

RMLL RIC Report 2012

The 2012 season was unremarkable in many aspects of the relationship between the ALRA and the RMLL. Our members got CLA certified, were assigned to games and we were able to cover all the games within our jurisdiction again this season. We had the usual number of complaints about the quality of officials assigned to these games.

There were very few (if any) major incidents reported to me this year and fortunately these kind of things have taken a precipitous drop during my six year tenure as RMLL RIC. That is not to say that there are not problems or areas that need improvement, but overall I think that the ALRA was able to service the needs of the RMLL effectively again in 2012.

Travel

As a rule, most referees want to referee near their homes and are not begging for travel assignments. Travel assignments however have become a necessity in the RMLL and so there is an on-going stress for assignors in getting higher level officials to take games outside their own backyard. We were able to get all these games assigned again this season but there is a substantial cost to doing this. Teams have to recognize the cost of referee travel as intrinsic to the geography that our leagues encompass.

Officials Development

We have recognized that as the RMLL grows new divisions into areas that have no history of operating those divisions, that there is going to be a skills gap for some of the officials that are needed to referee those divisions in those areas. The ALRA, with the financial support of the ALA, was allowed to fund travel of officials from underdeveloped areas of the province into the metropolitan areas of Edmonton and Calgary in order to give these officials further game experience. This was found to be useful and hopefully will be continued and expanded in 2013.

League Development

Attempts to work on game development within the leagues that are governed by the RMLL went spectacularly sideways this year and as yet the ALA has not determined proper protocols for this area of operation. We probably need to await such direction before league wide initiatives are undertaken within the RMLL

Playoff Scheduling

While better than in 2011, this is an area that was not seamlessly administered by some of our leagues in 2012 and a real overall to this aspect of RMLL scheduling needs to be considered.

Thanks need to go out to Christine Thielen for her guidance in many matters over the season and to Amanda Thielen for her patience in dealing with the sloppy and incorrect game sheets that were sometimes signed off on by ALRA members who know better and need to do better.

I also want to specifically thank the four individuals who assigned the RMLL games this season. Adam Crowe, Val Miles, Marc Andre Filion and Scott Walter, you all did a great job and I hope that you are all willing to do it again next season.

Submitted by

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RIC RMLL