



Rockyview Lacrosse
Association

January Newsletter

"To promote and develop the great game of Lacrosse in all its disciplines and its heritage throughout Alberta and to provide participants with diverse Lacrosse opportunities for the pursuit of

Excellence and enjoyment."

In this issue:

Registration - Page 2

Preseason Schedule Available - Page 2

Try it days - Page 2

Winter Development Camps - Page 2

Novice Pilot Project - Pages 3-4

Boundary Changes - Page 4

2017 Board Members - Page 4



2017 Registration NOW OPEN!

Registration is now open for the Spring Box season! We have different payment options available this year if paying by credit card. Our system still doesn't recognize the debit/credit cards so another option might be to purchase a Visa or Mastercard gift card to take advantage of the payment plans. Registration will CLOSE on February 28th, if there is a division that isn't full, we will reopen registration for that age group.

2017 Preseason Schedule Available

We have put the preseason evaluation schedule up on our website under "Calendar of Events" <http://rockyviewlacrosse.ca/news-events/calendar-of-events/>. All A evaluations and B/C evaluations are there along with the locations. Please note that due to limited field space in Airdrie and Cochrane in March we have been forced to schedule a majority of the evaluations in Calgary (both soccer centres). I hope that by having the schedule out early it will help families with scheduling.

TRY IT days!

Have friends that might be interested in trying our National sport? Tell them about our try it days! We plan on running two in February on the 12th and 19th. Please follow our website and Facebook page for up to date information!

Winter Development Camps

We still have availability at our camp in Cochrane that starts on Sunday, January 8th for Mini-tyke-Midget! You can register at

<http://rockyviewlacrosse.ca/register/winter-development-camp/>. We are also offering a GIRLS only Development Camp that starts on January 13th, spots are limited.

Novice “Like skilled grouping” Pilot Project

At the 2016 ALA AGM, the CDLA brought forth a proposal to make the Novice division no longer parity and go back to like skilled grouping. We discussed how the ALA’s decision to go to parity years ago has affected kids going into Peewee’s tiered format. The ALA agreed to the pilot project for 2 years, with Edmonton (GELC) showing the same interest! The purpose: To enhance and improve the experience of our novice players, families and coaches by grouping players into three separate skill groupings (similar but different to tiered). The goal for this change is three-fold. So how will this change affect the kids? Here is a breakdown of what to expect.

1. This change will better allow for ALL of our novice players to develop and avoid top players spending all the time with the ball while newer players rarely touch the ball. There is an immense

skill gap between players at this age (a player who may have five or six years of box and field under his belt compared to a kid who just picked up a stick) and it’s not fair to them or the coaches under the old model

2. Make coaching each grouping easier with a much smaller discrepancy in talent and skill. It will allow for easier planning of practice drills and season-long skill development goals

3. Make scheduling easier for the novice division, especially players.

****The ALA has also eliminated full contact at novice, making the legal form of contact **place and push**.**

Both of these changes used in conjunction – elimination of blanket parity while still retaining best aspects of parity within three groupings and adoption of place-and-push – will hopefully serve to make the experience more enjoyable for all the players, but especially that large grouping of new players we want to retain.

THE FOCUS IS ON DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITION, NOT WINNING.

To reiterate, these are LIKE-SKILL GROUPINGS meant to borrow from the best aspects of tiered and parity to provide the best possible environment for skill development and to increase retention by making it more fun for all players.

Tournaments:

- This was the one drawback to the new CDLA model. In order for the ALA to approve this change for us to run in 2017, we promised none of our top Group 1 teams would attend

novice tournaments in Alberta as their rosters would be too strong and would likely crush the competition. We will compile an out-of-province list of tournaments our clubs may want to attend at the A or comparable level. The CDLA will host tournaments to allow for this grouping

- Our Group 2 teams can enter but they will not have the one or two A-calibre players the rest of the province will have on their parity teams.
- Our Group 3 teams may or may not be competitive. The CDLA will host some tournaments to allow for this grouping.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact our novice director Jon at novice@rockyviewlacrosse.ca.

Boundary Changes

Boundaries was a big discussion this year with the CDLA and there have been some minor changes for the 2017 season and more to be discussed for the 2018 season. Redwood Meadows and Bragg Creek will now be part of the Sabrecats division, this will make for easier travel to the home arena. Bearspaw area will stay a part of Rockyview, the distance to the home arenas with another association is not any closer than the current distance. Springbank airport area, please email our registrar for clarification on this area, registrar@rockyviewlacrosse.ca.

New Board for 2017

We would like to welcome our new board members for the 2017 season!

President - Ashley Reutlinger

Equipment Director - Ashley Reutlinger

Vice President - Krista Lousier

Fundraising/Promotions - Shannon Kleisinger

Executive Director - Melanie Burnsed

Evaluations Director - Adam De Groot

Treasurer - Lisa Clarke

Female Programs - Terilynn Palmer

Coaching Director - Keith Berg

Mini-Tyke/Tyke Director - Michelle Anhorn

Discipline Director - Cameron Dick

Novice Director - Jon Cullen

Peewee Director - Martin Burnsed

Midget Director - Angela Sellwood

Bantam Director - Justin Lousier

Junior Director - Justin Lousier

