

Report -Tier III – 2007

The Tier III program went quite well this year. Having said that, it was not without its problems. The North, Central and South divisions seemed to work well for the most part. The North struggled as it had only three teams, Fort Mac Murray, Vermillion and Lloydminster. Fort MacMurray was a challenge as they struggled with numbers and had to have some concessions made for them to stay a team. I am positive Lloydminster and Vermilion were quite sick and tired of playing each other by the season's end. I am not quite sure why there are no Tier III teams in Edmonton. In any case the three divisions were well represented at Provincials with Gold going to the North, Vermilion Roar, Silver going to the Central, Calgary Sabrecats and Bronze going to the South, Medicine Hat Sun Devils. No "one" division dominated.

Initially we had planned on three Tier III Tournaments through out the season. (One each in the South, Central and North). The idea was to get some change up for the teams and allow them to compete outside of their divisions prior to the Provincials. Vermilion had tried to get one going at the start of the season, but unfortunately had to cancel due to lack of commitment from the teams. Medicine Hat hosted a Tier III division during their annual LAX to the MAX Tournament. It was well attended as it was the year previous. Okotoks topped off the season by hosting Tier III Provincials.

I think we should be looking at the divisions again this year. The Tier III division is considered to be a developmental level for the junior age player that is not quite ready to make the time commitment needed at the higher levels. He or she may just need more time to develop skills and confidence that come with making the jump to Major lacrosse. I truly believe if we project this level as such, to our players, our numbers will increase and the strength of our Tier II and Tier I will benefit. I hope to address this and any others issues at our breakout meeting. Thanks for the support this past year.

Linda Robertson

Tier III Commissioner