

Hello Lacrosse Families

Although we are just starting another great season your executive is seeking input on a discussion that would take considerable time to move from an idea to reality.

The topic is amalgamation of the Saanich Lacrosse Association with Peninsula and Esquimalt / Victoria. This is a something that has been informally discussed for the last few years.

Below is a Survey that has one question and the option to provide comments.

To be clear this is simply a starting point to move towards a conversation with the other associations and BCLA. No decisions have been made nor is this survey binding. Should the decision be made to move forward, a great deal of engagement will occur with the opportunity to vote on a specific motion.

The rationale for exploring amalgamation is:

- a) Every season our association (along with every other association) must declare how many teams/what tier we will have prior to the start of the season.
- b) At some divisions we struggle to form full teams and making team decisions is difficult. Some teams end up with a mix of A and B players.
- c) Another issue is being forced to release players from Saanich when we can't form a full second team. This happened at the Bantam division this year where we released 7 players.
- d) Registration at Juan de Fuca is approximately the same number as Saanich, Peninsula and Victoria/Esquimalt combined.
- e) A larger association is able to tier and balance teams due to the flexibility of larger numbers.
- f) The broad concept would be an A1, A2, B and C team in each division (likely more than one team in A2, B and C) and all our players would be able to play and compete and their skill level.
- g) The goal is to have all kids have fun, to have the capacity to accommodate players at all divisions and retain players from season to season.
- h) This may also be the time to consider amalgamating Saanich and Pac Rim as some associations in the lower mainland administer box and field.

Considerations:

- a) The non-competitive divisions of Mini-Tyke, Tyke and Novice would be balanced and selected by geography so the parents at these levels are not traveling from the Peninsula to Esquimalt for a weeknight practice.
- b) The competitive divisions of Peewee, Bantam, Midget would have all players assessed to play at the appropriate skill level.
- c) The selection of coaches would be a more formalized process to ensure the process is fair, transparent and that each team receives the best possible coaching.

The survey is only one question and there is room for comments. The Saanich Lacrosse Executive is asking for everyone to complete the survey to inform our decision making in this important discussion.

The survey will be open until May 5, 2019