



Jr. B Tier I Breakout Meeting Minutes

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Radisson Hotel Edmonton South – Jubilee Ballroom

Attendees: NAML Crude (Scott Dokken, Terry Dokken, Kevin Chysyle), Calgary Chill (Tyler Worden), Manitoba Gryphons (Scott Kinnear, Ken Stuebing), Sherwood Park Titans (Scot McAvoy, Paul Rai, Jim Quinlan), Saskatchewan SWAT (Randy Trobak), Calgary Shamrocks (David Sucha, Jason Crook), Red Deer Rampage (Ron Just, Marty Vellner), Fort Saskatchewan Rebels (Paul Gumbch), Edmonton Warriors (Tony Materi, Rod Pruden), RMLL Vice-President/Acting JrB Commissioner (Duane Bratt).

Regrets: Calgary Mountaineers, Rockyview Silvertips

1. Introductions
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the 2011 Minutes
4. Commissioner Election.
 - There was an election between Tony Materi and Nathan Finkbeiner. There was a tie after the first ballot. Bratt, after consulting with other RMLL Executive members, reminded teams that as Acting JrB Commissioner he would have to break any ties. A second ballot was subsequently held and Nathan Finkbeiner was elected as the new JrB Commissioner.
5. Winnipeg Partner Program/Lacrosse in Manitoba (Ken Stuebing)
 - The Manitoba Gryphons delivered a presentation on the 2011 season. It covered both on-floor and off-floor activities. It was a very professional presentation. Some of the highlights included: the competitive level of the Gryphons on the floor was quite good (they went 7-7 in league play); the return of players, who had played elsewhere, back to Manitoba; the emphasis on personal values and commitment by the Gryphons organization; the purchase of a team bus; their success at fundraising. The Gryphons made it clear that they want to be a permanent member of the RMLL and play a full schedule.
6. Winnipeg in 2012
 - A free and full discussion was held with all the teams (minus Manitoba) about Manitoba's participation in the 2012 season. This discussion then continued with the Manitoba contingent joining the rest of the teams. The issues could be divided into financial and non-financial issues.

- There were three non-financial issues. First, was the ability of the officiating in Winnipeg. The teams stated that it was below the standard set by other RMLL refs. A number of possible options were suggested: the MLA will bring in a RIC for 2012; Manitoba refs could participate in the RMLL/ALRA Uber clinic; refs could travel with the teams from Alberta to Winnipeg (and perhaps do some minor lacrosse games too); and other options could be discussed through the RMLL/ALRA. Second, was the condition of the home arena in Winnipeg. The Gryphons told the division that a new floor coating will be added in 2012 to reduce slipperiness. In addition, a new upgraded water system has been completed which will address the shower issues. Third, was the time commitment to travel from Alberta to Winnipeg. One suggestion was to fly, if the funds could be found. Another suggestion was to travel on a long weekend.
- The financial issue was the biggest source of discontent. According to the Chill and the Warriors, it cost about \$10, 000 for them to travel to Winnipeg to play 2 games in 2011. There were numerous ideas on how to reduce costs. The first is to secure a hotel deal in Winnipeg that could be shared by all visiting teams. The second is to provide a percentage of the gate to the visiting teams. Third, is to apply to Alberta Sport and Recreation for travel funding. The ALA is already applying for a \$10, 000 grant. Fourth, when the RMLL gets a casino – it has applied for one for 2013 – it could allocate money to the division for travel to Winnipeg. Fifth, there is a project submission with the CLA for the prairie JrB lacrosse teams. The request, which was tabled in 2010, was for \$40, 000 (\$16 for Alberta, \$16 for Manitoba, and \$8 for Saskatchewan). This will be decided at the CLA AGM later in November 2011. Sixth, approach the Canadian Lacrosse Foundation for a donation. Although the CLF does not fund travel, the teams wonder whether this initiative is also about promoting junior lacrosse in Manitoba.
- After this lengthy discussion, three motions were put on the table. All motions were based on the idea that the Gryphons would play a full schedule and would host a minimum of 6 home games in Winnipeg (Saskatchewan, Edmonton-area, Calgary-area teams would travel). In

addition, this was for the 2012 season only. At the moment, decisions involving Winnipeg are on a year-to-year basis.

- Motion One was whether teams would travel to Winnipeg if there was no travel subsidy. This was defeated.
 - Motion Two was whether teams would travel to Winnipeg if 100% of their costs were subsidized. This motion passed.
 - Motion Three was whether teams would travel to Winnipeg if 50% of their costs were subsidized. This motion passed.
- Although many of the details need to be worked out, the Manitoba Gryphons have been accepted back into the JrB division for the 2012 season.

