

Surrey Lacrosse Association Reports – AGM 2024

1. President: Jamie Lamont

Congratulations to all the members of Surrey Minor Lacrosse on another successful season!

It's fantastic to see our overall registration numbers stabilizing and beginning to increase after the challenges of COVID. We do continue to have struggles within the female program, where registration numbers since COVID are not sufficient to field many teams. While we have worked hard with neighboring associations, we must continue to monitor and work to increase registration numbers for our female program.

The Surrey Minor Lacrosse executive team has made some significant strides over the past year. Here's a brief overview of the key achievements:

- 1. Community Exposure:** The early field registration incentive, offering Surrey Lacrosse t-shirts, has successfully promoted the club. Engaging players as ambassadors will undoubtedly help attract more interest from youth in the community.
- 2. Registration Process Improvements:** Addressing the challenges of last-minute registrations paid off, leading to the highest number of early applications to date. This proactive approach will help streamline future seasons.
- 3. Player Evaluations including mergers/partnerships with other associations where required:** The evaluation process for in-house teams went smoothly, thanks in part to the early registrations that allowed for better planning and communication with families. Additionally, there was a focus to ensure every player was matched with the right level of play - through evaluations and partnerships with neighboring associations - and this is truly paying off. With this commitment to fostering a fun and challenging environment for everyone, players continue to return and fewer players are leaving the game at the older age groups.
- 4. Stick to Schools Program:** Partnering with the Vancouver Warriors and visiting local schools, especially Clayton High School, has proven to be a fantastic opportunity for community engagement. The positive response from youth and the donation of equipment to Clayton High School will support the growth of lacrosse and their gym program.

These initiatives not only enhance the club's presence but also foster a love for lacrosse in the community.

In terms of facilities available within the City of Surrey, we have a number of updates; all positive news when looking at the growth of our association:

- The City of Surrey has confirmed that the Cloverdale Arena will remain for at least another 10-15 years.
- In the meantime, there are two brand new arenas currently being built in Cloverdale which will be available at the end of 2025. A third arena is currently out to tender at the same location.
- The City is also converting two grass fields at Cloverdale Athletic Park to synthetic turf. This includes the grass field that runs parallel to 64th Avenue and the one next to it farther in from the road. We have expressed and received permission to move our field lacrosse program to the furthest away from the road field when completed.
- Surrey United Soccer Club, in partnership with the City of Surrey, is building an indoor training facility with extra parking at the same location as the gravel field at Cloverdale Athletic Park. This will be an excellent resource for our younger programs as we have been given the opportunity to use the space.
- Plus, we are excited to report that after many meetings and years of advocacy, a fully covered box facility will be built at Softball City in South Surrey. This will provide an opportunity for indoor box lacrosse when the ice is still in the arenas, and weather is uncooperative. This is confirmed and out to tender with public consultations shortly.

These developments will enhance our training and playing opportunities.

Looking ahead, the future is indeed bright for Surrey Minor Lacrosse. Growth of the association, more exposure and promotion, streamlined processes, new and improved facilities – these all contribute to the

growth of the game we all love. And, there is a Senior A Men's team looking for a new home, and we are aware that they are trying to find a home in the City of Surrey!

As I wrap up my two-year term as President, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all past, present, and future volunteers who make Surrey lacrosse what it is today. Reflecting on my journey from a 7-year-old player to where I am now, I appreciate the invaluable life lessons and experiences I've gained through lacrosse —as a player, as a parent supporting my kids and as a volunteer within our association. I have seen countless volunteers dedicate their time and effort, rain or shine, to enrich our community through lacrosse. It has been a privilege to serve as President, and I will cherish these memories as I move forward. Thank you all for your support!

2. Vice President 1 Box: Tim Hamm

Again, the first thing to bring up when talking about a Rebels box season is a huge thank you to all the Rebels families (blood related or not) out there that brought your young athletes out to practices and games. Youth involvement in team sports like box lacrosse will be valuable to our players for years and years to come, great job Rebels.

This season had some ups and downs.

Tots continues to be a very good program that draws a number of families from outside Surrey Lacrosse minor boundaries.

Mixed U7, U11, U13 had mostly successful seasons.

Female and Mixed U15/U17 players had some difficulties getting through mergers/releases, which are always difficult, but our players mostly ended up with successful seasons after the details were finalized.

Mixed U9 for box lacrosse continues to be in a strange place with a divide between 3 v 3 versus 5 v 5. That age group has to navigate what has been imposed on us by BC Lacrosse and Lacrosse Canada while making sure the players are developing and loving this great sport. In the end, it felt like most players ended up with an overall positive season.

