

Vancouver Island Minor Lacrosse Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 4, 2022

Via Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Voting Executive

Chair	Tim Frost
Vice-Chair	Ryan Hyland (absent)
Secretary	Krista Gregory
Treasurer	Christine Mavin
Zone 6 Representative	Doug Kampen
Web Master/Scheduler Liaison	Stephanie Prizeman (absent)
Female Coordinator	Lisa Seel-Thompson (absent)

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	Doug Kampen
Cowichan Valley	Chris Claxton
Juan de Fuca	Gord Anderson
Nanaimo	Brande Terris, Lonny Sullivan
Oceanside	Jason Hassey
Peninsula	Phil DiBattista
Saanich	Andy Stuart, James Scott
Victoria-Esquamalt	Kate Blass

1. **Call Meeting to Order: 7:02 pm**
2. **Adoption of Previous Minutes:**
Motion made by Doug Kampen, seconded by Kelly Fines **Carried**
3. **Additions and Adoptions of Agenda:**
Motion to adopt additions & adoption of Agenda made by Tyler Boyer, seconded by Brande Terris
Carried
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 Philip Kontouris seconded by James Scott **Carried**

As the season is winding down it is my busy time (for the last time). I have copied Britt on this email as she has expressed interest in the position and I want to keep her in the loop. **I am still waiting on associations to get me their second half dues**, Oceanside, JDF, Alberni and Peninsula. I have not checked my mailbox today but will before the meeting tonight and update if there are any changes. We have paid for the banners and 1 invoice of floor time for Playdowns (with a few more to come I am sure). I also have referee cheques to pay and the Commissioners honorarium so if you could all email me your addresses I will pop them in the mail this week. Tyler if you could let me know when I can expect the ref payouts that would be great. I would like to get this dealt with sooner rather than later so that we can get most of the cheques cashed by the refs before our year end. We currently have \$21,326.19 on our account but like I said the majority of our expenses is yet to come. I have attached the monthly reconciliation and as always if you have any questions please let me know.

Reminder: Those associations who have not yet paid their fees need to do so asap.

10:21 AM
2022-07-04

Vancouver Island Minor Lacrosse Commission
Reconciliation Summary
Vancouver Island Minor Lacrosse, Period Ending 2022-05-31

	<u>31 May 22</u>
Beginning Balance	18,386.27
Cleared Transactions	
Cheques and Payments - 3 items	-3,340.58
Deposits and Credits - 2 items	7,890.00
Total Cleared Transactions	<u>4,549.42</u>
Cleared Balance	<u><u>22,935.69</u></u>
Uncleared Transactions	
Cheques and Payments - 1 item	-70.00
Total Uncleared Transactions	<u>-70.00</u>
Register Balance as of 2022-05-31	<u><u>22,865.69</u></u>
New Transactions	
Deposits and Credits - 2 items	1,425.00
Total New Transactions	<u>1,425.00</u>
Ending Balance	<u><u>24,290.69</u></u>

Vancouver Island Minor Lacrosse Commission
Reconciliation Detail
Vancouver Island Minor Lacrosse, Period Ending 2022-05-31

Type	Date	Num	Name	Clr	Amount	Balance
Beginning Balance						18,386.27
Cleared Transactions						
Cheques and Payments - 3 items						
Cheque	2022-06-06	1446	Dallas Lister	X	-2,000.00	-2,000.00
Cheque	2022-06-06	1447	Arbiter Sports	X	-1,280.58	-3,280.58
Cheque	2022-06-06	1445	Tyler Boyer	X	-60.00	-3,340.58
Total Cheques and Payments					-3,340.58	-3,340.58
Deposits and Credits - 2 Items						
Deposit	2022-05-04			X	1,965.00	1,965.00
Deposit	2022-05-20			X	5,925.00	7,890.00
Total Deposits and Credits					7,890.00	7,890.00
Total Cleared Transactions					4,549.42	4,549.42
Cleared Balance					4,549.42	22,935.69
Uncleared Transactions						
Cheques and Payments - 1 item						
Cheque	2022-05-04	1444	Wilson Louie - ref		-70.00	-70.00
Total Cheques and Payments					-70.00	-70.00
Total Uncleared Transactions					-70.00	-70.00
Register Balance as of 2022-05-31					4,479.42	22,865.69
New Transactions						
Deposits and Credits - 2 Items						
Deposit	2022-06-22				975.00	975.00
Deposit	2022-06-26				450.00	1,425.00
Total Deposits and Credits					1,425.00	1,425.00
Total New Transactions					1,425.00	1,425.00
Ending Balance					5,904.42	24,290.69

7. Zone 6 Reports:

A. Chair, Tim Frost: I have attended as much of the playdowns as possible this year and am planning on attending the female provincials as one of the supervisors. This weekend we will wrap up almost all games in the competitive divisions except for wild card game for the female provincials.

