

February 2016

To all CMLA Parents:

Your executive, division coordinators, coaches and assistant coaches are all working hard to ensure that we are ready for the 2015 season. One of our key priorities is to evaluate our players, and ensure that we place our athletes in the correct tier within a division, or that we balance teams for those divisions with multiple teams. This duty is in accordance with CMLA's mandate from BCLA, but your CMLA executive believes it also provides the optimum opportunity for your child to learn and grow among their peers.

### **Team Declarations**

Coquitlam Minor Lacrosse is a member of the Lower Mainland Minor Lacrosse Commission (LMMLC) which is responsible for enforcing all BCLA policies. Each year, CMLA reports total amount of players registered to the LMMLC and based on total player counts per Division, determines what level of teams must be declared. As an example, any time we have 6 teams or more in a specific Division, CMLA is mandated to declare 2 A1 teams for that specific Division regardless of talent or strength of teams.

### **Team Balancing**

Team balancing is also governed by the LMMLC with a policy that states that any Association that has more than 1 team at a specific tier within a Division must balance these teams. Failure to balance teams results in a fine to the Association and potential removal of the teams from Provincial competition.

The Chair of the LMMLC may also, at their discretion, force an Association to re-balance teams up to a specific date each year. Teams are not completely set until after the LMMLC determines the teams as being equally balanced. Parents should be aware that team movement can happen after the season gets started.

The only exception to this rule is when there are 2 "A1" teams within a specific Division in Pee wee, Bantam or Midget. In the case of 2 "A1" teams, Associations are allowed to declare unbalanced teams and have 1<sup>st</sup> team out and 2<sup>nd</sup> team out structure.

- Novice Division with multiple "A1" teams must be balanced regardless.

Team balancing is an extremely difficult task as there are so many variables. However, CMLA has tried to make the process as predictable as possible.

### **How it works:**

- All the players are evaluated over the course of a number of skills sessions and scrimmages.
  - Players are then drafted onto teams by coaches, based on a number of parameters which include skill, coachability, attitude, attendance, work ethic, and team dynamics.
- *This responsibility to balance teams is taken very seriously by all our coaches and with the guidance of our executive, we undertake a series of balancing games to ensure that teams are well balanced.*

- Players may be moved at any time during this balancing process so it's important to help your child understand that the teams are not set and this is not yet their team.
  - Once the season has started, the division coordinators and the executive will be monitoring the progress of the teams to ensure relative balancing.
- ***If its deemed that a team is unbalanced, CMLA has the discretion to move any player up until the deadline (usually beginning of May) to ensure that teams are balanced and therefore fair for every single player.***
- The decision to move a player is not taken lightly, as its well understood that its disruptive for the player and the family and *the decision to move a player is made by the coaches and the executive and is a final decision*, not to be disputed by the player family either verbally or in writing.

### **Communication Roles/Responsibilities**

We want to make sure that everyone understands their role in terms of communications.

#### **1. Communication During Balancing and Tiering Processes:**

##### **Parents or Players:**

- You are welcome to have dialogue with your division coordinator, regarding the wellbeing of your child.
  - *Requests for specific coaches or playing with friends will not be considered.*

##### **Executives, Coaches and Coordinators:**

- This group takes their responsibilities to ensure fair play very seriously and work diligently towards this.
  - We acknowledge that it is not easy, nor is it a perfect science.
- Your Head Coaches have accepted the responsibility of their duties – *to select the players that they deem the best for their team.*
  - They have a strategy that you may not be privy to and they are extremely capable of selecting the team to ensure either tiered performance or balanced performance.

#### **2. Communication Once Teams are Formed:**

##### **Parents or Players:**

- Dialogue is with your Team Manager, Assistant or Head Coaches as established at your team meeting.

##### **Assistant Coaches:**

- Dialogue is with your Head Coach and Parents/Players.

**Head Coach**

- Dialogue is with your Coordinator, and/or VP/President.

**How you can help as a Parent:**

1. **Be encouraging and positive** when speaking about lacrosse in front of your children.
2. **If you have an issue that you feel needs to be heard- dialogue with the chain of communication above.** If you go around it, we will start to take disciplinary action and this will have an effect on your child.
3. **If you have a good idea**, a better way to balance, draft - **please put it in proposal form and issue it to your division coordinator.** We welcome all great ideas and process improvement.
4. **We are always looking for help on the executive!!** – if you want to help, please approach any of the executive. We have roles we need to fill and need your help!!
5. **Support your coaches** in every way possible.

Your passion and support is truly appreciated – together we have created an amazing lacrosse club and it’s been an honour to watch your children grow and learn in so many ways over the years. We want to continue to develop our athletes and we want to be the association leading the way – with your support behind all the efforts on behalf of your children, we will see much success!!

My Signature verifies that I have read, understand and agree to abide by this structure and guidelines for CMLA Balancing process. Consequences may include removal from evaluations/try-outs, and/or removal from our club.

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_