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RMLL Update on 2021 Season Start
January 8, 2021
Duane Bratt
RMLL President

TO: All Alberta Female Players Born in 2004

WELCOME to Major Lacrosse!

This is an update on the 2021 season start.

In December, the ALA BOD decided to delay implementation for 17U and has decided to stay with the 16U age category for the 2021 season. The ALA's December 9, 2020 communication explaining this decision can be found at this link:

<https://rockymountainlax.com/ala-17u-division-update-december-9-2020/>

This means that those born in 2004 will play major lacrosse in 2021.

Before I provide an update on the 2021 season start, I would like to provide some information about Major Lacrosse.

Here are some of the significant differences between Minor and Major Lacrosse:

- all games are 3 twenty-minute stop time periods, with 10-minute intermissions with a minimum 30-minute warmup.
- Season is usually longer, depending upon how deep you go in the playoffs.
- Nets are bigger (4'X4'6" instead of 4'X4'4").
- Provincial travel (and in some divisions, inter-provincial travel).
- Home and away uniforms.
- New teams to play.
- Playing against better players will make you a much better player.
- Five-year age category.
- Different tactics and introduced and developed.
- In many cases, better coaching.

Major Lacrosse encompasses all players who turn 17 as of December 31, 2021 (birth year 2004). We have two age groups: Junior and Senior. Junior Lacrosse is for players between 17 and 21 years old as of December 31, 2021 and Senior Lacrosse is for players who are over the age of 21, who still wish to play competitive lacrosse. The governing body for Alberta Major Lacrosse is the Rocky Mountain Lacrosse League (RMLL).

In 2021, there are 7 Divisions and 65 teams in the RMLL:
Alberta Series Lacrosse (formerly Senior B) – 5 teams
Senior C – 9 teams
Junior A – 4 teams
Junior B Tier I – 15 teams
Junior B Tier II – 20 teams
Senior Women's – 5 teams
Junior Ladies – 7 teams

Each RMLL Division has a Commissioner who is appointed annually by the Franchises in a Division. The Commissioner is a Member of the RMLL Executive, represents their Franchises on the Executive and is responsible for administering their Division. All RMLL Divisions must meet the same standards and are treated equally.

The Commissioner for Junior Ladies Lacrosse is Tammy Machado
(abladieslaxcomish@gmail.com)

Junior Tiers

The Junior Ladies Division is one of the four Divisions in our Junior Program. The Junior Men's Program is divided into 3 tiers, Junior B Tier II, Junior B Tier I and Junior A. The Junior Ladies have an interlocking schedule with the Senior Women.

Junior Ladies Boundaries

Boundaries for the Junior Ladies differ slightly than the Minor Lacrosse programs.

Calgary Cardinals: The Calgary Cardinals Franchise has the first playing rights to the Graduating 16U players who reside in the boundaries of the Calgary Hornets Minor Lacrosse Association.

Rockyview Silvertips: The Rockyview Silvertips Jr. Ladies Franchise has the first playing rights to the Graduating 16U players who reside in the boundaries of the Rockyview Rage Minor Lacrosse Association, the Calgary Knights Minor Lacrosse Association and the Strathmore Venom Minor Lacrosse Association.

Okotoks Raiders: The Okotoks Raiders Jr. Ladies Franchise has the first playing rights to the Graduating 16U players who reside in the boundaries of the Okotoks Raiders Minor Lacrosse Association and the High River Heat Minor Lacrosse Association.

Red Deer Riot: The Red Deer Riot Franchise has the first playing rights to the Graduating 16U players from Blackfalds, Didsbury, Innisfail, Kneehills, Lacoka, Olds, Red Deer, Settler and Sylvan Lake Minor Lacrosse Associations.

Drillers: The Drillers Franchise has the first playing rights to the Graduating 16U players who reside in the following described boundaries: West of the City of Edmonton, north of highway 627 to highway 759. Then north of township road 514. North of the City of Edmonton to the west side of the North Saskatchewan river. From the river the north side of township road 542 to range road 224. West side of range road 224 to township road 544. North side of township road 544 to range road 220/215. West Side of range road 220/215 north to highway 15. North side of Highway 15 to Highway 855, then west side

of highway 855 Heading north.

Sherwood Park Titans: The Sherwood Park Titans Jr. Ladies Franchise has the first playing rights to the Graduating 16U players who reside in the following described boundaries: East of the city of Edmonton. East side of Range road 234 and as far south as Township road 510, north side of township road 510. To highway 14 then north side of highway 14 east. North boundary is east of the City of Edmonton up to highway 16 then the north side of highway 16 to the North Saskatchewan river then the east side of the river to the south side of township road 542 to range road 224, east side of range road 224 to township Road 544. South side of township road 544 to range road 220/215 East side of range road 220/215 north to highway 15. South side Of highway 15 to highway 855, east side of highway 855 heading North.