Congratulations to all of the teams who qualified for provincials and all those who won banners. A huge THANKYOU to the commissioners who have spent countless hours running the leagues and managing the disciplinary parts of our league play. These are tough jobs and we all need to thank them for their commitment to the sport.

I have been giving some thoughts to some minor bylaw changes for the Island that will be proposed in our AGM in the fall/winter to address some of our issues this year.

I appreciate any thoughts or suggestions on league play for next season and have heard that many feel we should leave more room for all teams who declare to play in playdowns and maintain flexibility for rescheduling games. This leads me to conclude we should consider fewer games or perhaps eliminating the tiering break in some divisions. Please reach out to your membership for input as ultimately you all decide the parameters for our leagues.

Thanks again for a great season

B. Minor Directorate Rep, Doug Kampen: It was a busy month as the season came to a close. I attended as many of the playdown games as I was able to.

I spent most of my time with the commissioners interpreting policy and enforcement

At this time I would like to let all association presidents know about some important dates:
August 17 - Any proposed Minor Directorate Operating Policy changes need to be submitted by this date. The blank forms will be posted in the COP on July 13
August 31 - Any proposed BCLA Operating Policy changes need to be submitted by this date, The blank forms will be posted in the COP on July 20

I am more than willing to help anyone with the forms and making sure they get submitted correctly and on time. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

This is your chance to try and make the changes that you want. Do not wait until the day before the deadline to try and put it together.

If nobody takes the time to submit the forms for policy change, complete with rationale, then I expect myself and anyone else on the board will spend a lot less time defending policy to you in the future.

Thank you to everyone who has invested the time and energy to grow this game on the island.

C. BCLCTSG Rep, Philip Kontouris: Referee Abuse

The two year hiatus has brought out the competitiveness in our associations. Coaches and teams want to win, but I have noticed abuse of official calls starting to get out of hand.

I have sat in on a handful of discipline committees where this has been the number 1 issue.

Coaching Clinics

North Island unsuccessfully tried to host a clinic for level 2.

I will be pushing to sort out coaching clinics much earlier next year to avoid clinics mid-season

D. BCLOTSG Rep, Tyler Boyer: As far as I am aware, we did not have to cancel a single game due to a lack of officials or officials not showing up at the game time. This is a massive success for the season in my eyes with the unfortunate number of officials that we lost to start the season. There were instances where we needed to reschedule games in order to have officials available - which I really appreciate the people who were involved working to make this happen - however, that was a bit expected as soon as the Jr/Sr season started and it was stretching our experienced Sr officials thinner. I am very thankful to all of the officials for their dedication and commitment to ensuring that these games occurred for the kids. The Island will have good representation for Officials at all levels of the provincials, the BC Summer Games, and the return of Lacrosse in the Canada Summer Games.

Our number one priority for the upcoming offseason, and future season, is the retention of officials and recruitment of them to aid the Associations. The more Officials we have, the fewer games we have to put onto experienced Sr Officials and the more we can utilize them to mentor and train up-and-coming Officials more in-depth. Unfortunately, the number of coach misconducts and reports of parents due to official abuse increased as the season went on. I tried to let as many people know that the Official Evaluation tool was something that needed to be utilized more for Official development - for both positive and negative feedback - but unfortunately, it seemed to get used less and less as the season went on and more used for a tool to complain. We (the Officials Group) utilize these tools in order to get eyes on Officials in order to correct things that may need correcting, but also to reward Officials who have had good games. We need more of a mix - and therefore more of these positive reviews from people if we want to help retain and develop officials. If we continue with a majority of negative feedback, then the Official's numbers will continue to fade. It is personally taxing when all there is to discuss is negative, but do not want to recognize the positive. A culture and mentality shift must occur.

I was able to be at some of the playdown games, but not as much as I would have liked. A

mixture of Sr/Jr game commitments and personal requirements made it unfeasible to be there for the entirety. There were a few issues and hiccups during these weekends brought to my attention (more so on the first weekend of playdowns when the majority of the games were being played in 3 locations). I believe that in order to have a smoother Island playdown, there may be things that we want to discuss and potentially coordinate for future seasons.

