

Senior C Division 2024 Season in Review

1. Growth and Recruitment

The Senior C Division grew by one team bringing us to a total of 9 teams. The new addition to the South Division is the Lethbridge Pioneers. They join Calgary Bears, Calgary Irish, Airdrie Mohawks, and the Mountain View Stingers. The North Division consists of the Blackfalds Silverbacks, Lloydminster Rage, Edmonton Warriors, and Edmonton Miners.

Due to the addition of the team to the South Division, the number of players grew to 284 from 247 in the previous season. Four teams increased in size from 2023, one stayed the same, and three lost players. The changes were varied from one team gaining 8 and one losing nine. The Division had rosters varying from 24 to 39 players. A great improvement over last season is the decrease in the number of games with were one of the teams brought 10 or less players from four to one. and the drop from 21 to 16 games where one or both teams brought 11 to 15 players. Slightly more than half of the lower numbers were experienced by away teams, but the overall improvement in players on the bench is great to see. The need to call up Junior players while decreased in numbers still ran all the way through to the Provincial round.

We have a wide age range with our youngest player being 21 to our oldest being 64 years of age. The average age of the teams ranges from nearly 26 to nearly 36 when taking into consideration all the ages of the team's players. Overall, the average player is 30.25 years old. As an aside of the 284 players, 237 are the same age or younger than the Commissioner's oldest son.

Teams continued to add players to their roster over the course of the season with no last-minute trades.

During regular season play, each team played only the other teams within their division. In the North, each team plays the other three teams twice at home and twice away. In the South each team played the other four teams a total of three times. There was an imbalance to Home and Away regarding individual games, but each team had 6 home and 6 away games. This allowed each team a total of 12 intra division games.

2. Season Overview

Senior C is a fantastic place to be. We live by the motto "We just wanna play lacrosse." And they do!

The overall view is that the Senior C Division had a great season but was not hiccup free. We did not do the Crossover weekend as we explored a different format of Provincials.

3. Season Accomplishments

Our growth is a major accomplishment. Adding a team and having a slightly increased number of players on the other 8 teams is cause for excitement. In the regular season, we saw the Edmonton Miners defeat the Edmonton Warriors for the first time franchise history. The Blackfalds Silverbacks had the Senior C season leading record with 10 wins and a tie. The Calgary Irish won their first game since June 2022. We switched our Playoff/Provincial format to a Robin Round and one and done finals weekend. The families and players of the Blackfalds Silverbacks welcomed four teams to the Provincials

Weekend. They did such a fantastic job; the weekend was flawless and so much fun. The Calgary Bears took a mighty swing at the Airdrie Mohawks taking the South Division, something not accomplished in a decade. The Blackfalds Silverbacks won the North over the Edmonton Warriors also a first in a very long time. The weekend's Round Robin came down to a three-way tie. After a lot of math to determine the participants for the final, Airdrie Mohawks defeated the Blackfalds Silverbacks to retain the Provincial Trophy.

4. Season Setbacks

Throughout the season the cost of Referee travel fees is a genuine fear for the teams. Several games saw Referees travel hundreds of kilometers to be our third team on the floor.

We had a couple issues involving the people running the box. The penalty box is an intense place that can be very busy, and emotion filled. As on the floor, mistakes happen in the box too. All incidents were investigated, and parties spoken too. We anticipate no further issues in this area.

5. Looking to the Future

We want to support growth of lacrosse by encouraging new teams and players. We want to support our teams that struggle to fill a bench. We want to encourage our players to stay healthy and happy. When they retire from playing, we hope they'll stay involved in the game as coaches, referees, or fans. We want many seasons where both teams happily shake hands at the end of every game with their opponents and the referees.