



Presidents Report RMLL 2012

2012 proved to be a very frustrating year for the RMLL. It seems that every division had issues. From Junior A/Senior B interlock, Lethbridge arena miscommunication, through to disciplinary issues with teams, coaches and players. The incidences continue to rise as do the perceived notion that anyone can appeal a decision if they don't agree with the outcome. This has gone unabated despite new regulations put in place by the RMLL. Countless hours of volunteer time is spent on committees. These decisions are not easy or popular. They are meant to deter. To then waste countless more volunteer hours on needless appeals is, to say the least, counter productive. It is incumbent upon the ALA to review their regulations with a goal to limit what can be appealed. Failure to come up with a solution to this issue will no doubt cause many volunteers to leave lacrosse.

Officiating is in serious need of review. The ALRA was in transition this year. This resulted in the officials not being able to develop, as they should. Mentoring program, while noted as a requirement for 2012, seemed almost non-existent. If the ALRA is to develop officials for major lacrosse, steps must be taken by all 3 parties (ALA, RMLL, ALRA) to commit to development. This year resulted in costs at an all time high. \$32,000 in travel costs and a 10% increase in fees. Developing referees for major lacrosse will have a positive impact in reducing these fees in the future

There were a number of teams that dropped out leaving holes to fill. Worse, teams that committed to the year had less than expected players. This resulted in forfeiting of games. This affects the team that forfeited as fines are levied. It affects the other team as they are left without a game, resulting in player dissatisfaction. The RMLL needs to review rules governing team applications. We need these tightened and the team applications scrutinized to a greater degree.

There were some bright spots this year. Junior A playoffs proved to be some of the best lacrosse of the season. Exciting, fast paced and intense. Junior B Mountaineers showed very well at Founders, taking bronze.

In summary, I feel we need to take an in-depth look at the low points of this year. We need to analyze what went wrong. We must put in place plans that will prevent the same things from happening. Failure to learn these mistakes will result in yet another frustrating season. Something that volunteers can ill afford.

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