

## **2016 REPORT OF RMLL CHAIR, DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS**

I am pleased to report that the workload of the Discipline and Appeals Committee was quite light for the 2016 lacrosse season.

The Committee was required to hold 3 hearings over the course of the 2016 season.

All hearings related to complaints originating in Junior B, with one complaint in each of Tier I, Tier II and Tier III.

One complaint (Tier III) resulted from a Referee's Report and the other two were Code of Conduct complaints.

### **Tier I Complaint**

The complaint resulted from an allegation of a player making racial slurs against another player on the floor during the course of a game.

The Committee determined that the use of the word "native" did not constitute a racial slur and the allegation of other comments made during that game and previous games could not be substantiated. As a result of such determination no disciplinary finding or action was made.

The Committee was directed to issue a notice to all teams reminding players and coaches of the need for respect between participants, which communication will be circulated at the commencement of the 2017 season.

### **Tier II Complaint**

This was a Code of Conduct complaint made against a player for making obscene gestures and comments towards bench personnel and players before and during a game.

Upon hearing the testimony of all involved the Committee determined that the actions complained of did occur and that such actions were a breach of the Code of Conduct. The offending player was fined \$150 and suspended for three games following the payment of that fine and a previously outstanding fine, for a similar event.

The Committee believes that neither fine has yet to be paid and as such the player remains suspended and will be required to sit his 3 games after same have been paid.

### **Tier III**

This hearing resulted from a Referee's Report being filed claiming a player for deliberately shooting a ball into the opposing team's bench and striking the opposing team's Assistant Coach. The defendant acknowledged that the alleged events had occurred, but there was no conclusive evidence he struck the Coach deliberately or whether contact was made in a scrum around the bench. The defendant took accountability for his actions and apologized.

The Committee assessed the defendant a \$100 fine and a five game suspension.

## **Observations**

As Discipline Chair there are a couple of trends which I find disconcerting and I think it is important to bring same to the attention of the Board and the RMLL membership as a whole:

1. There is a disturbing trend (which arose in two of the three hearings) where Coaching staff have become involved in inappropriate verbal exchanges with players and taunting opposing players. This kind of conduct is unacceptable in any situation and tends to “throw gasoline on the fire”. Bench personnel have to be an example to their players and rise above situations of becoming caught up in the emotion of a given situation.
2. The inappropriate use of social media appears to be increasing. Although the RMLL and the Discipline Committee may not be able to deal with all aspects of this media, particularly private users who are not technically “members” of the RMLL, teams must be diligent in reviewing and policing the content of their own sites. In the future teams may be found responsible when persons authorized to manage or post (in the name of the team) on those sites post inappropriate content or otherwise breach the Code of Conduct.

I would personally like to thank all of the teams for providing the name of a Discipline Representative and in particular those persons who were called upon and agreed to sit on a panel. Without these volunteers the process would not work as effectively as it does.

Respectfully submitted

John Tyrrell

Chair