

RMLL RIC Report – 2015

Last year in my report to the RMLL, I wrote “2014 was easily the most difficult in my 8 year tenure as the RMLL RIC. Fortunately, this did not come as a result of an increase in violent play or schedule disruptions or anything else involving RMLL teams or administration of the RMLL or ALA, but rather due to an insufficient supply of adult referees in Alberta and the impact that this shortage has on the ability of the ALRA to service the RMLL and the needs of its teams. **Simply put, the ALRA currently does not have a sufficient senior referee base to adequately service the probable RMLL schedule for 2015 within its currently constituted projected parameters.** My hope is that scheduling issues can be resolved and that we are able to construct a schedule for the 2015 season that is workable and amenable to all stakeholders.”

Unfortunately I proved to be prophetic as for the first time ever the ALRA had to request the RMLL to move a game because we had no referees to assign to it. Fortunately we did make some strides in altering the actual schedule as there were more games played on Fridays in 2015 than ever before. Hopefully this trend can be continued in 2016. Ten to twelve games changed in this manner can be significant to the ALRA.

Referees to Nationals

Over my term as RMLL RIC the selection of a list of referees by the ALRA for submission to the ALA to referee in the major CLA nationals has been a regular source of controversy and in my opinion unnecessary conflict. I would suggest that this process needs to be reformed.

The ALRA first needs to know what specific requirements are mandated by the CLA in order to referee in each of the major nationals we send referees to. Secondly, the ALA needs to concur with those standards and work with the ALRA to vet the list of candidates so that individuals unacceptable to it are advised of their unacceptability well ahead of the evaluation process. Thirdly a realistic timeline for evaluation must be established so that the ALRA can properly fulfill its obligations in the process. Hopefully the selection process will become more orderly with these protocols in place.

Junior A

This division is never easy to find adequate referees for. The games are fast paced, very aggressive and fairly skilled and the referees adequately able to officiate these games are few. The players are anxious to perform and the coaches are almost all Type A personalities. That being said, 2015 was particularly difficult for many reasons but the upshot is that this division of four teams playing 46 league and playoff games, accrued 9 game misconducts to non-playing personnel and thus accounted for **57% of the game misconducts** handed out to coaches in the RMLL in 2015. By contrast, Senior B

had zero and Tier 1 Junior had one. The Western Hockey League, with just as many Type A full time coaches, had 3 game misconducts in 792 games. This scenario is a stain on Alberta lacrosse and particularly on the RMLL. Obviously this is a league with little concept of its public image and change will have to come from the outside. The RMLL needs to take action here.

2016

Although the relationship between the ALRA and the RMLL has always been extremely positive I would recommend the following changes be made to ensure a more seamless conduct of operations in 2016.

1. The ALRA assignors will continue to assign RMLL travel and playoff games on a “first priority basis”. Concurrent games between teams located in the same general area, no matter what the level, will be necessarily continue to be assigned as a lower priority in 2016
2. ALRA members will be again be notified to submit only airline tickets and hotel bills for approved travel, through the RMLL RIC, to the RMLL for payment during the season. Mileage and per diems will be submitted only through the ALRA aggregate invoices to the RMLL.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the RMLL this past season. Your time, commitment and passion to lacrosse is appreciated by the members of the ALRA.

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Warren Renden

RMLL RIC