



# Kelowna Minor Lacrosse Association: Novice Division – *Balanced Team Policy*

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**Governing principle:** Balanced teams. The Novice age group does not participate in tiering, and therefore the KMLA Executive and Coaching Coordinator will rigorously pursue equal balance of skill, talent and potential.

## ***Novice evaluation format & team split***

1. The Novice coaches *jointly* agree on evaluation practice plan. There will be two formal evaluation held for all registered Novice players.
2. These coaches, and a total of 2-6 assistants<sup>1</sup> (which may include KMLA Coaching Coordinator) will conduct the evaluation, and document player ratings using an evaluation form provided by the Coaching Coordinator.
3. Following the evaluation, players are ranked using the evaluation form, and Novice coaches divide players into what they believe are equal teams (“team 1”, “team 2”, “team 3”, etc.) based on the player evaluation ratings.
4. ***Before any announcements to players are made of who is on what team***, the recommended team split (list of named players) is sent to KMLA Coaching Coordinator (along with copies of all player rating forms). The Coaching Coordinator will arbitrate any minor disputes/uncertainties around placement of players “on the line”.
5. To limit gamesmanship, the KMLA Coaching Coordinator then meets with Novice coaches to conduct a random “hat draw” (coin toss decides who draws from the hat first, next, etc.).
  - Two (or more) pieces of paper will be placed in a hat, labelled “team 1”, “team 2”, etc. The numbered team drawn from the hat will be that coach’s team. **This draw will be final, no swapping** (see trade guidelines below).
6. Late registering players who are accepted/allowed to play, *or players who otherwise miss the Novice evaluation will be randomly allocated to the different teams by the KMLA Coaching Coordinator.*
7. At the discretion of *either* Novice coach, the Novice teams may be required to play an internal game before the end of the first week of the regular season (\*contingent on availability of a playing facility and referees). Such a request must be received by the KMLA Coaching Coordinator before April 25. This game would be observed by the KMLA Coaching Coordinator and used to help inform player trades. If an evaluation game can be arranged and played, the KMLA Coaching Coordinator will use game observations and post-game input from the

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<sup>1</sup> Each Novice Head Coach will be allowed to choose an equal number of evaluators.



Novice coaches to make recommendations on trades to the KMLA Executive. \*Trade recommendations arising from this mechanism (Coaching Coordinator recommendation following evaluation game) do *not* have to be approved by either Novice coach, but do require a majority vote from the KMLA Executive to ratify (email acceptable).

### ***Limitations on trading***

- i. Novice coaches who have sons/daughters playing will be allowed to swap their son/daughter with the other team, for the son/daughter of the coach on the other team (if applicable) or a player of equal calibre (per ranking data on standard evaluation forms), no approvals required.
- ii. Each Novice coach will be allowed to make a **maximum of 3** equal player trades, to address issues like: “little Johnny really loves little Sammy and wants to be on his team, because they live near each other and the parents want to car pool”, etc.
- iii. With the exception of trade recommendations made by the KMLA Coaching Coordinator following play of internal game (\*above), these trades must be approved first by both coaches **and** second a majority vote of the KMLA Executive (email vote acceptable) *before any notice is given to parents/players of movement*. Further, requests that are first approved by both coaches (email documentation required) must be submitted in writing (email acceptable) to the KMLA Executive (via President or Coaching Coordinator) **from the parent or legal guardian of the player**. The letter/email must state reasons for the request of player movement. *The KMLA Executive will not vote on movement decisions based on verbal descriptions of players from coaches or parents.*
- iv. The KMLA Executive’s decision will be final. No appeals.
- v. Novice coaches are responsible to govern expectations with parents/players, and not indicate any definitive team composition prior to completion of the procedures herein.

Note: nothing in this policy affects normal BCLA policies related to movement of players from Tyke to Novice or Novice to Pee Wee. BCLA policies already exist that govern playing up, via the “[one game permit](#)” system. Players are allowed to play “up” up to 4 games (including tournaments) per season subject to the approval in writing from the coach of the lower calibre/division (per BCLA Minor Directorate Policy).

KMLA Executive  
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