



Box 3018 Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2T1

November 10, 2020

RE: Age Division Update

Hello Everyone

There has been a large amount of discussion and activity on Social Media as it relates to the 17U age division change that was made by the Canadian Lacrosse Association (CLA) and the Alberta Lacrosse Association (ALA).

As well as a large amount of social media activity on the age grouping of 22 year old players changing to the junior division which was not motioned or approved at the CLA or ALA Level.

Listed below is the **CLA Policy** on Age divisions

18.2.1.2 Competition will be structured in the following categories:

Category	Age
Senior Masters	35 and over
Junior Masters	22 - 34
Senior	Over 21
Junior	21 and under
Intermediate	18 and under
17U	15 - 17
14U	13 and 14
12U	11 and 12
10U	9 and 10
8U	8 and under

18.2.1.3 Age is determined to be the age of a player that he or she is or will be in the calendar year of the current playing season. For example, for play anytime from January 1 and December 31, 2015 inclusive, the calendar year is 2015. If a player turns 22 years old in 2015, he/she is ineligible to play Junior in 2015.

Listed below is the **ALA Regulation** on Age divisions

5.03.1 **Box Lacrosse**

- 4) **Junior Registration** is open to players who are under 22 years of age and minimum 18 years of age on December 31 in the year in which they wish to compete.
- 6) **17U Registration** is open to players who are under 18 years of age and minimum 15 years of age on December 31 in the year in which they wish to compete.

For the 2021 season, a player who is born in 2004 (3rd year of the 17U) and wishes to play junior lacrosse may request an exception to move up by registering in the [ALA Intent to Play](#). The player will enter the criteria in 5.04.3 except d) Letter of Support of Junior coach and h) Impact of retention for player requesting exception as well as all players in program of minor and major lacrosse who may be affected in the ALA Intent to Play. Letters of support from a junior coach are to be emailed to the [ALA Office](#).

Registration will open December 1, 2020 and the deadline to register for an exception is March 1, 2021.

This is the ALA Regulation that outlines the deadline to request and the criteria that will be used in consideration of the exception by the ALA executive. As well as the deadline to request to revert back to minor lacrosse which is April 15 as approved by the ALA Executive.

- 5.04.3 Players in their 3rd year of the 17U age group of 5.03.1 6) 17U Registration may be approved to play major lacrosse with registration in the ALA Intent to Play Major Lacrosse Registration system and application to play major lacrosse approved by the ALA Executive based on the following criteria including but not limited to:
- a) Past level of play (A, B, C)
 - b) Years playing lacrosse
 - b) Participation in Alberta Summer Games and Team Alberta Box
 - c) Affiliation history with a Junior Lacrosse team
 - d) Letter of Support of Junior coach
 - e) DOB
 - f) Statement from player on rational why they wish to register in major lacrosse
 - h) Impact of retention for player requesting exception as well as all players in program of minor and major lacrosse who may be affected.
- 5.04.3.1 Players requesting exceptions as per 5.04.3 must be registered in the ALA Intent to Play Major Lacrosse Registration system prior to March 1 of given year.
- 5.04.3.2 Players approved to play major lacrosse may request to return to minor lacrosse prior to April 15 as approved by the ALA Executive. Transfer to minor lacrosse club will be dependent on available roster spots on date of transfer approval.

A common question that has arisen is - Can a player born in 2004 and playing junior lacrosse be eligible for TEAM ALBERTA and participate in the 2021 CLA 17U National Championships?

The answer is **YES** as per CLA policy

24.3 BOX LACROSSE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS

24.3.1 In order to be eligible to play in any CLA National Box Championship, a player must meet the eligibility requirements of their respective MA's regional play-downs. For Minor Nationals, a player must be eligible to play in play-downs in any jurisdiction in the MA where they are registered. They may play for the MA where they are registered, or they may play for the MA where they reside or for the First Nations MA if they are a member of the Iroquois Confederacy. On an annual basis, upon approval by the Box Sector, exceptions to this policy may be made by the Board to allow an MA to pick up players from another MA without the necessity of a transfer.

Member Association (MA) – Province or Territory who belongs to the CLA

The answer is **YES** as per ALA Regulations

3.04 All Team Alberta Players must be registered with an ALA Member Club in the applicable discipline of lacrosse that the player is trying out for prior to Team Alberta Tryouts.

The CLA's Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) committee is currently examining box lacrosse age categories. It will make a recommendation to the CLA Board of Directors and Membership at their May 2021 Semi-Annual Meeting. Any recommendations for changes to age categories would need to be approved by the Box Sector, but that would not be in place for the 2021 season.

I hope this communication clears up questions for parents and players while assisting in answering questions for the 2021 season. If you require further clarifications, please contact [Lisa Grant](#).

Thank you

Yours in lacrosse,



Darrel Knight
ALA President