7. Regulation Changes that especially affect JrB Tier I division

- Regulation 33.3.2
 - There was a discussion on whether the SWAT should alternate divisions because of implications around the Founders Trophy. This was tabled pending the decision surrounding Manitoba.
 - Since Manitoba is now in the league, each division faces the same possibility of an Alberta team being defeated in the playoffs by a non-Alberta team. Therefore a regulation is not required.
- Regulation 23.11
 - Bratt emphasized that the proposed RMLL regulation surrounding 4th/5th year JrB players emerged out of the Executive (not the JrA division) and that the Executive was seeking feedback from the two divisions.
 - The proposed RMLL regulation was vigorously opposed by the JrB division. They pointed out that there are many reasons why players choose to play JrB instead of JrA: coaching, level of commitment, cost, personal enjoyment, desire to play with their friends, forced to be a role player in JrA, etc. In addition, Red Deer pointed out the travel issues for players in their city who play JrA. They did not feel that Red Deer players should be forced to travel to Edmonton or Calgary to play JrA lacrosse. The JrB teams maintained that players should not be forced to play JrA. Instead, the onus is on JrA teams to show that they have a good program. There was a fear that if players were prevented from playing JrB (play JrA or Tier II) that they would quit lacrosse.
 - Some advantages to the proposed policy were identified: some JrA caliber players are being held back by JrB coaches; JrA teams are keeping first year players for fear of sending them to JrB; etc. However, the JrB division believes that the disadvantages of a RMLL regulation substantially outweigh its benefits.

- Greg Lintz visited the meeting and explained that the JrA division had also opposed the proposed RMLL regulation. Instead the JrA teams offered a second proposal. This would involve a “blackout window” during which JrB teams would be prevented from contacting players that were on a JrA protected list. Some teams suggested modifications such as moving the blackout window into March, restricting it to graduating midgets, and allowing for JrA teams to give consent to allow a player to practice with a JrB team during that time period. However, at the end of the day, a majority of JrB teams approved the following motion “Leave the system alone as it is not broken.”

8. Interprovincial Transfer Policy

- Concern about the July 1 transfer date. This was because the JrB regular season in Ontario finishes in mid-June. The possibility exists, and is already occurring on a small scale, that a player could play an entire regular season in Ontario and then complete an inter-provincial transfer to compete in the Founders Trophy. The division recommends that the date for transfers be moved to June 1 or June 15.

9. 2012 Founders

- Teams were reminded that the Founders is in Six Nations for 2012. Travel options (ie., flying into Hamilton) and accommodation options (ie., staying in Hamilton or Brantford) were discussed.

10. Referee Evaluation Forms

- Greg Hart spoke to the teams and emphasized the importance of the referee evaluation forms. He maintained that these evaluations were used for both ref education and also in determining assignments (especially in the playoffs).
- The teams agreed that the same person would fill out the form for every game.

11. Orange Balls

- The teams agreed to use only white balls during game play.

12. Faceoffs

- The teams requested that the refs call faceoffs the same way that they do in SrB and JrA. They believed that too often the refs were awarding possession instead of allowing teams to compete for the ball off the draw.

13. Awards

- Teams agreed to vote on a series of awards: defender, goalie, coach, all-star team, etc. The results will be published on the RMLL website.

14. RMLL/CDLA and RMLL/GELC Graduating Midgets Information Night

- Calgary meeting is set for January 18, 2012 at Acadia Recreational Centre.
- Edmonton-area teams will work with GELC to establish one in Edmonton in January 2012.

15. RMLL North and South Combines

- South combine will be on January 28, 2012.
- North combine will be on January 21, 2012.
- Combine will include graduating midgets and non-protected Tier II/III players.

16. Date of North and South Drafts

- North draft will be on February 13, 2012
- South draft will be on February 15, 2012

17. Scheduling

- See attached framework.
18. Playoffs
- See the attached framework.
19. Mandatory Use of RMLL Live Box Score
- Amanda Thielen and Kevin Murray gave a presentation on the RMLL website. They emphasized that the live box score needs to be completed for each game.
20. Aggravated high sticking penalty
- New RMLL regulation allows for four different high sticking penalties
 - 2 minute minor
 - 5 minute major
 - 5 minute major + game misconduct
 - Match penalty
21. Amending the JrB Operating Policy
- The JrB Operating Policy needs to be revised.
 - This will be a task for the new JrB Commissioner.
22. Suggested dates for coaching clinics
- Coaches were reminded, and encouraged to attend, the RMLL Super Clinic on April 13-15, 2012.
23. Season passes for RMLL coaches.
- The teams are requesting that the RMLL Executive pass a regulation which would give each RMLL team 3 passes for all RMLL games. This would facilitate intra and inter-division scouting, and increase attendance at games.