



President's Annual Report
OCEANSIDE MINOR LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 6TH, 2024

Introduction

As President of the Oceanside Minor Lacrosse Association, I am proud to present this annual report, reflecting on an exciting and challenging year for our association. This year, we have made great strides in growing the sport of lacrosse within our community, but also faced some obstacles that we are actively working to overcome. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members, volunteers, coaches, and families for their continued support and dedication to our shared vision of making lacrosse a sport for all.

Highlights of the Year

This has been a year of significant accomplishments for our association, marked by both individual and team successes. Some key highlights include:

- **Record Participation:** We saw a 15% increase in player registrations across all divisions. First year we hosted teams in all divisions. Although the U11's, U15's and U17's were merged with the Alberni Minor Lacrosse association, we were very proud to have players playing. Our growth in participation is a direct result of our expanded outreach programs such as the RDN Try it Sessions, and the tireless efforts of our volunteers and coaching staff.
 - **New Programs Launched:** We successfully partnered with RDN, introducing young players to the sport in a supportive and fun environment. These Try it sessions have been a great success and have provided a pipeline of new players for our teams.
 - **Community Engagement:** This year we hosted our first opening ceremony bringing in families to have a hotdog and balloon hats by local clown Bobbo Da Clown, trying new skills that included fastest shot, accuracy shooting and just a whole bunch of fun. Canada Day Parade was a full trailer of kids waving to fans as we passed. The attempt to bring Lacrosse to the local schools to raise awareness of lacrosse and encourage youth participation was faced with a string of illnesses canceling our introduction in some schools. We look forward to bringing Lacrosse to the schools in the new year. Drop-ins are targeted to start in as early as January with a "Bring a Friend" incentive with hopes for new players to join a friend and try Lacrosse. Our local Hockey groups have shown interest in introducing lacrosse to the hockey kids by engaging in our proposal for lacrosse on skates!! We look forward to working with OMHL and bringing some fun to players as well.
-

Challenges Faced

While we have made remarkable progress, we also faced several challenges this year:

- **Volunteer Shortages:** As our programs grow, we have encountered difficulty in recruiting enough volunteers to support all aspects of our operations, particularly in coaching and officials. We are exploring new strategies to increase volunteer involvement, including a more positive and supportive environment for everyone to bring their own ideas and make a difference within our community. We have a lot of fun planning and organizing each month at our meetings.
 - **Facility Availability:** Access to high-quality practice in the arena continues to be a limiting factor for our teams. We are in discussions with the City of Parksville Parks Department to explore options for improvements to the Lacrosse Box. The availability within the arena is still a struggle that we are hopeful to overcome in the near future. Some things are tough but not impossible.
-

Financial Overview

Our financial position remains healthy. This year, we have plans to:

- Purchase subliminal Goalie bags, new netting for the nets, and ensure all equipment is up to par and safe for our youth to utilize.
 - Increased our fundraising efforts, including hosting another successful Shark Attack, which raised \$ 4,623.25 in 2023 and \$ 6,233.83 in 2024!!
 - There is the opportunity to host tournaments in our community should teams wish to. We would like to host Provincials in the future, and will be working with the RDN to secure longer floor time in order to plan this event.
 - Replace existing jerseys and shorts with new designs, same logo!!
-

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next year, we are excited about the opportunities ahead. Some of our key objectives for the coming year include:

- **Expanding Youth and Beginner Programs:** We aim to grow our youth programs and expand our beginner clinics to more local schools and community centers.
- **Coaching Education:** We are committed to improving the quality of coaching across all levels and will be offering as many coaching clinics and certification programs earlier in the season to ensure our coaches are well-equipped to develop the next generation of players.
- **Community Engagement and Inclusion:** We plan to deepen our commitment to diversity and inclusion by launching initiatives to make lacrosse more accessible to underrepresented communities in our area.

Additionally, we will continue working on securing more stable funding sources, including increasing sponsorships and exploring grant opportunities.

Acknowledgments

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of our association this year:

- To our coaches, who give countless hours to help our athletes develop both on and off the field.
- To our volunteers, whose hard work ensures that our events run smoothly and our programs are well-supported.
- To our families and players, who bring passion and enthusiasm to everything they do.

- And especially to our Board Members. Without this table of volunteers meeting monthly and texts almost daily, there would be none of this tonight. THANK YOU!!
-

Conclusion

In closing, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved this year. We have made significant progress in growing the sport of lacrosse, and with your continued support, we will build on this foundation for an even brighter future. Together, we are making a difference in our community, and I look forward to another successful year ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Oceanside Minor Lacrosse Association. Let's continue to work together to grow the sport and foster an inclusive and dynamic lacrosse community.

Sincerely,

Renee Allan President

Oceanside Minor Lacrosse Association