A big thank you to the Executive, Island Members, Commissioners and Volunteers for making the season run as successfully as it did. We have some work to do in regards to official abuse, but as I have said before the conversations I've had with mostly all of you, and others around the island, have me hopeful for the future of lacrosse on the Island. Let's work together to grow this great game. And good luck to all of the Island teams on your upcoming Provincials.

E. Indigenous Development Coordinator, Bryan Baxter: I only wanted to report that a CPI that was scheduled for Courtenay had to be cancelled as only 4 coaches registered.

In speaking to Dave Showers, those coaches are OK on the bench until year end. They must attend the first possible clinic next year or face suspension.

In terms of clinics next year, we will be going over the numbers of clinics and addressing participation numbers in particular to assess the need for clinics next year on the island.

We will offer clinics based on 25 attendees and will ONLY host the number of clinics that capture the historical numbers of participants. Clinics will probably only take place in Nanaimo and Victoria.

Congratulations and thank you to all those involved in getting our youth playing lacrosse this season. I think your efforts will greatly improve our registrations for next year. Well done!

F. Female Rep, Lisa Seed-Thompson: Nothing significantly different from what Andy has reported. I agree, there is much work to be done for the female divisions and I look forward to sharing some ideas that I have.

I am confident that with John Hamilton steering things from the BCLA level with his insight from this season, Andy's continued hard work and commitment as island female commissioner along with the feedback and ideas I anticipate that will come out of the island female stakeholders meeting that we will have lots to work with to move next season in a very positive direction.

Congrats to the female teams and all the other teams going to Provincials and good luck to the JDF Junior team, wishing you a big win on the wild card game.

Thanks again to all amazing volunteers at every level for working hard to try and make this season a good one for the female divisions.

G. Webmaster, Stephanie Prizeman: Webmaster Report for June is pretty short - I want to first thank everyone for their hard work this season as we all (re)learn how things need to be!

Thanks to the commissioners for being the link between schedule/web and teams, thanks to the presidents for their support when needed and a huge thanks to Dallas for taking over the web duties for me at the end of the season as I was busy with personal things.

I've learned a lot this year - looking forward to next with a better understanding of things and what works best for most! Tim and I have also discussed using the website in a different (perhaps better) manner in the future and look forward to working on what that will look like with the group. Have a great summer and off-season, everyone. Thank you again for the help, guidance, and friendships.

8. Commissioner Reports:

Note: Commissioners, please keep all game sheets until next season to ensure any carryover suspensions can be counted and properly documented.

A. Mini Tyke: Phil DiBattista: All of the Mini-Tyke games have been concluded. There were a lot of rescheduled games due to the weather. I have reviewed the previous seasons (2018/2019) and there wasn't an increase in games being rescheduled which I guess is a good thing. Lots of smiles and kids learning the game which is always fun to see.

B. Tyke: Phil DiBattista: Well, we started off with a bang. All of the games have been concluded. There were some initial issues but we managed to push through them and finish the season strong.

A general observation: there is a large gap and very divergent viewpoints about how we should be coaching and playing Tyke Lacrosse. A lot of coaches claim to have never heard of the long-term athlete development report or haven't read it. Some fairly strong viewpoints about competition versus development which is concerning.

Follow Up:

I think we need to have another discussion about rosters' sizes. Obviously, we can only work with how many players register but I believe at our planning meeting in 2023 we are going to have to set aside some time to actually discuss what we want these divisions to look like and how we want our young athletes to learn the game.

I will be sending out a message to the coaches/ managers of both divisions to get their thoughts and feedback about rules, game length, passing rules, fallback rules, etc but I believe we also need to have the VIMLC presidents get that feedback directly from their coaches so that we can make informed decisions before next season.

C. Novice: Wendy Hall: Novice continued with 12 teams, divided into North (5 teams) and South (7 teams).

A total of 37 regular games were scheduled in June: 15 games for Novice North and 22 games for Novice South. Two of those games had to be forfeited due to lack of players. The last game was played on June 26.

During the month of June there were 14 major penalties. Of those:

- 4 resulted in a one game suspension
- 1 resulted in a two game suspension
- 1 resulted in a three game suspension

There was 1 multi-game suspension assessed against a coach.

It was interesting and I learned a lot.

Again, I appreciate all the support I received.

D. Peewee: Adam Gow: Playdowns are complete in peewee with JDF (A1), Saanich (A2), peninsula/Cowichan/Comox (B) going to provincials. No additional suspensions came from playdowns.

Two 1 game suspensions will be carried over in the B level. Looking through the seasons penalties there seemed to be a above average number of high stick and back check penalties across all games, in particular the B league. More so in B level the loss of Novice due to Covid for these players showed in their development. As season went on playing styles seemed to get better, hopefully next season these systems will be stronger.

