

Vancouver Island Minor Lacrosse Commission  
Regular Meeting Agenda  
May 1, 2023  
7:00 pm 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 (absent)

**VIMLC Executive**

BCLOA Rep	Tyler Boyer
Indigenous Development	Bryan Baxter (absent)
BCLCA Rep	Kelly Fines
Commissioners	
U7/U9	Phil DiBattista (absent)
U11	Wendy Hall (absent)
U13	Adam Gow (absent)
U15	Andy Stuart (absent)
U17	Doug Kampen
Female	Brande Terris

**Association Representatives**

Alberni Valley	Ryan Wong, Jayme Haack, Dennis Bill
Campbell River	Mark Labowka
Comox	Chad Robinson
Cowichan Valley	Chris Claxton
Juan de Fuca	Niki Williams
Nanaimo	Bryan Norby, Jesse Kemp
Oceanside	Paula Winnett
Peninsula	Doug Walker
Saanich	James Scott, Scott Barillaro
Victoria-Esquamalt	Kate Blass

1. **Call Meeting to Order** 7:05 pm  
Territorial Land Acknowledgement

2. **Adoption of Previous Minutes** Motion made by Jesse Kemp, seconded by Chad Robinson,  
Carried

### **3. Additions and Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion** to adopt agenda made by Doug Kampen , seconded by Jesse Kemp, **Carried**

### **4. Business arising from the Minutes** none

**5. Financial Report:** **Motion:** To accept financial report as presented by Michelle Vecqueray made by Kelly Fines, seconded by Chad Robinson, **Carried**

Attached please find the bank reconciliation for April. There were no major changes to the account during the month. Attached is also the Budget vs Actuals; there were no changes to this statement from last month.

I will be sending out the invoices to associations for the second half dues in the next week or two. Associations can now e-transfer if they wish.

As of today, I have not received any invoices from associations for on-floor referee clinics. If your association hosted, can you please arrange to have invoices sent to me for payment.

### **6. Zone 6 Reports:**

**A. Chair Tim Frost:** Season is in full swing and we are thankful for all the hard work from everyone to get the schedules going and kids playing lacrosse.

A reminder that parents should not be directly contacting commissioners or elected commission members for routine inquiries. Handling calls and emails from parents about Tiering, scheduling, penalty calls, etc should be directed through team officials to the commissioners or through association presidents to me.

We are going to have our tiering break this week and decide if teams are to be moved. When and if any movement happens your commissioners will communicate to their leagues.

Female league - is underway and despite growing pains with scheduling - we are seeing a huge increase in the number of games for our Island female teams.

Referee abuse - continues to be a problem - please reinforce to your association membership the importance of appropriate behaviour towards referees. Associations can and will be asked to discipline parents whose behavior crosses the line.

Looking forward to hearing the reports from our commissioners as they summarize game play in their leagues.

**B. Minor Directorate Rep Brande Terris:** Not a lot to report in this area. There has been issues of parents in stands misbehaving and I ask all Presidents to ensure their teams know that referee abuse will result in them being removed from the arena as well as possible removal from future games. I would like to echo Tim and Stephanie that parents should not be contacting commissioners or board members directly but going

through the right channels, coach/manager to commissioner or association first and the association can bring it to a board member.

C. BCLCA Rep Kelly Fines: With the season about 3 weeks in we have had 2 coach suspensions and a possible 3rd coming. All for official abuse. Coaches are still not getting the message.

D. BCLOA Rep Tyler Boyer: Games have been going with a lot of coordination being required between Associations in order to have games filled with officials. A big thank you to the officials - especially the Sr officials - who have been stepping up and travelling around the Island as needed to ensure games are played. A big thank you should also go to the Assignors and Head Refs putting in a lot of time to ensure all games are filled. These people are going above and beyond, and I hope Associations are recognizing their hard work - not just on the floor but everything they are doing off the floor to ensure these games are filled and played. It has been an extremely busy month and I am not even doing on floor duties. I am slightly worried what things will look like for a few upcoming weekends when Jr/Sr games are in full swing and those officials are at their capacity as well. Taking away much needed experienced/Sr officials who have been really assisting to start the season will be a challenge. We will cross that bridge when it comes.

