

# RMLL RIC Report 2013

The 2013 season was again unremarkable in many aspects of the relationship between the ALRA and the RMLL. ALRA members got CLA certified, were assigned to games and thus we were able to cover all the games within our jurisdiction again this season.

There were very few major incidents reported to me this year involving officials and fortunately these kinds of things have taken a precipitous drop during my seven 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 reasonably effectively again in 2013.

## Travel

As noted in my 2012 report, 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 has been an on-going stress for assignors in getting higher level officials to take games outside their own backyard. With the co-operation of the teams in Wheatland and Lakeland the RMLL Executive Director was able to stagger game time starts in Senior C and Tier 2 for the region as a whole. This type of game realignment much facilitated the travel of senior officials from Edmonton into this area of the province and was felt to have been of great benefit to the overall play in these leagues this year.

Fortunately, we were able to get all RMLL games assigned again this season but the major assignors are encountering more and more difficulty getting these games assigned with the level of officials that the games demand.

## 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. We propose to attempt to run a higher level referee advancement camp in 2014. This proposal will be covered in greater detail by Greg Hart.

## League Development

Attempts to work on game development within the leagues that are governed by the RMLL went spectacularly sideways in 2012 but as yet the ALA has still not communicated proper protocols for this area of operation. Do we still need to await such direction before league wide initiatives are undertaken within the RMLL? There are concerns that I have that I think need to be seriously addressed.

The first is Tier 2 Central. Many games played in this league this year bordered on the dangerous and remedial action needs to be looked at before players are severely injured or worse.

Secondly is the obvious poor sportsmanship that we continue to tolerate from bench personnel.

Thirdly, I am concerned that few teams abide by and few officials call CLA Rule 45e and penalize players who do not move to their respective benches when a fight breaks out. This rule used to be almost universally compiled with and now almost never is and we are lucky not to have had a five on five or a bench clearing incident occur recently.

And finally, I am proposing to add in a regulation that in a playoff elimination game, suspensions incurred by players who instigate a fight, would double. We no longer need to tolerate the black eye that our sport has always seem to have had caused because a few players on the losing team in an elimination game decide to start fighting once they know they are going to lose.

## Playoff Scheduling

Playoff scheduling was executed much more efficiently this season than in 2011 or 2012 and much of the credit for this improvement should be given to the various league commissioners for their work in this area. The one main problem was the new Tier 2 playoff structure which unfortunately does not work well in areas that have few officials that referee in the RMLL.

## Complaints

Complaints still came to me this season as regards weaker officials being assigned to referee higher level games and the inconsistencies that occurred as a result. However the new CLA rules seemed to have been called with reasonable consistency considering how numerous they were and the degree of reorientation in thinking needed to call them properly.

There still remained many complaints from the executive director of the RMLL involving the continued slip shod referee management of the official game sheets. I still really have no easy answer for these complaints or an explanation for this kind of sloppiness from senior officials, but I will say the competency level of bench officials involved in major lacrosse still leaves much to be desired.

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

Submitted by

Warren Renden

RIC RMLL