

2017 Season Jr. Ladies Division Commissioner Report

For the 2017 season the junior ladies had 7 teams. We added one team with the addition of the Okotoks Raiders. This resulted in 3 teams in the North and 4 in the South. We had 132 players total, in 2016 we had 129 so we are up slightly, but we were expecting more with the addition of the Raiders. The drop off was with the Axemen, Cardinals and Saints. There was a good contingent of midget players graduating up to Junior so we were expecting each team to maintain status quo or increase their numbers.

We appear to have an issue with retention from midget to Junior. In 2016, there were 127 graduating midgets, we had 12 girls graduate to Seniors, so by simple math we only retained 15 players from midget to junior (just over 10% retention).

I received numerous requests for graduating midget players to play an extra year of midget due to size, experience or wanting to play with friends. Some of these requests were granted (with consultation of the applicable Junior team). With the lower numbers the teams did use more affiliates. We are hoping by giving the affiliates some exposure of the junior game that they feel more comfortable making the move from midget to Junior (and in turn pass the same message to their midget team mates). Going into 2018, there are 112 graduating midgets, as a group we need to strive to retain 50% to continue to maintain and grow the Junior Ladies division. There are only 9 ladies graduating to Senior so we are definitely looking to grow our numbers in 2018.

We played a 16 game interlocking schedule (with the Senior ladies) for the 2017 season and still need to discuss if we will continue with the interlocking schedule in 2018.

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.

There was no Team Alberta for the Jr. Ladies in 2017.

The Jr. Titans went through an undefeated season in 2017.

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.