

2008 RMLL Sr.Division Commissioners Report

The 2008 season for the Senior division showed signs of parity. 4 of the 5 teams could have finished anywhere from 1 to 4. The skill level has risen dramatically & further improvement can be gained from careful planning & recruitment. We had a setback to the schedule early with Red Deer dropping out at the last minute, but persevered with some creative scheduling with the Jr.A division & using Red Deer as a neutral site to offset the odd number of games between north & south. We still have some scheduling issues in regards to a balanced schedule, but expect to have them solved for the coming 2009 season.

We are expecting a very strong bid from an Edmonton group to equal the number of teams in each major centre to 3 apiece. I expect this will bring an even more level playing field between the north/south & give some players in the area a chance to get back in the game. I will be looking even further into expanding to a "C" division, giving even more players a chance to participate & improve their skills to a point where if they stay in the game, will get a chance to play "B" ball. I do need someone to step up from every lacrosse area to help get this started, as many kids coming up from Jr. get left by the wayside because they can't crack the roster of a B team & are left with nowhere to play. This would afford them that chance. This will apply to both Calgary & Edmonton, as well as smaller centres with less players to draw from, but can still compete at that level.

The Sherwood Park Outlaws led by Shauna Sterpam & Brian Broks, held a very successful Presidents Cup. The action on the floor was superb, the tourney was extremely well run & the refereeing was excellent. Congratulations to the Outlaws for a silver finish, and the Airdrie Knights showed well, after a slow start. I was proud of both teams as they showed a lot of heart & desire. The Owen Sound team was the class of the tourney on the floor, but unfortunately, showed very little, off it. Over all, a very good tournament for Alberta lacrosse. Based on the development of our league, I expect that Alberta will compete for gold at every one of these events in the future.

We are still looking for a person to run the stats for our division. We expect to establish a user friendly website for this end. This will be decided at the AGM breakout, along with other pertinent issues.

This season, a new net dimension rule will be enforced in the Sr.division. The new dimensions will be 4'6x 4'. This should increase scoring & make our game even more exciting for the fans. Speaking of fans, we definitely need more. The onus is on each team to increase the awareness of our sport in their area. This means better coverage from the media, better marketing, and improved community relations with local minor teams. It is imperative that we make every effort to get lacrosse fans to the buildings to see the best caliber lacrosse we have to offer. In 5 years, I expect to see full buildings of rabid fans, to cheer on their local team. This has to start with the local minor teams. If you get the kids to come out, their parents will follow. There is your fan base, but we need to give them a reason to come out. We will implement a 5 year marketing plan to achieve this goal, starting at the AGM this year.

In summation, it was a good year for our division, things went pretty smooth, only 2 suspensions, the games were very competitive and we had a successful season overall. Looking forward to an even better one, next year.

Yours in Lacrosse,
Mike Fynn,
Sr. Div.commissioner