

## 2024 HAMILTON LACROSSE GIRLS FIELD DIRECTOR REPORT

AGM OCT. 29 at 7:30 p.m.  
Dave Andreychuck Mountain Arena

Directors: Jen and Bill Moore

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Hamilton Lacrosse girls' field program needs growth in all divisions, but especially in the U9, U11 and U13 programs in order to continue to develop players properly.

We were able to house rep teams in U11, 15 and 19 for the 2024 season. We also ran a U9 house league for an eight week program to introduce players and families to the sport.

Unfortunately, we noticed early in the registration process that we lacked players in all divisions from our beginner house league to U19. The only division with enough players was U15.

Our decision to pull players up into U19, U15 and U11 teams was necessary in order to put full teams together. This meant that many players were forced to play above their development age and in some cases skill. Parents were given the choice to move up. In doing this, we did have a handful of players drop out altogether.

We do feel some of the low registration numbers are related to Covid issues (knowledge and comfort in the sport for parents and players). It is also box lacrosse promotion pulling players away from the girls field game, both here in Hamilton and in Burlington.

We do feel that going forward, Hamilton should be looking to grow it's box programming for girls so more players aren't trying to play in the boys divisions or go to Burlington (the next closest centre for girls box lacrosse).

To start 2024, we were able to run a successful winter clinic and offer returning players a start of season run and a free try-lacrosse specifically for girls. We had 77 new and returning players register and participate for the winter clinics.

A full division house league program continues to be an important component to a complete girls field lacrosse program for Hamilton. Again as in 2023, we were just too strained and had to refocus what we were offering for the number of players even though our off season clinics were promising.

Registration numbers ended up with 59 players and 9 carded bench staff, a significant drop from 72/11 in 2023.

Highlighting Hamilton again this year was Coach Hannah Moore who won the OWFL U19 A Coach of the Year award for 2024.

Both U19 coaches Hannah Moore and Melanie Schleeahn went on to coach McMaster Women's team in 2024. We are excited to see what these Hamilton alumni can bring to the OUA and Hamilton.

Once again, thank you to all past and present players who have given back to our association. They are how we grow the sport by coaching, mentoring, and more.

Jen and Bill Moore