

## Junior B-Tier III - 2014 Commissioners Report

The season was extended from 14 games to 16. With a Brooks withdrawing it meant for an unbalanced schedule. Many teams were plagued with player shortages. Exemptions were given for the Ravens to affiliate 6 players per game versus the regulated 4. It was seldom used.

Playoffs were eliminated having teams go from regular season to provincials. It allowed for the season to be extended by two weeks. Seven teams made a round robin difficult, a double elimination series was played the weekend of July 18 to 20.

Having a weekend of games was well received; however, some discussion around having all teams participate in the future needs to occur. When one team has no points at the end of the season the enthusiasm for a costly weekend away is minimal. The Olds Stingers hosted provincials and they did an exceptional job. Hats off to them!

Several players exceeded 100 penalty minutes and one cleared the 150 minute mark and another came close to 150.. As commissioner I encouraged the teams to consider adopting the regulation from Tier II that allows for automatic suspensions at the 100 and 150 minute mark as well as a one game suspension for any player receiving a game misconduct within the last 10 minutes of a game. There were not in agreement, however, I do feel that players exceeding 100 minutes in penalties does need to be addressed. A blanket policy versus a case-by-case discussion would be best. I don't feel that the regulation would be enforced as often as the teams feel it would.

At the end of the season I referred two players to discipline as they either leaped over the 150 minute mark or are sitting just below. I have done my best to address their behaviour throughout the season. Their behaviour changed for the worse throughout the season. Again, if the teams would adopt the tier II penalty minutes regulation this could be avoided in the future.

Two parents and one player are suspended for violating the RMLL and/or the ALA code of conduct. It is a privilege to participate in our sport, be it as a player or a spectator, you are expected to do so with some level of decorum and good behaviour. Anything less will not be tolerated.

I feel the teams fear that tier III is dying off as the number of teams and players dwindles each year. I think we need to look at tier III as a stepping stone to higher divisions. If you look at the teams in tier II a number of them have moved up from tier III in years past. This happens more often in rural than in urban settings because the players have no other team to play (without enduring significant travel) and that continuity is a great strength for a team.

I've asked the teams to scout out a new commissioner as this may be my last year. I'll have a decision made prior to the AGM.