



RMLL Sr. B Breakout Minutes

Sat, Nov 21, 2014

Calgary Delta South Hotel – Fireside Room

Called to Order at 9:15 AM

Roll Call – Present: Mounties – absent
Knights: Keith Berg, Gareth Barley, Greg Bradley
Raiders: Steve Morris
Slash: Paul Koch, Greg Bourret
Outlaws: Stu Sterparn
Miners: Tom Engel
Commissioner: Shauna Sterparn

2013 Minutes – Motion to accept: Tom, 2nd – Stu, Carried

2014 Agenda – Motion to accept: Tom, 2nd – Stu, Carried

Commissioner: Call for Nominations

Tom nominated Shauna Sterparn, 2nd – Steve, nomination accepted

Tom moves nominations close, 2nd – Steve. Carried

Shauna remains Commissioner by acclamation

- Shauna points out that at some point she will not continue. She will give notice, so a succession plan can be ensured.

Guest – Greg Hartzler – Team Financing and Budgeting

- Shauna invited Greg to discuss this subject, as the 2014 season was not impressive for the timely payments of debts by the Sr B teams. Greg led us through a PP presentation. Teams need to have a balance sheet and income statement. He has a spreadsheet tool to use for budgeting and will supply this to the teams, if requested.

Draft Dates – North – February 6, 2015

South – February 7, 2015

Times, locations TBD

Presidents' Cup 2016

- Bids must be submitted to the RMLL by Dec 31 for selection by the RMLL executive. The successful bid, together with all supporting documentation, shall be forwarded to the ALA for ratification by Jan 31st, 2015. The bid shall then be forwarded to the CLA Nat'l Competition Committee for ratification. (Dates have been correctly amended from actual discussion)

- Teams expressing interest at this time are the Knights and Miners. Knights have started process already and hope to have confirmation from Max Bell Arena by early Dec. Miners and Knights to discuss.

Presidents' Cup 2014 (Shauna and Tom) – It was noted that the days of letting rules about coaching qualifications slide are over and there was strict enforcement of that and the CCES online course rule at the 2014 PC. A number of disciplinary matters are presently before the CLA. CCES online link will be sent out again.

Handshakes – Everyone agreed that handshakes will happen at the end of each game. It will not be on agenda next year, unless requested.

Emergency Action Plan – Outlaws and Miners have not ever submitted an EAP. Miners stated that they were unaware of this requirement. Noted. It must be filed annually. They are to be submitted to Christine Thielen. Tom will email her and request the info and status for each team.

Guest – Val Miles , CLRA

1) Referee Supply –

- i) Val states that she expects 2 refs will be retiring in the south and we informed her that Lee Carlyle has definitely retired in the north. Senior capable refs are mostly 40+ and take more time to recover from injury.
- ii) There is a feeling from the teams that there is pressure on the Major refs to handle Minor games. Val stated that this is not an issue.
- iii) Val states that if 2 major refs get injured, it creates major stress to the availability.
- iv) Refs are enjoying officiating Sr B games – generally well behaved.
- v) Action item – the teams are wondering why certain refs are deemed not qualified by the ALRA to referee Sr B, when the teams feel that they are. We would like a list of referees, so we can recommend who the teams feel are qualified. Val is to get back to Shauna.

2) Presidents' Cup 2014 – the teams expressed displeasure that we were unable to recommend and send a ref to represent Alberta. Only 1 referee applied and it was felt that he was under qualified. It was expressed that much more needs to be done to identify and recruit applicants and to do it early, so that applicants can block of time. Currently it is done by email and it was expressed that this is inadequate. The teams felt a direct, personal approach is required. Val will take this to Warren.

3) Recruitment – It was suggested that an ALRA representative come to some team practices to make a recruiting pitch. Val will take this suggestion to Warren.

4) Referee Communication with Coaches – It was suggested that, like we see in the NHL, refs should come to the bench to communicate calls when advisable. Val will take this request for our division to the ALRA.

