



Annual Report of the RMLL Vice-President

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As Vice-President of the RMLL part of my job involves “pinch-hitting” for various commissioners when they are unable to perform their role. This occurred with both the SrC and JrB Tier 1 divisions a few times. In addition, I was frequently asked to provide advice to division Commissioners. Another major task was to interpret RMLL bylaws and regulations, as well as related guidelines from the ALA and CLA. This became very important in matters of boundary disputes, mostly at the start of the season. In addition, I was often involved in determining player eligibility for playoffs and national championships. There are frequently disputes during the playoffs where time is of an essence and very quick decisions need to be made. Finally, I was involved in resolving a few discipline disputes for both on-floor and off-floor behavior.

I did want to use this space to comment on an issue that has been a problem in years past, but seemed to intensify this past season: the scheduling of playoff games. In almost every division there was some battle(s) over the scheduling of playoff games. In some cases, teams eventually reached a compromise, but in other circumstances the division Commissioner had to mandate a solution (often upsetting both teams). Of course issues of arena availability, referee availability, and travel all need to be considered. But it is my view that teams were also trying to manipulate the schedule for competitive purposes. For example, what day/time would they be able to field their strongest lineup, and what day/time would their opponent have a weaker lineup. I believe that these situations could be mitigated (they will never be eliminated) through three steps: 1) clearer guidelines on format (including possible exceptions) and dates established at the breakout sessions during the RMLL AGM; 2) a better culture of inter-team cooperation in determining playoff schedules; and 3) a division Commissioner strong enough to impose a settlement (that is equitable and in the best interest of lacrosse) when the teams are at a stalemate.