Issues had come up at the beginning of the season with last minute schedule changes and moving game locations to different Associations. I need to make it very apparent that we need as much heads up as possible, and coordination with the Head Referee or Assignor of the Association to confirm referee availability, in order to have games properly filled or else you **will** see games being cancelled due to limited officials after already being rescheduled. 24-48 hours for game changes is not ideal whatsoever and is extremely frustrating as it takes away resources we could have been using elsewhere or making officials commit and then it fall through.

After a few weeks of learning, we are continuing to work through the electronic scoresheets. We have had issues with incorrect things being put down on gamesheets and not being caught by the officials prior to certifying - which did also occur when we were using paper gamesheets. Officials have been directed to hold the scorekeepers from leaving until it is reviewed and one official can certify the gamesheet. This is a process that I am hoping will alleviate the issues we continue to see at times with this. We are also continuing to reinforce the importance of reviewing the gamesheet and ensuring correctness and completeness.

Official abuse has continued into this season. Please ensure that you are reminding your coaches, parents, managers, and players about this and doing your best to police it when at the arena. Please be proactive as Associations so that we do not have to deal with the situations after the fact as much - proactive rather than reactive is the best way forward.

We really are at a critical junction for this sport - we have a very, very thin referee roster

and **CANNOT** afford to lose officials moving forward. Officials are taking on so many games so these kids can play and the officials will be feeling the stress and tiredness of over-working with a part time job on top of their day-to-day almost every single weekend and some weekdays - let's make sure we are working towards assisting them instead of compounding issues by taking things out on them too. I imagine this feeling is the same for the Commissioners and others heavily involved within Associations/Leagues. Make sure we are taking care of ourselves, being kind to each other, and supporting as needed.

**E.** Indigenous Development Coordinator Bryan Baxter: I have nothing to report. I only have a question regarding any coaches who still need training. I need to coordinate with Kelly Fines and Dave Showers to see what might be available for training.

**F.** Female Coordinator Lisa Seel-Thompson: Echoing what both Brande & Tim have already shared, overall female-only numbers have grown substantially and despite a fair amount of growing pains around the interlocking schedule, there has been a significant increase in the number of games for our teams which is undoubtedly a positive. We will use takeaways from the season to make next year even better. A BIG shout-out to both Stephanie and Brande for all their hard work in handling all of the scheduling changes.

**G.** Web Master Stephanie Prizeman: Things have now begun to calm down on the scheduling front. This year we added an extra step to the process with a schedule approval meeting after the draft schedule went out; we gave folks a last opportunity to bring up any issues before the final went out. The feedback received was addressed and only a very small number of issues were identified after the schedule was published. Providing that extra time for folks to look over as well as the meeting seemed to mitigate some of the errors that had been published in the past. Thank you to the commissioners for continuing to streamline the communication process (game change is sorted out and then communicated to me via Commissioner) and assisting when I get random emails from teams here and there. **HUGE thanks to the floor allocators for their work in checking the schedules and also being so accommodating and helpful when they were called upon last minute for favors - especially during the female scheduling process, which was not nearly as smooth as the Co-Ed). They all did this while also being kind and patient with me, which made some very stressful late nights and weekends a little brighter.**

RAMP Gamesheet/Web startup has gone reasonably well. A few issues have come up - again thank you to commissioners and presidents for helping streamline communication on this as well. One thing we found out last week was that if a game change is not made prior to the game date/time, a new game will need to be created in RAMP in order to continue to use the gamesheet codes on the app. It's always been the expectation that game changes/postponements come to those who need with as much notice as possible - but we do get the odd game change after the fact. In this case, the old gamesheet codes will not work.

