

## **2016 Season report Jr. and Sr. Ladies**

For the 2016 season the junior ladies had 6 teams and the senior ladies had 4 teams. We had 221 players total for the 2 divisions, in 2015 we had 187 so we are up but this was anticipated as there was a good contingent of midget players graduating up to Junior and graduating Juniors moving up to Senior and we were able to retain a good percentage of them plus the addition of a 4<sup>th</sup> senior team helped the numbers. We anticipate increases for the 2017 season and have had inquiries for new team applications (at least 1 junior in the south and 1 senior in the north)

We played a 16 game interlocking schedule for the 2016 season and plan on similar for the 2017 season (depending on the addition of new teams).

The Edmonton Bandits won the Senior division championship in a best of 3 games format playoff with the top two teams. The Jr. Titans won the Junior division in a mini tournament with the top 3 teams plus host. There was some very exciting lacrosse throughout the season.

With Team Alberta in their fourth year and nationals being held in Calgary this year this has started to generate a lot of interest in the ladies game. Additionally, Calgary hosted an invitational national tournament for the Senior Ladies.

It seemed last year that the majority of the games were close in score making for some very exciting lacrosse. The standings at the end of the season reflected this with a few exceptions.

We continue to have a lot of graduating midgets in the south and were able to add one junior team this year. We are hoping that one new team will apply for a team in the South, our overall retention for 2016 was 42%, so there are still a lot of players that we have the possibility of drawing on. We were also able to add a senior team in the North without taking away from existing rosters and both teams remaining competitive. As we continue to expand, we need to look at a second team in the south to balance things out as there appears to be a lot of graduating juniors looking to continue with lacrosse.

So far as going forward we have listened to comments both good and bad from people from different sports on why ladies do or don't play lacrosse. One of the concerns was it was too rough. Continued from previous seasons we as a league brought in supplementary discipline for checking from behind as this seemed to be the biggest concern. This has had a positive impact for the ladies as those penalties have decreased significantly (no supplementary discipline given in 2016). We must as a division continue to try our best to retain players and have listened to the player's comments, again both good and bad and will be discussing this at the Breakout session this November. Our main goal remains whoever wants to play should be able to play. We as a division need to continue to make decisions that strengthen the divisions as a whole.