



FEB 2026

WIZARDS LACROSSE

NORTH EDMONTON MINOR BOX LACROSSE NEWSLETTER

A Quick Hello from Communications

Hello Wizards families!

I'm Tiffany, and I'm thrilled to be your Communications Director for 2026! I'm excited to help bring a little extra energy, clarity, and connection to how we share what's happening with the Wizards!

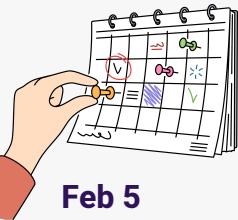
This season is shaping up to be a fun one with Come-Try events, Bring-a-Friend days, and lots of great opportunities for both new and returning players. My goal is to make sure you have the info you need when you need it, while also celebrating the awesome community that makes the Wizards so special. (Yay for Northsiders!)

Thanks for being part of the Wizards community. I can't wait to cheer on our kids, welcome new faces and coaches to the club family, and help make this a great season on and off the floor! Let's go Wizards!

— Tiffany Panas, Communications Director



KEY DATES AT A GLANCE



Feb 5	U17 A-Team [NORTH] Parent Info Meeting
Feb 10	A-Intent Deadline FREE Come-Try Session (Northwest)
Feb 15-25	U17A [NORTH] Tryouts
Feb (TBD)	U15A Tryouts U13A Tryouts
Feb 24	FREE Come-Try Session (Northeast)
Mar (TBD)	U11-U17 Evaluations
Apr 1	Coach Registration Deadline
Apr 13	Official Season Start!

A FULL AT-A-GLANCE OVERVIEW OF THE ENTIRE LACROSSE SEASON IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU ON OUR WEBSITE, UNDER THE MENU

FOR PARENTS > ANNUAL LACROSSE INFORMATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE: League Moved to **Tiered Play**

As we gear up for the upcoming season, we want to share that our league (GELC) **has transitioning to a tiered system**. Because of this shift, we strongly encourage all players (new and returning) to come out to our preseason events and evaluations.

Tiering Format:

- U7 and U9:** Not tiered. Clubs must maintain team parity within the division.
- U11, U13, U15:** Tiered into three levels – A, B, and C.
- U17:** Tiered into two levels – A and B.
- Female Lacrosse:** Not tiered. Will be organized as parity-based divisions.

Your participation in evaluations helps us accurately assess skills, interest, and places players where they'll succeed and grow.



FREE LACROSSE DAYS

YES! **FREE!** YOUR READ THAT CORRECTLY! BRING YOUR FRIENDS! **COME PLAY.**



COME-TRY DAYS



Bring a Friend. Be the Reason They Try Lacrosse.

Know someone who is lacrosse-curious but nervous to try? Our Come-Try Lacrosse sessions are designed specifically for players who are brand new to the sport.

Feb 10  Hilwie Hamdon School
13815 Cumberland Rd NW, Edmonton
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Feb 24  Bannerman School
14112 23 St NW, Edmonton
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

To help first-timers feel comfortable, existing players are encouraged to bring a friend who is trying lacrosse for the first time – to offer encouragement and familiarity.

Players aged 4-16 years are welcome, no matter their experience level.

WE PROVIDE: STICKS, COACHES, FUN.

YOU BRING: INDOOR SHOES, GLOVES (IF YOU HAVE THEM), CAGED HELMET, A FRIEND, THE HYPE!

Try the sport. Learn the game. Have a blast!



CHECK OUT THE FULL CLUB CALENDAR AT:

WIZARDSLACROSSE.CA



DOOR PRIZES AT EVERY COME-TRY EVENT!

Leave with a smile... and maybe a prize too!



We're turning our Come-Try Lacrosse events into a full-on fun fest, and everyone who attends gets entered to win a door prize!

Whether you're:

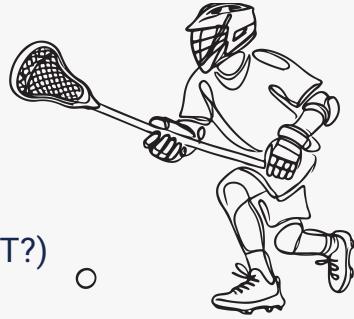
- A brand-new player trying lacrosse for the first time, or
- An existing Wizard bringing a friend.

YOU'RE ENTERED TO WIN A PRIZE!



EVALUATIONS 101

LET THE SORTING HAT WORK ITS MAGIC (BECAUSE WE'RE **WIZARDS...** GET IT?)



EVALUATIONS & TEAM PLACEMENT

Evaluations will take place in March and are used to help create balanced teams where players can develop and succeed.