One final request - and this is in line with a similar item in Tim's report - if presidents could remind teams/parents/fans ( no joke - I had one that was signed " association X" Fan) that they should not be contacting me for RAMP/Website or schedule assistance at this point. Commissioners, Presidents (or designate such as VP or head manager - and they need to identify themselves as such) have a direct line to me, and I'd prefer it stay that way in order to continue to be able to manage the volume of emails I seem to receive/be cc'd on. This will also help commissioners keep their teams on track with the correct process for communication as well!

## **7. Association Reports:**

**A. Alberni Valley:** Season has gotten off to a good start - we have our annual U11 tournament coming up May 12-14 which we are hard at work preparing for. Unfortunately, we were only able to get 5 teams to commit this year, but we will look at things critically post-season and are hopeful that we will be back to 8 next year, restoring it to its former glory! We promise your teams will have fun! Thanks to the officials group who have supported our head referee by putting out calls for help from other associations to share their officials with us. We have two college students who are Level 2 officials returning this month and will hopefully have less need for call outs for the remainder of the season.

**B. Campbell River:** We started the year by having to fold our U15 division, which was a really big blow. We thought we had enough numbers with 15 kids but too many players just weren't showing up to practice. As it turns out, many of the U15 kids are multi sport athletes, and lacrosse doesn't seem to be the priority for them. Our U11 squad has 16 and is often short on players. Thank you to Comox and Oceanside for taking a few U15 kids & keeping runners playing the game. It looks like we will be focusing on our rebuild from the bottom up. We have 32 kids playing on 3 combined U7/9 teams at the moment. This past weekend we attended the Sports for Life Summit hosted by Play Campbell River. The event is geared to introducing families in the area to team sports and healthy activities. <https://vimeo.com/267288719?mibextid=Zxz2cZ>. I hear the lacrosse table was quite popular. One of the U9 teams and our U17 are attending away tournaments this year. We are still hosting the U17 Father's Day Rally but currently only have 5 of the original 7 teams that registered. 2 pulled out (Mission & Cowichan) & we are still waiting on funds from Alberni/Parksville, Saanich & JDF. Presidents please encourage your treasurers to submit payments to [crmlatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:crmlatreasurer@gmail.com) as soon as possible. If you can spread the word we would love to see all 8 spots filled. Campbell river also needs another coaching clinic, we have sent our requirements to Dave at BCLA and have yet to hear back.

**C. Comox Valley:** We have teams in four divisions that are up and running and our released U17s are playing in Campbell River this season. More than half of our

registered players are new to lacrosse this year so it has been a bit of a challenge to bring families up to speed on the game and how the season runs. We have been able to get all four of our teams into tournaments on the island and the players are looking forward to those dates.

We hosted a referee clinic that saw 10+ young referees trained, thanks to Dallas and Adam Donald for their work on that. Thanks to the division commissioners and schedulers for all their work getting the season started.

**D. Cowichan Valley:** Things are going as expected with the start of the season. Our U17 provincial convenors met with the BCLA and they are coming up with a timeline.

We have had one incident early in the season with a parent being ejected for poor behaviour and abuse of officials. I am just trying to come up with a time for the suspension.

Maybe someone could reach out with what has been done in the past for a parent who has sworn at officials and followed things up with some obscene gestures. I suspect a season length ban for home and away games is going to be the norm but would like a little feedback before I proceed.

**E. Juan de Fuca:** JDF has very little to report. We have had registration continue to trickle in at our younger divisions, as recent as last night. We are looking at closing due to lack of space on teams.

Our tournament coordinator is busy working on our two events, U11 and U13. We have had a healthy amount of interest in both and look forward to hosting!

We secured sponsorship funds throughout the Westshore community and were able to purchase tablets for our teams to use. Digital game-sheets have been a real learning curve for most, I'm not hearing a lot of positive feedback from volunteers but I'm hopeful in time it will get easier.