At this time I will likely remain on as commissioner if needed.

E. Bantam: Kate Blass: Bantam Commish has been interesting. Playdowns finish today. I look forward to awarding banners and putting this season to bed. There have been a few more suspensions since my last report including another coach bringing the coach total to 6. I could write a book about this season.

F. U16: Allison Logan: During the month of June there were 8 suspensions issued - 6 players & 2 coaches. We finish the season with one player carrying over 2 games. Division banners were awarded to JDF A1, Nanaimo A2 and VELA B.

Playdowns were held June 24-26th and JDF A1, Nanaimo A2, JDF B and Peninsula B will represent the island at Provincials. Best of luck to all teams.

I have let Tim know I will not be returning next season and would like to thank all for allowing me the opportunity to have been the U16 commissioner this season.

I hope everyone has a great summer.

G. Female: Andy Stuart: Overall we have some significant work in the off season for the Female Divisions. The only divisions with more than one team were Junior (3 teams) and Bantam (2 teams). We are arranging a meeting for all island female stakeholders to plan and coordinate well in advance of the 2023 season. The lack of a proper league resulted in very few games played and the two year Covid hiatus resulted in lost organizational memory of how the cross over lower mainland and Vancouver Island games was set up. The issue was primarily on the lower mainland side as Lisa Seel Thompson spent countless hours working to set up these games.

The Nanaimo Junior 1, Nanaimo Bantam, and Nanaimo Pee Wee teams are all heading to provincials. JDF Junior is playing in the Wildcard game this weekend.

Wishing each team the best of luck in the provincials.

I will put my name forward as Female Commissioner next season.

9. Association Reports:

A. Alberni Valley: Our season has wrapped up for all teams. Our big push now is to recruit new members to our executive because we lose 5 important pieces next year due to kids aging out. I believe all of our teams were excited to be back on the floor. The two seasons off definitely affected the learning curve. Hopefully next year will be better. Parent issues are always a problem but we're dealt with in house with no issues.

B. Campbell River: It has been a challenging year in Campbell River.

We saw our registration numbers plummet from a year ago and have faced an uphill battle to reclaim our spot as the preferred summer sport in town.

We have seen challenges within our association from parent management, referee recruitment and coach management.

This year was a gigantic learning curve for me personally and I would like to thank all members for VIMLA for assisting when needed.

Special thank you to [@Tim Frost \(VIMLC Chair\)](#) , [@Geoff Garbutt](#) & [@Tyler Boyer](#)

While we unfortunately had none of our teams qualify for provincials, we have taken major steps forward as an association to become more competitive.

We will be set for our executive for next year, however most of our group is graduating next year.

We are starting early this year for player and exec recruitment.

We are also in discussions of absorbing the North Island Field Lacrosse Association!

Looking forward to an exciting year ahead and further development of the game in the North Island!

B. Comox Valley: Comox Valley has wrapped up our non-competitive skill development sessions and reports back indicated it went very well. Thank you to Campbell River for hosting and travelling here for some jamboree style tyke games. I don't think it quite worked out with

Oceanside for the minis but really appreciated the offer.

Our two competitive teams have both made it to the provincials at Bantam B and Pee Wee B after an interesting set of playdowns. Looking forward for all the island clubs having good runs at their respective provincials. Well maybe just doing ok at Bantam and Pee Wee B - Hahahah

Wanted to say a few thank you's for the 2022 season.

Thanks very much to the executive for steering us through an interesting return to full play.

Thankless job and it is very time consuming. You have certainly earned some time off!

Thanks to all of the Commissioners for all the hours of watching and writing letters - we can't play without you.

Finally a thank you to the officials, we really can't play without you all. Especially this year with the shortages of refs and the extensive travel.

I am going to be away for the meeting Monday so I hope you all have a great summer and for those of you retiring it has been a pleasure working with you - in some cases quite a few years!!!

C. Cowichan Valley: We have wrapped up our regular seasons for Tyke, Novice and U16. Our Peewee B and Bantam B teams are continuing on with Provincials.

Overall, the season was good but did have some hiccups. Mainly due to fresh new people volunteering for positions and being unfamiliar with the policies and procedures. We will look into that for next season and try to make sure everyone is up to speed for the start of the season.

We are actively trying to recruit board members as most of our board is aging out after next season.

I want to thank everyone involved in the VIMLC including each associations presidents for all the hard work this season. Volunteering in these positions takes hours of time. I also want to wish all the teams headed for provincials good luck and I am hopeful that some banners come to the island for 2022.