Evaluations are designed to:

- Place players in the **appropriate tier** for skill development
- Create **balanced teams**
- Support long-term athlete development
- Ensure players have a positive + competitive season

Evaluations are not tryouts in the “cut” sense. We aim to place every registered player on a team.



How the Tiering System Works

Tier placement is about **player developmental fit**, NOT labels. Players can move between tiers year-to-year.



A – Advanced / Highly Competitive

- Strong lacrosse fundamentals
- Game awareness and decision-making
- Faster pace of play

B – Intermediate / Growing Competitive

- Solid fundamentals with room to grow
- Learning positional play and consistency

C – Developmental / Foundational

- Newer players or those building core skills
- Focus on confidence, basics, and enjoyment

How Age Divisions Are Evaluated (High-Level)

U7 / U9

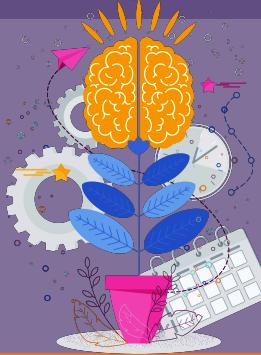
- Focus on fundamentals and enthusiasm
- Effort, coordination, and willingness to participate matter most

U11 / U13

- Balance of skills and game understanding
- Evaluators look at positional awareness and consistency
- Tier placement becomes more defined

U15 / U17

- Strong emphasis on game IQ, pace, and decision-making
- Physical readiness and competitiveness considered
- Tier placement aligns with league competition levels



EVALUATIONS 101

FAIR, STRUCTURED, **PLAYER-FIRST**. THIS IS WHERE CHAMPS ARE BUILT



EVALUATION STRUCTURE

Most age groups follow a station-based evaluation format:

1. **Check-In & Warm-Up**
2. **Skill Stations**
3. **Small-Area Games or Scrimmage**
4. **Coach Review & Scoring**



IMPORTANT

A Few Notes for Families during Evaluations

- One evaluation does not define a player
- **Coaches value effort and attitude as much as raw skill**
- Growth and improvement happen quickly, especially in younger divisions
- Movement between tiers can happen season to season



1 Check-In & Warm-Up

Players begin by checking in with their age group and getting settled into the space.

This portion includes:

- Age-group check-in
- A light, guided warm-up to reduce nerves and get bodies moving
- Assignment of jerseys or pinnies (when used)

Our goal here is simple: help players feel comfortable, confident, and ready to play.

Drill Stations

Players rotate through a series of stations that assess core lacrosse skills in a structured, supportive way. Stations may include:

- Passing & catching
- Cradling & ball control
- Shooting
- Footwork & agility
- Defensive positioning (age-appropriate)



Evaluators are looking at more than just outcomes. We focus on:

- Technique and fundamentals
- Effort and engagement
- Coachability and willingness to learn
- Overall game awareness

This approach allows players with different experience levels to be evaluated fairly.

Game or Scrimmage

Each session includes short, controlled game play. These small-area games or scrimmages allow coaches to observe:

- Decision-making under pressure
- Team play and communication
- Movement without the ball
- Hustle, effort, and awareness



This portion helps evaluators see how players apply their skills in game situations.

Coach Review & Scoring

After each evaluation session:

- Coaches and evaluators score players using a standardized evaluation rubric
- Multiple evaluators are involved to help reduce bias
- Scores are reviewed collectively

Final team placement decisions are made with care, collaboration, and the goal of creating balanced teams that support player development.

REGISTRATION NEWS

WHAT "NEW PLAYER FRIENDLY" REALLY MEANS



REGISTRATION QUESTIONS? We've Got You Covered!

To help keep things running smoothly, all registration-related questions are handled by one person: our amazing Registrar, Leanne Rempel! Leanne oversees player registration, club transfers, RAMP updates and confirmations, registration troubleshooting, and Respect in Sport troubleshooting.

If you have any questions for our Registrar, please email registrar@wizardslacrosse.ca

Directing these questions to the right Board Member helps us ensure families get answers quickly.

New to Lacrosse? You're in the Right Place All Skill Levels Welcome!

Never played before? **No problem.**

Lacrosse is one of the fastest-growing sports in Canada, and for good reason! It's fast-paced, **fun, inclusive, and builds confidence**, teamwork, and lifelong friendships.



Our club welcomes:

- First-time players (all age levels)
- Players of all experience levels
- Multi-sport athletes



No prior experience is required, and evaluations are designed to place players at the appropriate level so everyone can learn, grow, and enjoy the game.