Our organization could really use some new volunteers to jump in to assist making the season filled with more ups and less downs. Particularly around the Female and U9 level. The more people lend a hand, the more we can come up with successes.

Despite being a smaller organization with a number of volunteer positions unfilled, we still pulled together a number of notable successes

- Gym sessions started in early January and carried through to Spring Break
- Equipment room cleaned out and inventory taken
- Evaluations/Tryout process largely completed before getting arena floor time
- Rebel RoundUp had many teams reaching out with positive feedback
- Rebel RoundUp had a new Official in Chief (OIC) overseeing the tournament

While I am proud of the work done to get those successes, I do wish that list was longer. I will work with whomever else jumps into the huddle to deliver successes. Rebels on 3... 1, 2, 3 REBELS!

Look forward to seeing you all at the arenas soon.

3. Vice President 2 Box: Katie Yugai

This season was a learning curve for myself, as I jumped from the role of manager/ coach/ division coordinator. Our current Rebels Executive and so many volunteers, especially at the younger ages, were helpful and supportive in helping with so many aspects of the season.

The season in general was one of growth for many areas of the association as we saw volunteers move on and we brought on many at the younger ages. Volunteer hours and our volunteer policy were discussed at many levels this year, and ultimately, we will have to work on incentives or ways to have more volunteers jump in to avoid a smaller group to do all the heavy lifting. Additional roles for volunteers is something that deserves

exploring. Regardless of the number of hours, or the policy, the aim is to get as many families involved in as many ways as possible. This includes everything from having older players return to coach, to developing our young referees.

It seems as though, like many other associations, our numbers since COVID have gone down and have not quite come back up to where they were pre COVID. Next year it would be great to continue to work on the community engagement/ event aspect in order to help get our association, and the game we all love so much, more exposure. Exploring the options of community events coordinator and someone to assist with technology/ websites would be great. A thank you to our current social media coordinator, Monika, for her work on our Instagram this season.

4. Vice President 1 Field: Jeff Glass³

In 2023/2024 season, the PCFLL's pilot project saw more teams in T1 and a more balanced T2 division. This allowed associations to host a tier 1 team by receiving players from other associations to create a more competitive team. Clubs with suitable division numbers for the project were allowed to release or receive the more skilled players helping to develop the league and the individual players at all levels.

This paved the way for Surrey and Delta to combine at U17 to create a T1 and T2 team. U17 T1 and T2 have not been without some struggles but overall, I believe this to be a step in the right direction for the league.

As we started the 2024/25 season, the divisions once again had changed by the reinstatement of U18. The 2023/24 season had seen U19 with good competition, but low numbers. Many associations had combined players just to create a team. The low numbers were a huge contribution to the change back.

The beginning of the 2024/25 season has seen the increase of released players. This was the result of continuing the pilot project from last season to our U18 and U15 divisions throughout the league. Moving players of similar abilities together, creating better competition at each level of U18/U15 T1 and T2. This was accomplished by combining divisions at two different associations and/or associations releasing players from one association to another. Surrey and Langley had also expanded this to our U13 division with the approval of the league and all other associations. We saw 9 players from Surrey be released to Langley to create a T1 team, with the mindset of continuing to develop our players.

While the PCFLL continues to try to improve things with the help of Associations representatives, the abuse of Officials is always a topic of concern along with the shortage. Numbers grew this year in the Youth division across the league.

We have teams and good numbers at U7, U9, 2@U11, U13, U15, and U18 divisions. Surrey has combined with Delta at the U15 and U18 level for the 2024/25 season, creating a Tier 1 and Tier 2 in each division. T1 hosted by Delta and T2 hosted by Surrey.

We continue to grow our great volunteers, but we are always looking for continued growth. Each of us brings different skills to the table and we want you to be part of it. New ideas and strategies are always welcome. Sport provides so many lifelong lessons and memories for everyone involved. Surrey Lacrosse has many great volunteers who work tirelessly to provide a safe, fun, and competitive environment for their players, and we are lucky to have them. I'm excited for what's to come in years to follow.

5. Vice President 2 Field: Karen Piper

Women's Field 2023-2024: This year the divisions were adjusted from U8W, U12W, U15W, U19W to U7W, U9W, U11W, U13W, U15W, U17W, U19W. Due to low registration numbers the whole women's field program merged with Langley's women's field program. This allowed for one team in each of the U11W, U13W, U15W, U17W division. The small handful of U9W players were aged up to U11W. Unfortunately for our U19W division the outcome was not a good one as with only 23 female players registered across the whole League (all Associations), the PCFLL decided to fold the U19W division.