JDF is planning to host an awards night at the end of the season for the first time since pre covid and are looking forward to recognizing players in all age groups.

**F. Nanaimo:** We kicked off our season with the first opening day celebration since before covid. We had food trucks, hardest shot competition, an introduction to contact clinic, indigenous dancers to bless our season and a parade of our proud Timbermen players. Represented almost 50/50 by both coed and female. Its been a rough start for the female schedule, and we would like to thank everyone involved who have been burning the candle at both ends to give our Island girls the opportunity to play games. We are ecstatic to have home games for the girls and look forward to the development of the female division on the island as a whole. Our Tim White memorial tournament commences this weekend, and we are proud to say we are full to the brim, we have every minute of floor time for 3 days filled with bantam lacrosse action.

**G. Oceanside:** Our season has got off to a good start. We had to get an oversize roster for our U9 team as we had many player register at the end March declaration date. I have been told we have at least 6 team for our Shark Attack tournament in June. Should be a fun weekend!

**H. Peninsula:** The season has started out a little rocky for us with losing a team at U17 and then creating two teams at U11 and then U15 last minute. With that in the rearview mirror, we started to focus on prep for our U17 Tournament of Warriors which we ended up having to cancel due to lack of registrations. We had 10 teams register but only 5 committed (3 at A2 and 2 at B) which isn't enough. After taking a huge financial loss last year we don't afford another. It looks like there just aren't enough teams on the island anymore and or enough teams willing to travel to the island from the mainland. We will be making a long term decision whether we even host one again next year. Work is well underway for our U7 / U9 tourney in June.

On the plus side, the New outdoor covered lacrosse box has been approved by the Recreation Commission and is in the design stage. They may be doing a phased approach with a roof over the old box for 2024 and a new box itself for 2025 so that we don't lose the facility for a whole year but that is still in discussions.

**I. Saanich:** Season is underway and navigating the usual issues post evaluation and team formation. We will be looking to create written policy on team formations, player call ups as these two issues have been present in our competitive divisions. We ran Team Building sessions for our U17 and U15 teams. These were funded by a viaSport Grant. Feedback has been positive and we are fortunate to have the one time funding to offer these.

Preparations are underway for hosting the U15 Provincials with VELA. There was a fair amount of discussion on the lack of hotel availability and cost of hotel rooms at the Provincial meeting. The island participants (Saanich Vela and Cowichan) provided a number of solutions. However, it was mildly amusing to hear lower mainland situated people's perspective. Seems they missed that Island teams have travelled to the lower mainland for the last 5 years and always struggle to find hotels.

Saanich is holding our annual 3 on 3 Showdown. This is an internal festival where all teams play short cross court games and dress up in costumes or themes. There is a BBQ and we partner with the Jr B Saanich Express.

**J. Victoria/Esquimalt:** Our flagship U9 tournament is full with 16 teams.

We shot some promotional content with Island Sports News to be played during the breaks at Shamrocks games and for distribution.

Our endless efforts to build a substantial female program has fielded healthy sized teams (some are even full) at U13F, U15F, U17F, and JNRF. We already have parents asking about a female U11 team for next season.

Coed is having a fun season.

Coed U11 has low numbers which is a struggle. We are still visiting schools to drum up players for that division.

We find ourselves paying for ref travel fees, and for "home" floor time all over the island while Archie Browning sits empty. That's just not sustainable for VELA. So, we'll see what happens moving forward into next season.

Thank you to Stephanie, Lisa, Brande, the other commissioners, and everyone else for

all of your hard work.

Our teams are playing games. The kids are happy. VELA is just taking it all one day at a time.