If you've been considering giving lacrosse a try this spring, **February is the perfect time to register** and get started.

New Members Save with Early-Bird Pricing Now Until Registration Closes

Thinking about trying lacrosse for the first time? There's no better time to join!

All **new players who register** for the upcoming season will **receive early-bird pricing right up until registration closes**. That means first-time players can try lacrosse this spring at a discounted rate: no rush, no pressure.

Whether your player is brand new to the sport or coming from another activity, **we're excited to welcome them** to the floor and help them get started in a friendly, fun, and supportive environment.



REGISTRATION NEWS

GOT NERVES OF STEEL? THE CREASE IS CALLING



Goalies [Still] Wanted at Every Age Group

Try Something Unique This Season

We are actively recruiting new and returning goalies across all age divisions.

WHY TRY GOALIE?

- A unique and exciting position
- High demand at every level of the game
- Builds confidence, focus, and leadership
- Opportunities for additional training and support

NEW TO GOALIE? THAT'S OKAY!

We welcome first-time goalies and are happy to help guide players who are curious about stepping into the crease.



Goaltenders Special Registration Incentive

50% Fee Refund for Goaltenders

We are actively recruiting goalies in every age division for the upcoming season.

To support this important position, registered goaltenders are eligible to receive a 50% refund on their registration fees for the season.



Goaltenders registered for the 2026 lacrosse season will be eligible for a 50% registration fee discount.

Due to the limited number of teams, this discount will be **applied only after teams have been finalized**.



Eligible goaltenders will be required to sign a commitment agreement prior to receiving the discount.

NOTE: DISCOUNT APPLIES ONLY TO THE U11-U17 DIVISIONS, AS THESE AGE DIVISIONS HAVE DESIGNATED GOALTENDER POSITIONS.



REGISTRATION NEWS

STRONG PROGRAMS START WITH STRONG NUMBERS



GROWING THE FEMALE GAME

Committed to Opportunity + Division Development

Female lacrosse continues to be one of the fastest-growing areas of our club, and last season marked an exciting step forward. Across the GELC, clubs saw strong growth in female participation, **highlighting the increasing interest and enthusiasm** for the game at every age level.



As we rev up for the 2026 season, **our focus remains on creating the best possible playing experience for female athletes**. That means supporting fair team sizes, positive team environments, and meaningful player development, while ensuring that every athlete who wants to play has a pathway to do so.

To support this growth responsibly, we will be following the same successful registration approach used last season. For all Female Divisions, registration will move to a waitlist once a team reaches 18 runners and 1 goalie. **This allows the club to maintain balanced rosters and monitor interest closely.**

Our Registrar is actively managing the waitlist throughout the registration term. When the waitlist reaches 12 runners and 1 goalie, families will be contacted and the process of forming an additional team will begin. If waitlist numbers do not reach the threshold required to form a second team, players will have the option to transfer to another Female team within the GELC, **ensuring every athlete has an opportunity to play.**



Registering Early Helps the Club Build Strong, Supported Female Teams for the Season

Interested in joining a Female Division this season? Register early to help us plan teams and continue growing female lacrosse across all age categories. New and returning players are welcome, so be part of the game this season!

REGISTER ONLINE NOW AND HELP GROW THE FEMALE GAME.

LACROSSE PRESEASON: COACHING & CLUB SPOTLIGHT

LEADERS ON THE BENCH. MENTORS ON THE FLOOR.



COACHES [STILL] WANTED

Interested Men + Women Apply



Our club is gearing up for the 2026 season, and we're excited to welcome new and returning coaches to our team!

We are accepting **ALL APPLICATIONS**. Whether you're a seasoned player, a dedicated parent, or someone who simply wants to get involved, **no experience is necessary**. If you have the passion, we'll help guide you through the coaching pathway, provide resources, and connect you with mentors to **help you feel confident and prepared**.



If you're interested, or even just curious, please **check out the (revised) Coaching Application on our website**! We would love to have you join our coaching team and help shape an amazing season for our players.



SPOTLIGHT - WIZARDS COACHING DIRECTOR *ANDRÉ BOURNE*



A TRUE WIZARD: 15 SEASONS OF COACHING + COMMITMENT

Coach André didn't grow up with lacrosse, but the sport found him through the curiosity of his sons, and it quickly became **a family passion**. With years of coaching experience in soccer and hockey, stepping into lacrosse was a seamless fit.