* The U13W, U15W, & U17W teams participated in Provincials. Our [Langley/Surrey] U17 Women's team brought home the Bronze medal.

Women's Field 2024-2025: We are excited to be able to have a U11 Women's team in Surrey this season with 17 players. This team is made up of 13 U11W, 2 U9W, and 2 U13W, all from Surrey. It is amazing to watch these players come together as one team and play with so much heart and dedication. We wish them all the best for the remainder of this field season.

Unfortunately, due to low numbers in all our other Women's divisions, those players were all released to other Associations for this season. We wish them all the best for the remainder of this field season. U13W - released to Langley, U15W - released to Langley & New West, U18W - released to Coquitlam, Langley, & Maple Ridge

6. Registrar: Karen Piper

Box 2024: 160 players registered

Female Box: [23 players registered]* 5 Registered & 18 Released:

- U9F - 2 players = released to other Associations
- U11F - 7 player = released to another Association
- U13F - 1 player = released to another Association
- U15F - 3 player = released to other Associations
- U17F - 8 players =
 - 5 players merged with Delta to create one [U17F B] team
 - 3 players released to another Association
- U22F - 2 players = released to another Association

Coed Box: [155 players registered]

- U7 = 2 teams
- U9 = 3 teams
- U11 = 2 teams [1 A2 team & 1 C team]
- U13 = 2 teams [1 A2 team & 1 C team]
- U15 - merged with Delta to create 3 teams [A2, B, & C]
- U17 - merged with Delta to create 2 teams [A2 & B]

Field 2024-2025: This season we had 174 players register (135 Youth & 41 Women).

We released 27 players and 15 players withdrew.

This left 158 Players Registered to play in Surrey this season.

To try to boost our registration numbers, we offered a free t-shirt for all players who registered during our Early Bird Rate. This brought in 140 players. 55 players more than during last field season's Early Bird registration. Having players register early helps us as a Club to plan for teams, evaluations, and possible merges.

Teams:

- U7 Youth - 1 team
- U9 Youth - 1 team
- U11 Youth - 2 teams
- U13 Youth - 1 team
- U11 Womens - 1 team

For our U15 Youth & U18 Youth divisions, we merged with Delta to create a Tier 1 & Tier 2 team in each division.

7. Secretary: Susan dos Santos

The secretary position is a busy position as it manages many administrative aspects such as executive meetings (agenda and minutes), notices from BCLA that need action/communication, criminal record checks for all coaches and managers, society registration paperwork, etc. Tracking of the criminal record checks is helped by the government online system but still requires repeated reminders to many coaches/managers. I am thankful for Bert's help in reaching out to the coaches.

8. Treasurer – Brittany Scott

As of the end of August 2024, our combined bank and gaming balances stood at \$73,211.04 for Box and \$62,684.19 for Field. Unfortunately, we overpaid the City of Surrey for Box in Spring 2023. However, the silver lining is that we were able to apply much of that credit toward this year's floor rental with the city. A special thank you to Susan for her persistence in reaching out to the City and helping to resolve the math around this.

Regarding the gaming grant application, we were temporarily ineligible this year as our organization did not meet the financial need criteria, unlike when we received the grant previously.

The proposed budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year includes some minor adjustments, particularly to projected fees. While these changes may put us at risk of a deficit, we've taken steps to mitigate this, including raising registration fees, increasing team registration for our Box tournament, and applying the City of Surrey credit toward our Box season. Despite these challenges, we ended the fiscal year with a profit of \$18,656.79.

A huge thank you to Tim Hamm, Shannon Hamm, and Katie Paddon for organizing the Rebel Round Up Tournament. It was a resounding success and exceeded expectations from last year! And of course, thank you to everyone who contributed to making this a great year.

