

Jr. B Tier III Season Report - 2013

2013 started off with 10 teams. In the end we ended up with eight teams.

Badlands submitted a team, however, lack of players had them pulling out a few weeks before the start of the season. The Sabrecats folded their junior program and the Hornets (Wranglers) felt they could pick up their players so they submitted a second tier III team. In the end they could not generate enough interest and withdrew the team.

The Mavericks benefited the most from the Sabrecats lack of a junior program. It gave them their largest, most committed team of players they have had in years.

Low registration was a concern for two teams; the Sun Devils relied heavily on their over sized midget team to maintain their roster. Lethbridge listed both goalies to the tier III team so they could move easily between both tier II and tier III divisions.

Several outstanding officials were noted, however, there as a few that could have their skills updated. Coming into playoffs a request was made to the RIC disallowing one referee from games. He ended up officiating a playoff game and it was like watching a circus in 30 second increments.

Several coaches were not clear on the new fighting regulation. Two teams sat players thinking they were suspended - when they were not suspended at all. Some of the rural coaches will be retiring in the next two years. This is a concern as there may be no junior champion for their area.

Brooks was to host provincials but upon realizing early in the season they would most likely not qualify withdrew. A request to host was made and the games were awarded to the Mavericks. The host team was not as organized as I had hoped and several oddities left other teams feeling left out. Spectators were quick to voice their opinions. Reassurances were made that they would not happen in future games.

Like all divisions, the June flooding required teams to be flexible and mindful of those who were severely affected. It was decided that the regular season would end and the standing would remain as they were prior to the interruption. Teams were shorted one or two games. The flooding brought out the good in all of us. The game was still in the teams but the focus shifted to assisting those in need instead of winning a game.

The Wranglers spent the time prior to their last games collection donations of food, clothing and blankets. They then delivered them to the city's reception area designated for the Drop In Shelter clients. Once delivered they spent several hours helping the clients, volunteers and shelter staff. The Mavericks held a clothing drive. Olds collected gently used equipment and cash for the Heat minor and major teams.

On a personal note I found the transition from minor to major difficult. Mistakes occurred, apologies made, new rules and bylaws learned. In the end I grew to enjoy the role and the fact that I was no longer responsible for the junior program as a whole.

Sincerely,

Tracey Haining
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RMLL Tier III Commissioner
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