What started at the grassroots level has grown into a **15-year coaching journey**, guiding athletes from their first sticks all the way to Junior on both the boys' and girls' sides. Every one of those 15 seasons has been spent with the Wizards Lacrosse Club, giving him the unique privilege of coaching each of his children along the way. His teams have **earned multiple GELC championships and made several ALA Provincial appearances**, but his greatest pride is watching players grow in skill and confidence.

Now a strong champion for expanding the girls' program, Coach André is excited for what's ahead and remains dedicated to helping shape the future of lacrosse in our community.

RESOURCES & SUPPORT

POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS. DRIVEN BY PASSION.



QUESTIONS? We're here to help!

Have a question and not sure where to find the answer? The first place to look is our website, as it is updated on a regular basis and it's a great tool for new and returning families.

- Help with **How to Register** is under the **Join Lacrosse** menu.
- Age division information is available under each **age category homepage** (ie. U7 Homepage, U9 Homepage).
- Head Coaches and Managers will be updating division calendars **once teams are formed** (ie. U9-1, U9-2).
- The **For Parents** menu has a variety of helpful info, including: volunteer info, equipment breakdown, and an arena locator.

All Board members are also available to answer your questions. Responsibilities and contact information are directly available through links on the website homepage.

GOT A GREAT LACROSSE MOMENT? WE WANT TO SEE IT!

We love celebrating our players — big wins, small wins, team moments, and everything in between! If you have photos, success stories, milestones, or a moment that made you proud, we'd love to **share it** in our newsletters, website, and social channels. **Send the news our way!**

Thank you for helping us highlight the amazing things happening across our club!

Help Us Keep the Jerseys Fresh (& the Shin Pads New!)

The Wizards Lacrosse Club relies on the support of businesses, individuals, donations, and corporate sponsorships to operate. Sponsorship opportunities create a unique win-win: **we advertise your business** while you support our club members. **Sponsorships start as low as \$150.**

READY TO BECOME A SPONSORSHIP PARTNER?

Download our Sponsorship Package on our website.

QUESTIONS?

Contact fundraising@wizardslacrosse.ca



**NORTH EDMONTON
WIZARDS LACROSSE**



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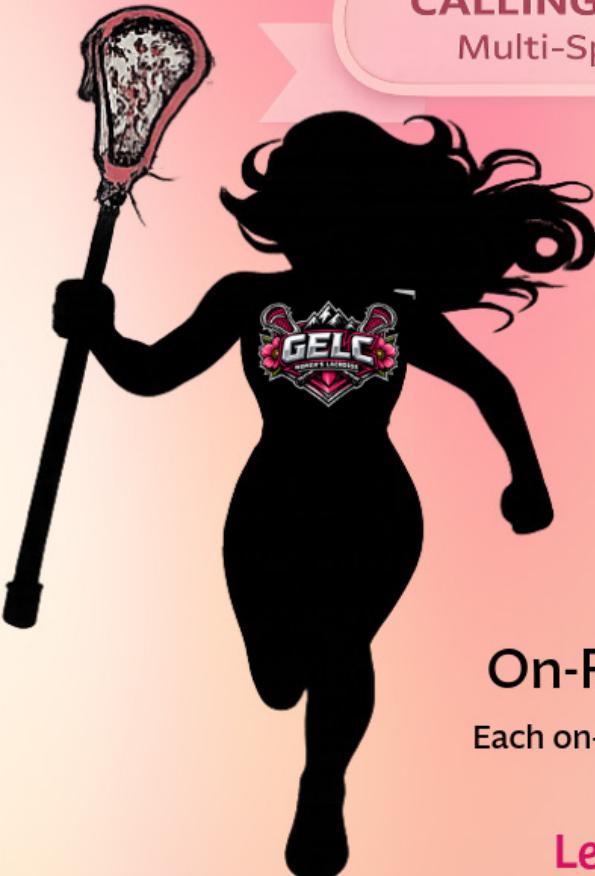


Game Her Way - Galentine's Day Event

February 14th, 2026

CALLING ALL SPORTS TEAMS

Multi-Sport Athletes Welcome



FREE Come & Try Female Drop-In

📍 Servus Credit Union Place, St. Albert

1:30pm - 3:30 PM (U9 - U13)

2:30pm - 4:30 PM (U15 - U17)

On-Floor Lacrosse + Bonding Experience

Each on-floor session is followed by a bonding event focused on girls in sport, leadership, confidence, and connection

Led by - LESLEY HAWKE

Team Finland Sixes Head Coach, Calgary Jr A Mounties Assistant Coach, former Team Alberta Coach, and Chairperson for Women's Box Lacrosse Global Network

