10 minutes: the time recorded on the game sheet is when the penalty is assessed, and therefor determines if another game is to be served

B. Novice Contact: Please make sure association Head Coaches and Novice Coaches are clear on the rules for contact. There has been some concerns raised by parents, and referees will be watching closely for this. We follow Novice Appendix F, Option L with the exception of 3 twenty minute periods, and Contact Rules Option A.

Head Coach, Head Ref and Novice Commissioner will create a clear outline of this and send to association presidents.

**11. Next meeting:** Monday, June 6 at 7 pm

**12. Motion to adjourn at 7:31 pm** made by Geoff Garbutt, seconded by Ryan Hyland **Carried**