5) ***** – It was agreed that, should ***** wish to return to Sr B, and the ALRA wishes to utilize him in Sr B, then we will agree to the ALRA placing him on the following probation:

- i) equal assignments to all teams in south games.

- ii) If 2 coaches in same game complain about his non-technical behavior, he shall be suspended from reffing Sr B games permanently.
 - iii) Probation to be for one season – 2015 – and reassessed at the next Sr B breakout/RMLL AGM
- 6) The Division has concerns about the recording of stats to the official scorer. We would like to see more assists being recorded. The stats affect the scoring title for the division.

Division Constraints and Scheduling

- 1) Playoff and Provincial games to have dates and times established at this meeting.
 - i) Round 1 – RMLL playoffs
 - based on standings, top 4 teams to start on Friday, July 17th and/or Saturday July 18th
 - best of 5 series
 - Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only, if north/south series.
 - ii) Round 2 – ALA Provincials
 - Tom moved, Gareth 2nd, that this series be a best of 7 series. Carried. Unfortunately, after discussion with the ALA, it cannot happen in the 2015 season due to ALA budget constraints. Request for 2016 must be received prior to July 15, 2015. It was agreed that 2015 will be best of 5 series and 2016 will be best of 7.
 - iii) After discussion, the following 2 scenarios were agreed upon:

Scenario #1

- IF North/North and South/South Series Round 1, then:
Fri, July 17, Sunday Jul 19, Wed Jul 22, Friday Jul 24, Wed Jul 29.
- Therefore, Round 2 will be north/south and games will be: Sat, Aug 8, Sun, Aug 9, Sat, Aug 15, Sun Aug 16, Sat, Aug 22.

Scenario #2

- IF North/South and North/South Series, Round 1, then:
Sat, Jul 18, Sun, Jul 19, Fri, Jul 24, Sat, Jul 25 and Sun, Jul 26.
- Therefore, IF Round 2 is a north/north or south/south series, then:
Wed, Aug 5, Fri, Aug. 7, Sun, Aug. 9, Wed, Aug. 12, Fri, Aug 14.

These scenarios will apply to any combinations, also allowing for a north/north and north/south OR a south/south and north/south combination in Round #1.

Times: Friday games in any north/south games will be held at 9 PM.
Saturday games in any north/south games will be held at 6 PM.
Sunday games in any north/south games will be held at 2 PM.

Wednesday or Friday games in any local games will be held at 8 PM.
Saturday games in any local games will be held at 6 PM.
Sunday games in any local games will be held at 2 PM.

Some flexibility may be needed, but will have no discord. The Commissioner will approve any changes and will not tolerate any unreasonable changes of dates or times. PLEASE NOTE: The Knights are unable to have Wednesday evening games, due to unavailability of Plainsman Arena. Crossfield Arena may be an option for Wed games for the Knights. Or, Tuesday or Thursday evening at Plainsman, if available. All other teams do not have any issue with Wednesday games at this time.

Season constraints – remain the same as 2014, excepting a change in number of teams.

Administration

- There is a calendar of deadlines in the AGM Package and on the website.
- All teams are to ensure that they have someone capable of entering and updating the RMLL Online Management System. Christine will give a designated team representative a password to be able to enter the data, if team has had a change of personnel.
- includes entering and updating Franchise Certificate, Team Management, Team Contacts, Rosters, Executive, Bench Personnel.

- Action item - Shauna to question the RMLL Executive Director if there is a way of having a separate activate/deactivate control available to teams to facilitate roster movements. This would be a temporary record until the player could be removed by the RMLL Exec Director/Statistician.

Roster Size

Should we move to an active roster size of 30? Discussion was held and it was felt there was no need to do this and that it would hurt Sr C.

Website Stats

Concern was expressed by the teams on the delays in having stats and standings updated. Shauna explained that there are periods of time throughout the season when the statistician is overloaded with the finalizing of the stats/standings to determine playoffs of other divisions that end earlier than Sr B. The division asked that the statistician endeavor to maintain the stats/standings very closely, as there have been questions regarding the updating by other MA's, teams and fans nationally who are monitoring our website, as well as our own teams and fans.