## **8. Commissioner Reports:**

A. U7/U9 Phil DiBattista: U7 and U9 are both up and running. As with every season, this is where we see a lot of new managers so the learning curve is always high with lots of questions but the kids are all out playing which is great to see. Also as expected the first couple of weekends were riddled with game cancellations due to weather which is outside of our control (until we get our covered box!!!) so that has added work for Steph and Dallas (thanks for your hard work)

B. U11 Wendy Hall: U11 play started April 15, with 15 teams divided into North (6 teams) and South (9 teams). A total of 36 games were scheduled for April. It was a very busy and somewhat hectic start but things are starting to settle down now. So far, I'm aware of 5 major penalties and there have been 3 suspensions. Whenever anyone has the opportunity, please remind everyone who might be a spectator to be respectful to both officials and players.

C. U13 Adam Gow: U13 play started April 5, we have 12 teams (3 A / 9 B/C). 27 games have been completed ( 8 A / 19 B/C ). Managers this season are much quicker getting back with needed information and requesting changes for tournament as soon as they are accepted. There have been some growing pains but to be expected with new or newer managers. They are doing a great job trying to use RAMP for notes and attachments. Games Played 27 (A=8 / B/C=19), 84 for season. Majors 11 (A=2 / B/C=9), 11 for season. Suspensions 8 (A=1 / B/C=7), 8 for season. 11 games have been assessed.

D. U15 Andy Stuart: U15 A - three teams and 5 games played  
U15 B - nine teams and 20+ games played  
Twelve suspensions issued, including two coaches.  
Games I have attended the parents have been great. I am seeing positive cheering for their own teams and not too much directed to officials. Unfortunately, I hate to report the Saanich parents seem to need the most guidance on what is acceptable (I will have a word with the Saanich President!)  
The managers are doing a great job of working with the new Ramp gamesheets. Most teams are accepted to tournaments and working with them on making these changes.  
All going smoothly so far.

E. U17 Doug Kampen: 18 games so far, 11 suspensions issued for a total of 22 games including 1 coach  
The teams seemed to have declared properly  
Getting both positive and negative feedback with using RAMP, I think everyone

including myself just need to get used to it

F. Female Brande Terris: Thank you Stephanie for all your work on the schedule, changes and making it possible for our girls to play this season. The season was off to a rough start with many changes to the schedule, these seem to be settling down and games are being played. I believe so far everyone has learned a lot from the interlocking schedule and it can only get better for next season.

## **9. New Business:**

**A. Game Cancellations:** Only outdoor games, due to weather, can be cancelled. It is considered a forfeit if a team does not play for another reason. Please use call-ups to help fill your roster if necessary.

**B. Game Reschedules:** Commissioners have sent our guidelines for the rescheduling process. Changes cannot be unilaterally made by coaches, managers, allocators etc, it must go through the commissioner and be sent to Stephanie for Arbitrator update.

**C. Tournament Gamesheets:** We will not use Ramp electronic game sheets for tournaments. Please use the old paper game sheets and ensure that tournament coordinators send them to the appropriate commissioner within hours of the tournament finishing.

**D. 2024 Schedule:** We will be hiring a new scheduler next year, if anyone in your association is interested please watch for the posting online. There will be a Scheduling Committee again to establish parameters, all associations are encouraged to participate. In general, there was a lack of floor time this season, so we will need to look for creative solutions to scheduling the number of games.

**E. Upcoming key dates**

### **April 30**

Last day for Commissions to approve player releases ([MD 8.08](#))

### **May 1**

Coaches must be registered on Form 100B and registration fees paid at the BCLA office (BCLCA 1.02, BCLCA 11.01)

### **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)

**F.** Commission chair absence: I will be away May 14-26 inclusive and will not be responding to lacrosse emails. Brande will be covering for me.

**G.** Referee Gamesheet sign off: Please have all scorekeepers wait until referees have reviewed the game sheet before leaving in case any corrections need to be made. Just like waiting for referees to sign the paper game sheet, they need to wait until released by the referees. Commissioners and Presidents, please reinforce this with team managers.

**10. Next Meeting:** Monday, June 5 at 7 pm

**11. Motion to Adjourn at pm** made by Niki Williams, seconded by Brande Terris, **carried**