



JAN 2026

# WIZARDS LACROSSE

NORTH EDMONTON MINOR BOX LACROSSE NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR

From the Board of Directors

As we turn the page on another year, we're excited to begin preparations for what promises to be a fantastic upcoming lacrosse season. The energy around the club continues to grow, and we can't wait to welcome both returning players and many brand-new faces to the floor this spring.

January marks the official start of our pre-season: big planning begins, teams start to take shape, and players begin getting excited for evaluations in March and the season kickoff in April. Whether you're a veteran family or thinking about lacrosse for the very first time, now is the perfect time to get involved.



## Early-Bird Registration Ends January 16th

**Don't Miss Out on Savings!** Registration for the 2026 season is **now open**, and early-bird pricing is available.

Registering early:

- Secures your spot for the upcoming season
- Helps our club plan teams, coaching, and schedules
- Saves you money before regular pricing begins

**If your player is returning this season**, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of early-bird registration and lock in your spot early.

**EARLY REGISTRATION ALSO HELPS ENSURE SMOOTH EVALUATIONS AND BALANCED TEAMS IN MARCH.**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE: League Moving to **Tiered Play**

As we prepare for the upcoming season, we want to share that our league (GELC) is **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.



# REGISTRATION NEWS

WHAT "NEW PLAYER FRIENDLY" REALLY MEANS



## 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, **January is the perfect time to register** and get started.



## All New Players 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 reduced rate: no rush, no pressure.

**New U7 Player fees are \$120, which is ideal for 4-6 year olds who like to run and are looking for a sport to join!**

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

A DIFFERENT POSITION, A BIG IMPACT



## Goalies 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 the position? 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 prepare 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.**

# EVALUATIONS 101

EVERYONE PLAYS. EVERYONE LEARNS. EVERYONE GOES HOME TIRED.



## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM EVALUATIONS

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

A few important things to know:

- Evaluations are **not tryouts** – everyone who registers will play
- Players are assessed on effort, fundamentals, and game awareness
- The goal is fair placement and positive development

**More detailed evaluation schedules and information will be shared closer to March.**

## GETTING READY FOR THE SEASON

### Simple Preseason Tips

January and February are a great time to start easing back into lacrosse with no pressure. Some easy ways players can prepare:

**Wall Ball & Stick Skills:** Spending just a few minutes a day throwing and catching against a wall helps improve hand-eye coordination, stick control, and confidence with the ball.

**Stick Handling at Home:** Cradling, switching hands, and carrying the ball around the house or driveway builds familiarity with the stick. These simple movements help players feel more natural once they're back on the floor.

**Stay Active Through Other Sports:** Hockey, basketball, swimming, running. Any activity that keeps players moving helps maintain fitness, agility, and endurance. Multi-sport athletes often transition into lacrosse smoothly.



## EQUIPMENT CHECK

### Beat The Rush



Now is a great time to:

- Check stick length and pocket condition
- Make sure helmets & pads still fit
- Replace worn or broken equipment

If your player is new to lacrosse or trying goalie for the first time, **we are happy to offer equipment guidance** and support ahead of evaluations.

# LACROSSE PRESEASON

## COACHING & MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

THIS IS YOUR SECOND REMINDER TO FIND LAST YEAR'S MOUTH-GUARD. ○



## COACHES WANTED AT ALL AGE DIVISIONS We are building our Coaches Roster and want YOU!

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.



## PLAYER SPOTLIGHT: *ABIGAIL B.*

### FROM TYKES TO TEAM ALBERTA



Abigail's lacrosse journey began at just 7 years old, when she first picked up a stick in the Tykes program. From the very start, it was clear she had found something special. What began as curiosity quickly turned into dedication, and that dedication soon became **a true passion for the game**.

Abigail played on all-girls teams through the early years of her lacrosse career. In her third year of U15, she took on a new challenge by transitioning to play with the boys. This season, she earned a spot on the "A" team, becoming **the only girl on the North Lacrosse team**, a testament to her skill, confidence, and determination. Known for her persistence and tenacity, Abigail has made a name for herself among teammates, opponents, and coaches alike. Her strong hand-eye coordination, exceptional stick control, and fearless play have made her a force on the floor. **A true team player**, she leads both on and off the floor: setting up plays, making smart passes, and breaking through the opposition's defense.

Abigail's hard work and love for the game reached a major milestone this past summer when she was **selected to represent Team Alberta at the National Championships in Halifax**. Chosen as one of just 21 players from across the province, she had the opportunity to travel, compete at the highest level, and represent Alberta on the national stage.

Her journey is a powerful reminder of the opportunities lacrosse can provide, from lifelong friendships to elite competition and travel across the country. **Way to go Abigail!**

# LACROSSE PRESEASON

## EVENTS COMING UP IN JANUARY

A LITTLE STICK TIME GOES A LONG WAY



## DROP-IN DAYS

These drop-in floor times are for players to come out and shake the dust off, flex their throwing arm, and get back into their lacrosse groove! They are full of skills n drills!

Also, if your player intends to try out for an 'A' level spot or attend evaluations, drop-in days are a great way to warm-up and prepare.

**\$10 / DROP-IN SESSION**



SAVE YOURSELF TIME AT THE DOOR BY  
PRE-REGISTERING FOR DROP-IN DATES AT:

**WIZARDSLACROSSE.CA**



## 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.

**Best part: Come-Try days are completely FREE!**

To help first-timers feel comfortable, current players may attend only if they bring a friend who is **trying lacrosse for the first time** -- to offer encouragement and familiarity.

Players aged 5–17 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 COME TRY DATES AT:  
**WIZARDSLACROSSE.CA**

# RESOURCES & SUPPORT

WE PROMISE IT WILL MAKE SENSE... EVENTUALLY.



## 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 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](mailto:fundraising@wizardslacrosse.ca)



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