Questions were raised about a Sportzsoft initiative to have teams pay extra to input their own stats, with the statistician checking them. It was felt that the teams are already paying the statistician to do this service.

Action item: Shauna to take our concerns to the RMLL executive level.

Utilization of C players

Teams continue to encourage players that are not on B active status to play in Sr C. There were no issues in the past season on the utilization of C players/protected players as callups.

Raiders

Angus Jenkins has resigned from the Raiders. Raiders are in good standing. Presently, the Red Deer Silverbacks have loaned the Raiders the funds to replace the RMLL Performance Bond and this will be paid back. There is discussion to move the Raiders to Central Alberta. Players would be added from the Silverbacks. Shauna has volunteered to assist with interim management until a management structure can be formed. Steve is currently working on this.

Steve also says the Raiders may have a viable plan to stay in Calgary, moving to Stu Peppard Arena. This strategy is currently being worked on and he will advise the division as soon as plans are finalized, on either option.

Mounties

Questions were raised about the viability of the Mounties for 2015, as they are in bad standing with the ALA and the RMLL. Shauna says that she is confident that the Mounties will be on the floor in 2015. Shauna was asked to look up the policy on absenteeism as this is the 2nd consecutive year that the Mounties have not been present.

Slash

Mike Koch has resigned from the Slash. Paul Koch will still be working with the team. The Slash will amalgamate with the Edmonton Warriors and plan to move to Edmonton. (If the Slash can get out of the contract with Spruce Grove at Grant Fuhr Arena)
Management team: Marc Bourret, Lisa Grant, Paul Koch, Shawn Wilhelm and Greg Bourret. Plan to become a Warriors team but maintain a separate operation from the Warriors Club.

Greg Bourret will be game day contact.

Sr C

Our division agrees that we need to help get to 2 Sr C teams in Edmonton area. However, we cannot support expansion until the existing team (Tomahawks) is stabilized. There is currently discussion about them coming under the Warrior's umbrella. This was of concern to the other teams as the perception could be that it is a Warriors' Sr B farm team. Discussion was held about the Outlaws and the Miners providing directors for the Tomahawks. No commitment from either team at this time. Sr B north teams will continue to monitor the north Sr C situation.

Senior B Operating Policy

The RMLL has given Commissioners an informal deadline of Dec 1st to complete their Division Operating Policy (OP). Shauna has made some very good progress with the Sr. B OP and will have a draft to us by next week. She will give us 1 week to comment/suggest/amend. Vote will be by email.

Guests – Sr. C Division and Connie Hamilton, Sr C Commissioner

Joint meeting with the Sr. C Division.

Pierre spoke about affiliations between a Sr C and a Sr B team and the that particular Sr B team having exclusive rights to call up from that Sr C team.

Discussion was held about the 4 game rule for C players given that the Sr B division cuts late – July 1st – and all Sr C teams may not have 4 scheduled games left in their regular season.

Sr. C proposed that players get drafted to a Sr C team and the player would have an option of trying out for a Sr B team. Another idea was that those players who are not drafted by a Sr B team would get letters from Sr C teams. Our Division told them that we thought a draft would help. All were in agreement that more personal communication from the Sr C teams to the players needs to be implemented.

Shauna suggested that the marketing of Sr C needs to change in perception. Alberta does not have a Sr A level. So, our Sr B is the highest Senior Level in Alberta. Senior C needs to be marketed in the same way that Junior B is marketed.

Post Sr C/Sr B meeting

Following the meeting, the division was of the opinion that nothing had changed in the Sr C division in relation to the difficulties being experienced in the north. It was also commented that the Sr C division needs to be reminded that the Sr B division is not responsible for the success or failure of the program in the North. It was felt that there was some responsibility being directed to the Sr B north teams and that this was unacceptable. Shauna was asked to take this to the RMLL Executive to ask for a direction to the Sr C Commissioner to produce an action plan to address the problems in the north.

Adjournment

Stu Sterparn motioned, 2nd Keith Berg. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM