

2013 RMLL DISCIPLINE REPORT

August 21, 2013

Hello fellow RMLL members,

This season saw a reduction in actual hearings, mostly due to division commissioners handling most of the discipline.

I congratulate & thank all of you for that.

Most of the hearings held by a discipline committee, were incidents of Code of Conduct violations.

These are serious charges brought by RMLL members, against another RMLL member. Most of them deal with words spoken, but many were from the social network, (emails, twitter, facebook etc.) I would like to remind everyone to be observant of these code of conduct expectations. Be mindful of what you post & whom you post it to. If it is inflammatory, it will more than likely come back at you.

Alcohol violations & fighting in stands came to the forefront this season. Those incidents received the stiffest penalties, due to its negative effect on the game of lacrosse in the RMLL & Alberta lacrosse in general. The discipline handed out in these circumstances, were in accordance with similar previous incidents. Another positive note, was the reduction of abuse of officials suspensions. There were incidents of course, but did not warrant any special discipline. I have yet to see a referee change their mind after a call just because you yelled at him/her.

Appeals: Most of the time, when discipline is handed down, someone is unhappy. Let me tell you that no one is happy when discipline is administered. From the discipline committee members, to the executive, to the affected teams & players. It takes time, effort & money to hold the hearings. During my tenure, virtually every decision has been unanimous. That means all 3 members/peers agree with the decision. I have yet to see an unjust decision made by any of those committees

Refer to Bylaw 13.13: There is no appeal from an Appeal Committee decision. Appeals themselves waste more time & money and rarely, if ever, get reversed or even revised. Everyone thinks that their situation is unique. Let me dispel that myth for you. Your situation has happened before & was dealt with in probably the same manner as it is now. Remember that when considering this option.

In closing, I would like to thank all the volunteers from every team & executive, for your time & dedication to our great game of lacrosse.

Mike Fynn

RMLL Discipline & Appeals Commissioner