Capital Region Saints: The Capital Region Saints Franchise has the first playing rights to the Graduating 16U players who reside in the following described boundaries: City of Edmonton proper. East boundary is west side of Range road 234 and south side of Township road 510 until highway 14, then South side of highway 14. To the west, South of highway 627 to highway 759 then south of township road 514.

Players residing outside of the above boundaries are considered Free Agents and may register with the Franchise of their choice. Again, if you have any questions, please let Tammy know.

Registration

Registration in the RMLL is a two-step process

1. All first-year Juniors must register in 2021 with the Club/team which has their first playing rights. If you are unable to get the information you require, please e-mail Tammy at abladieslaxcomish@gmail.com and she can e-mail you back the contact person for the Junior Club/team you need to register with.
2. All Juniors **MUST ALSO** complete an on-line **RMLL Intent-To-Play form**. A player cannot go on the floor with a RMLL team unless they have completed the Intent-To-Play form. Go to this link for further information regarding the RMLL Intent-To-Play form:

<https://rockymountainlax.com/intent-to-play/>

Note: When you complete the RMLL Intent-To-Play form, you will need to submit the ALA Player Registration Fee of \$60.25.

Free Agents

A Junior Ladies Free Agent is a player who resides outside of the documented boundaries for the seven Junior Ladies Franchises set forth above.

Rosters

In Major Lacrosse, each team can have a maximum roster of 25 players. The exception to this is Junior Ladies and Alberta Series Lacrosse (Senior B) who can have a maximum roster of 30 and Senior Women and Senior C who can have a maximum roster of 40. However, for all teams in all Divisions, you can only dress 20 players for each game. i.e. max 18 runners and 2 goalies.

Travel

All Franchises in Major lacrosse, regardless of the Division they are in, must travel. It's up to the policies of the individual Franchise whether buses are used for travel games.

Schedules

We try to have all Division schedules posted on the RMLL website by mid-March. This gives players a six-week notice period in case they must arrange/re-arrange work schedules, etc. Depending on arena availability, we try to schedule weekday games against two teams in the same local area, leaving Saturday and Sunday for travel games. i.e. team travels or team plays a traveling team. Given this years' situation with Covid-19 this timetable may be delayed until we have received updated input from the Government of Alberta.

Player Development

Call-ups are an important piece of player development. The number of times a player can be a call-up during a Season is unlimited. To encourage call-ups, Junior Ladies and Senior Women have traditionally had a set night for weekday games. Historically Jr. Ladies is Wednesday, and Sr. Women is Tuesday. This allows a Jr. Ladies player to be a call-up for a Senior Women's Franchise on a Tuesday. Given the possible impact Covid-19 may have on scheduling this traditional scheduling and call ups may not be possible.

Governance

Governance rules in Major Lacrosse are different from Minor Lacrosse and policies may change from Division to Division depending on if a Division has their own Operating Policy.

Update on 2021 Season

The RMLL Executive had a December 20 meeting to discuss the planning for the 2021 season. We remain optimistic that there will be a 2021 season. However, there will be a delay to many of the essential preparations that are normally done. As a result, of Government of Alberta restrictions, due to Covid-19, on in-person gatherings and sport, we have had to delay the following events:

- Our annual Graduating 16U (formerly midget) information nights. These were initially scheduled to be held on January 7 (Calgary) and January 8 (Edmonton).
- All winter floor times by RMLL teams have been cancelled until further notice.

Once we have more information, we will announce the new dates of the above events.

There are several other points of information that need to be shared. We are working on two different schedule formats: 1) a regular schedule and 2) a cohort schedule. A cohort schedule (if required by Alberta Health Services) would involve the same teams playing each other for a sustained period, followed by a two-week break, and then a new set of teams would be arranged.

I would reiterate that we fully expect a 2021 season, but we do not know what form that will take. What we do know is that there will be a delay to several of the key events that allow us to prepare for the 2021 season. I can assure you that the ALA and RMLL remain

are monitoring and dealing with these matters and are working hard to make the necessary adjustments that will allow a 2021 season to be played.

Our next communication, hopefully coming soon, will include the new dates for the information Sessions, the details for registering in the RMLL Intent-to-Play system and the specifics for the 2021 Junior Ladies Division season.

Please be sure to visit the RMLL website on a regular basis for league and Franchise news, announcements, floor times, tryouts, and updates.

<http://www.rockymountainlax.com>

Also, follow the RMLL on Twitter @**RMLaxL**

For further information, Franchise contact information or any additional questions about the Junior Ladies Division, the RMLL, player rights, etc, please feel free to contact:

Tammy Machado, Jr. Ladies Commissioner, abladieslaxcomish@gmail.com

Christine Thielen, Executive Director, christinethielen@hotmail.com

Duane Bratt, President, dbratt@mtroyal.ca

Major Lacrosse is for those players aging out of Minor Lacrosse who still wish to play competitive lacrosse. The growth in Major Lacrosse and sustainability of Major Lacrosse teams is totally dependent on the number of players coming up from Minor Lacrosse. We sincerely hope you register for the 2021 Season and look forward assisting you in any way we can as you continue playing "*the fastest game on two feet*".