



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 do want to provide some additional explanation about my role as Vice-President in interpreting RMLL bylaws and regulations. In my day job as a political scientist, I often teach that the Canadian constitution has both written and unwritten elements. The written part of the constitution includes the Constitution Act of 1982, but the unwritten part includes constitutional conventions. In several respects, the unwritten part is just as important (sometimes more important) than the written part. In an organization such as the RMLL we try to have clear bylaws and regulations, but sometimes these are not always clear, may be out of date, or involve unforeseen circumstances. In this case, the interpretation of our regulations requires using convention; what has been done in the past, not just in the RMLL, but in other lacrosse associations in Canada. I bring this element, due in part to my long service within the RMLL, ALA, and CLA, to the interpretation of regulations.

There were several national championships involving RMLL teams that occurred in Alberta in 2015. At both the Female Box Nationals (Team Alberta Junior and Senior) and Founders Cup (Calgary Mountaineers, Calgary Chill, Manitoba Blizzard, Saskatchewan Swat) I performed a number of ceremonial and administrative tasks.

In last year’s report, I flagged the problem of scheduling of playoff games. I am happy to report that while the problem did not entirely disappear, conflicts were greatly reduced from 2014. This was due to some administrative changes that were implemented at the Fall 2014 breakout sessions, but also a greater spirit of cooperation among the teams.