



British Columbia Lacrosse Association

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TO: Senior Directorate Members, Senior League Members, Minor Directorate Members, Minor Box Commission Members, Field Directorate Members, Field League Members, BC Lacrosse Coaches Association, BCLA PacificSport Regional Coaches, B.C. Lacrosse Officials Association

FROM: The BC Lacrosse Association Executive Members

RE: SPIRIT – Sportsmanship, Passion, Integrity, Respect, Innovation, Trust

The 2011 Box Lacrosse Season is well under way, and although BC Lacrosse continues to be a healthy Provincial Sport Organization with an amazing number of passionate and committed members at all levels and disciplines of Lacrosse, we are hearing and seeing more complaints regarding harassment, violence and abusive behavior on and off the floor and field.

We encourage you to remind the volunteers and athletes within the associations, teams and clubs that you have contact with, and we encourage you, to keep our SPIRIT values at the forefront of your thoughts as you continue throughout the box and field lacrosse seasons. Remember, lacrosse is a game and lacrosse is fun.

The BC Lacrosse Association Executive's position is that all members, athletes, coaches and volunteers of the BCLA shall treat others fairly, with honour, dignity and respect for the people involved in the game of lacrosse and beyond. Abuse of any kind will not be tolerated in any aspect of this game, and it is up to each of us to ensure that we are all doing everything possible within our respective areas to ensure that potential volatile incidents are avoided, and when they unfortunately do happen, that they are dealt with immediately and effectively.

The CLA and FIL Rulebooks clearly state the rules of the game in each discipline, and the repercussions of any actions that violate those rules. As well, the BCLA outlines our members' Code of Conduct in our General Operating Policy REGULATION 1. All members are bound to play and abide by these rules and policies, and members who have a position of authority must consistently enforce these rules and policies.

The current trend is that abuse, harassment and violence in sport may lend itself to legal concerns. We would like to remind you and all of the members of the BCLA that, as a representative of Lacrosse in this province, it is our responsibility as the communication liaisons of the BCLA, to ensure that members of your community (i.e., League, Technical Support Group, or Directorate, and those members who fall under your jurisdiction) understand that abusive, harassing and/or violent behaviour, on or off the floor/field, is not acceptable, and that appropriate action will be taken should this type of conduct be witnessed.

It is our hope that this letter appears in your correspondence during your meetings, and please feel free to send this out to all of your lacrosse contacts.

Thank you for all you've done to ensure that Lacrosse thrives in BC.