

2014 Senior B Commissioner's Report

The 2014 season commenced with the north and south draft in early February. The south draft was held in Airdrie and proceeded smoothly. The north draft, held in Edmonton, had a trade negotiation that lasted 30+ minutes. Although it resulted in a deal being agreed upon by the two teams involved, the Commissioner is recommending that a time system be put into place. This will be discussed at the breakout session.

The pre-season proceeded with several exhibition games being held in both regions. There was a cancellation of one game between a senior team and a junior team, due to many of the senior players being equipped with an illegal cage. This brought to light a dilemma for the senior teams. The 2014 season saw the expiration of the 1 year extension on non-CSA approved cages for the senior player. Most of the teams had purchased team cages through the ALA in 2013, but there were not enough to go around for tryouts and most senior players did not own a certified cage. After the game was cancelled, all other exhibition games were compliant.

The season was very uneventful, for the most part, on discipline. There were 3 match penalties over the entire season. Fighting in the senior division has been greatly reduced by the fighting rule changes implemented by the CLA.

Parity among 4 of the 6 teams was very evident and the final standings required tie breaker regulations to determine the team for the final playoff position. The 1st place team, St Albert Miners, were undefeated all season and the Spruce Grove Slash had a building year, resulting in a winless season. The playoffs saw the St. Albert Miners take on the Edmonton Outlaws, with the Miners maintaining their undefeated streak. The Calgary Mountaineers faced the Rockyview Knights and took the 2vs3 series in 4 games. In the Provincial Round, the St. Albert Miners swept the series in 3 games to become the provincial champion and win the right to go to the 2014 Presidents' Cup in Coquitlam.

The 2015 season looks like it will have changes in management positions with several of the teams. I'm hoping that these changes can transitioned easily, but it looks like it will be a busy, and challenging, year ahead to maintain the status of the Sr B division.

Shauna Sterparn

Sr. B Commissioner