D. Juan de Fuca: We are wrapping up the 2022 season, with PWA1, BNA1, U16B and U16A1 all moving on to provincials.

We hosted successful Novice and PW tournaments as well as a tyke / mini tyke jamboree.

All in all, I'd say it's been a good season returning to lacrosse... a few minor hiccups here and there but overall, it's been a great season.

E. Nanaimo: Nanaimo has completed the regular season with 5 teams still playing. Peewee, Bantam and one Jr female team as well as the 16U A2 team which will be attending provincials. We also have a combined Novice A team attending the Crosby tournament. Overall it was a good "back to lacrosse" season after covid with the same issues other associations faced. Limited volunteers and the overall demanding nature of some families was difficult but everyone got through and the athletes had fun which is the most important. I have resigned my position on the NDLA board effective July 31, 2022 once the season fully wraps up after provincials and summer games. Thank you to everyone that works so hard to get our athletes on the floor. I look forward to possibly working with you all at the Island level next season.

F. Oceanside: Oceanside has completed our season. Aside from some issues all indications are everyone had a great season. We will continue educating our coaches, managers and parents. Congratulations and good luck to all Associations that are sending teams to Provincials.

We continue to actively search for new board members.

I would like to thank all VIMLC, Commissioners, Officials and Association volunteers for all their hard work to make this season successful.

G. Peninsula: We have two teams headed to Provincials 16U and Peewee B.

The rest of our teams are finished for the season.

It has been a busy year as we (Like most) have a lot of new families in lacrosse or after 2 years were not quite back in the rhythm.

We are in full design/ planning mode with the Municipality for our new covered outdoor lacrosse box and hope to have it up and running in February.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to find enough coaches to run our summer camp this year but we will try and get it up and going for next year.

I will likely be bringing to the VIMLC table and to BCLA some recommendations and policies around registration for tournaments. This continues to be a problem despite the changes previously made to get to see the tournaments a couple of weeks ahead of time. We lost an entire division from our 16U tourney 10 days before the start because of teams dropping out. A huge thanks to the 16U B island teams for playing and keeping it alive!!!

H. Saanich: Overall, we had a successful season. Our focus for next year will be new executive members, continuing to work with the District of Saanich on the facilities (subpar facilities - by far the worst in the VIMLC - my apologies to those teams who played at our home arena) and player recruitment.

Pee Wee A2 and Bantam A2 are heading to the provincials.

We have a Novice team heading to the Jack Crosby tournament.

I. Victoria/Esquimalt: VELA is still keeping on. Our 16U B team finished the regular season first without any suspensions. My time as Bantam commissioner has shown me how much of an accomplishment that truly is for a team. We're celebrating their season and honouring it to set the benchmark for future teams at VELA. Bantam Fe had a great season losing Bronze at their tournament by one point. They are an inspiring group and I am sad to see them go as many age up. We are still looking into updating our policies and have recruited volunteers to fill our vacant executive spots, to vote in, next season. Early counts and follow up with late registrations have projected the return of our teams at all divisions except one. Our main focus along with rebuilding numbers is the development/support of officials and coaches. Focusing on the source of why we lose referees seems like an obvious place to start in order to keep that from happening. We look forward to next season now that we have figured out what the hell it is we are actually doing. I appreciate all of the support I've received this season at both positions. I hope to serve as support and guidance for future volunteers as I continue to learn. Looks like my summer reading will include BCLA policy.

10. New Business:

A. 2023 League Schedule Committee: Tim will call this voluntary meeting, likely in September or October, for those who wish to discuss challenges and ideas (rescheduling, ref shortages, floor time, etc)

B. Policy Changes for 2023: The Minor Directorate is contemplating some changes, for example female players being called up to co-ed teams. This was previously tabled at the last BCLA AGM. It will be revised and brought forward again.

Anyone can suggest policy changes to the BCLA, please see Doug's report above for how to propose a change.

Similarly, policy changes can be submitted for VIMLC policy as follows:

BY-LAW 14 ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS

The By-Laws of the Commission shall not be altered except by Special resolution. Special resolution shall be a resolution passed by a majority of such members entitled to vote who are present at annual or special meeting of which notice specifying the intention of proposing the resolution as a special resolution has been duly given. Proposals may come from associations or the commission. Due notice shall consist of informing the secretary in writing thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting and the secretary shall inform all members fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting.

11. **Next meeting: September 12, 2022 at 7 pm**

12. **Motion** to adjourn at 7:20 pm made by Doug Kampen, seconded by Phil DiBattista
Carried