Comparison between 2023 and 2024

2023	2024
• Tournament profit (reg & raffle): \$16,021.78	• Tournament profit (reg & raffle): 16, 203.93 (an increase from last year)
• Tournament donation: \$1,600.00	• Tournament donation: \$4,000.00
• Tournament expense: \$8,213.60	• Tournament expense: \$9,740.06
• Profit Rebels Swag Box site: \$708.13 (The most profit we've ever received)	• Profit Rebels Swag Box site: 388.19
• Profit Warriors Swag field site: \$451.66	• Profit Warriors Swag field site (this field season): \$502.61

Donations for the year

- The family of Harry Norman Mayo graciously donated: \$2,000.00
- Ironworker's Local 97 donated to our tournament: \$2,000.00
- Northside Petroleum donated to our tournament: \$2,000.00

9. Coaching Coordinator: Bert Fong

Box (2024): There were 40 coaching applications received and 28 were listed on the Form 100. This is due to teams merging with other associations and being listed on their Form 100 as well as coaches for the Tots program who are not required to be listed on the Form 100.

Field (2023-2024): 27 coaching applications received and 16 listed on the Form 100 as a result of mergers with other associations and being listed on their Form 100.

Both box and field saw a decline in coaches this year which may not necessarily be a result of less applications, but less numbers for teams resulting in more releases/mergers occurring.

Some current and future state thoughts

Currently both box and field coach's Code Of Conduct (CoC) and Criminal Records Check (CRC) are being requested after the season starts and the coaches have been finalized. The future state would be to have these requested/done before the season starts as applications roll in because, once the season starts, it gets hectic for everyone in their roles to try and chase coaches to get their CoC and CRC completed.

Currently the coaching application for field doesn't ask for the home address of the applicant. The future state would be to duplicate the coaching application for box to include the home address because the address is required for the Form 100 as well as our database so it would be much easier to transfer that data from one source (coaching application) instead of having to go to different sources (coaching application & previous year's database)

10. Head Official (Box): vacant

11. Officials' Allocator (BOX & FIELD) YOUTH- Susan dos Santos

For the 2023/2024 Field Season we had:

Level 3: 2 Level 2: 2 // Level 1: 3 // Entry Level 1: 2

With local teams at U7/U9 we are able to train our Entry level officials in house. Langley has a growing group of officials but we continued to support U13 and above. On field mentoring continues to be a sought after priority but a challenge with a reduced pool of Senior Officials.

For the 2024/2025 Field Season we have:

Level 3: 2 Level 2: 2 // Level 1: 13 // Entry Level 1: 2

The season is off to a good start. Thankful for Cameron and Alp who were willing to work with the younger officials on u7/u9 games. We only have 2 new officials in field this year so this is a bit concerning and we will need to work hard to recruit for next season in order to keep building a sustainable rank. We have lost some who are now college age and beyond - either to injury or to jobs and life.

For 2024 Box season we had

Level 3: 2 // Level 2: 5 // Level 1: 8 // Entry: 5

Box season was busy, though with no U15/U17 teams playing out of Surrey there were less games to manage. Provincial leadership rolled out yet another new system for assigning the officials - the rollout was a bit smoother than the previous system attempt but still had some hiccups. A major headache is that many officials do not update their availability and so assignments are made and then declined, making more work for the allocator.

Surrey will need to continue to recruit new officials. It was hard this season due to the U15/U17 players not playing in house. We have lost a number of the post college age officials to their jobs and other endeavours. Surrey can be proud that we sent officials to help cover games in many communities across the entire lower mainland. To those who went, thank you for investing your time to keep the games going.

Several of our officials were able to gain valuable experience assisting at tournaments and were appreciated by those organizers. It was exciting to once again host our Rebel RoundUp tournament. This gave young officials a great opportunity to get some game experience. Thank you to Evan for all the hours of mentoring during the tournament. The young officials appreciated it.

Surrey again had officials selected to attend several Provincials and 1 official invited to the Senior B National Championship.

Congratulations to Angie Reid and Nicholas Dos Santos who were selected to attend the World Box Championship in Utica, New York in September 2024.

12. Equipment Manager: Jason Piper

No new equipment was purchased this year.

Looking to replace damaged and lost field jerseys for the next season.

13. Floor Allocator: Karlene Bateman

My second season was much easier to maneuver given my experiences the previous year. The season went well, with only a couple of issues, but they were handled by all those involved professionally and were resolved quickly. There were a couple of occasions with late cancellations and other issues, but nothing serious.

It is important to have a clear and comprehensive email at the outset explaining proper procedures and making it clear that only 1 person from the team - usually the manager - was to be the contact, otherwise wires would get crossed and problems would arise. There were a few hiccups with the merged teams, but again, nothing serious and it all worked out in the end. The City contacts were helpful and responded quickly for the most part. We still had the issue a couple of times at NSSIC where certain arena staff had a problem with teams being on the floor before the booking time. And thank you to Susan for stepping in when necessary!