



2015 Jr.A Breakout Meeting Minutes

Nov.21, 2015 South Delta Hotel-Edmonton- Sapphire Room

Attendees:

Okotoks Raiders- Dave Fehr, Rob Matsuoka

Calgary Mountaineers- Duane Bratt, Sean Wilson, Joe Vetere

St. Albert Miners- A.J.Jomha, Rob Petz

Sherwood Pk. Titans- Dave Pym, Bud Fagrie

RMLL Jr. A Commissioner- Mike Fynn

Meeting called to order @ 9:15 AM, roll call made.

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Reading & approval of 2014 minutes

-It was determined that the action plan from these minutes was not initiated by the Jr.A Commissioner to establish the wants & needs of Junior aged players in regards to the Western League. Commissioner did check on a few survey companies & found the price a little high. The division would still like a survey done to establish how we can improve our profile within Alberta.

3. Saskatchewan Swat application- This application was based on RMLL guidelines set out in our bylaws. The Raiders had an expansion criteria document from the previous expansion in 2006. The SWAT application met the RMLL guidelines, but not all of conditions in the 2006 agreement. There was discussion of a franchise expansion fee. The Mounties & Eclipse paid \$3000 each when they joined, but no fee was set at this time. After 1 ½ hrs. of deliberation, discussions, questions & answers, much of the discussion revolved around whether or not the SWAT would improve our league overall & what would the extra costs be, as well as determining an expansion criteria exclusive to our division.

The vote was 2-2, Mounties & Miners approved, Raiders & Titans disapproved. The group was advised by myself that if we could not get a majority decision, the issue would go back to the RMLL board for further consideration, based on RMLL Bylaw 3.03.1

4. ALRA concerns over lack of quality officials: The ALRA has requested that our division play more weekday games to alleviate the shortage of referees on weekends. It was agreed that there would be more games scheduled during the week for inter-city play. All travel games to be played on Fri, Sat & Sunday.

- There was concern for the billing process for referees, as there were double & sometimes triple billing for the same item from the ALRA, ALA & RMLL. This will be addressed again within the RMLL. I will confirm all billing to be more clear & concise.

- I have submitted a list of 18 refs from the ALRA who I deem to be capable to ref our games. The ALRA assignor is to contact me if they need to fill a spot with someone not on that list.

-The division would like to send a coach from all 4 teams to meet with ALRA senior refs at their next meeting to create a dialogue & better understanding of what is expected from both parties. Our division has been accused of abusing refs to the point where they no longer want to ref our games. We have set up guidelines of behavior that will be dealt with in the form of fines & suspensions for any coach receiving a game misconduct for abuse of an official.

5. Schedule constraints- It was agreed to have our team's constraints in early (Dec.15, 2015) so the RMLL scheduler can do our schedule in time to get some commitment from Shaw for local broadcast of our games.

2016 season to begin May 4, ending July 10.

1st round playoffs, best of 5 starts July 16-25, Provincials start July 30 to Aug.17 if needed.

Minto Cup competition starts Aug.22-31, 2016

6. North & South Graduating Midget orientation & combine dates were confirmed.

North orientation- Sun. Jan.10, 2016, 7-9PM Central Lions Senior Rec Centre-Small Aud.

North combine- Sun. Jan.31, 2016, Site & time TBA

South Orientation- Tues.Jan.5, 2016, 7-10PM, Acadia Rec Centre-Rose Hall

South combine- Sat.Jan.30, 2016, Noon-4PM, Saddledome

7. Draft will be a live event this year, as per Andrew McBride's proposal. The north draft will be Feb.7 at a venue to be determined, the south draft will be at the Saddledome Feb.10, the central draft to be held tentatively in Red Deer on Feb.13, to be confirmed with Terry Willoughby, Red Deer Major Lacrosse rep. Time & location TBA.

***** Please note: At the board meeting after the AGM, it was brought to my attention that Tier 1 has an amendment to the original proposal. There will be a teleconference call between Andrew McBride ALA, Earl Caron Tier 1 rep, & myself this week. Will advise immediately upon conclusion of call.**

8. Coaching certifications- All teams advised that all their coaches must be up to date on certifications, & have 5 yrs. to accumulate 20 points to retain their certification.

9. Team Reports- Current state of all 4 teams seems to be stable. Titans need a GM & coaches, Mountaineers have a new head coach, Joe Vetere, the Miners expect to be competitive & the Raiders expect to have another strong season.

10. Minto Cup- Currently have a 6 yr. tentative agreement. 4 team format w/host team. Rotations presented were: (1) BC/ONT/AB/AB/BC/ONT or (2) BC/ONT/AB/ONT/BC/AB It was unanimously agreed the #2 option would be best for Alberta.

Details of agreement sent to all teams prior to AGM, so everyone is up to speed. The division is concerned with the concept of playing 9 games in 11 days. I will convey that concern to the MCC.

Final proposal to be sent by CLA, Dec.31, 2015 with signatory papers distributed by Jan.15, 2016

12. Travel grants/ Sponsorships- It was discussed & unanimously agreed that each team will supply one member to be on a Project Submission committee. This committee will work on acquiring grants, sponsorships, etc. for the division. In order to legitimize these efforts, we will set up a new bank account for the division, with a min. 2 signature authorization policy. Each team will deposit \$1500 annually for the Minto Travel Fund before July 1. These funds will be forwarded to the Champion representing Alberta in travel years & will be split 50/50 in host years.

13. Jr. A Operating policy: Mike to send existing copy to all teams for policy updates or changes. Currently missing the Appendix A from 2006. Will seek to acquire from the RMLL archives.

14. New Business- Titans have requested a copy of existing ALA insurance policy. Possibility exists that we may need more coverage.

-Project submission committee to explore the possibility of acquiring streaming webcasts or Shaw participation. Mike to contact the BC webcast co-ordinator & Sportzsoft for additional info. Need for a league statistician could evolve from these discoveries.

15. Meeting Adjourned 3:55 PM

