

Junior B Tier I 2016 AGM Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call
2. Reading and Approval of 2015 Minutes
3. Tier 1 Commissioner – Tony has agreed to let his name stand. Tony wins by acclamation.
4. New Team – Regina has expressed a desire to add a Tier 1 Team to the league. Randy Trobak came to speak with the Tier 1 teams to offer a heads up and provide some information about the new team. Currently Regina has a 7 team junior league and Saskatoon has a 3 team junior league. Regina is working towards getting 1 team up to a Tier 1 caliber. Saskatchewan teams would like to play in the RMLL so that players able to play at the Tier 1 level have a competitive place to play. Randy feels the ownership group that is backing this team is committed to the RMLL and the longevity of this new team. Randy will also be working with the team in a consulting role.
5. Promotions
 - A) RMLL will send out info to graduating midgets in December 2016
 - B) North Info Session will be Thursday January 19, 2017 – It was suggested there are some quality issues with the Midget Info Night Session in Edmonton. Terry Dokken wasn't able to think of any problems with the session.
 - C) South Info Session will be Wednesday January 28, 2017.
 - D) In relation to both info sessions – All teams have requested that the “10 Game Rule” regarding player eligibility to play in Tier 1 and Junior A be better explained on this night. The Tier 1 teams agree this explanation should come from the RMLL Directly and not the teams themselves to avoid any conflicts with Junior A. In a joint Junior A/Tier 1 meeting, it was also requested that the RMLL and the Junior A/Tier 1 teams better explain what happens when you're drafted. As a group we need to better explain what happens when you're drafted to both and A and Tier 1 team and we need to be ensuring that players drafted to both are making as many floor times for both divisions as possible.
 - E) South Combine to take place February 4, 2017 at the Saddledome. The Date still needs to be confirmed with the Roughnecks and the Saddledome.
 - F) North Combine is to take place on February 5, 2017 at Servus Place 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM
 - G) Discussion was held around the topic of players being asked not to attend the Combines. Terry Dokken feels the best players are not showing up to the Combines. There are also some concerns around players avoiding the Combine to avoid being “seen “or having to play for certain teams. This particular issue seems to be most prevalent in the North. Christine Thielen asked if it may be due to the cost related to attending the Combine. It was also suggested that the Combine be made longer and offer more perks for price. Offering Pinnies, or T-Shirt or asking NCAA scouts to attend. It was also suggested that Tier 1 Coaches reach out to Midget Coaches and encourage them to encourage their players to attend the Combine. Currently the South is seeing 70+ registrations, and the North is seeing around 30. It was also suggested that we force all players to attend the Combine or they would be ineligible for the draft. This was discussed and no motion was brought forward. The North teams will be getting together to discuss their Combine format and suggest changes to

attract more players. There will also be a rule change that allows Midgets who do not play their second year of Midget, to be drafted. This may also help in encouraging players to attend the Combine.

- H) Calgary Field has requested a Black Out of all Tier 1 games on June 9, 10, 11, 2017. This is so that they can run an NCAA camp for scouts. **Motion: Tier 1 Alberta teams do not play each other on this weekend. Saskatchewan & Manitoba teams will still be able to play. Motion by Jared McNicol, Second by Earl Caron. Vote: Unanimous Motion Carried.**
 - I) National Lacrosse Day is June 16, 2017 teams are asked to do something special for this. Christine will be scheduling teams so that local teams can play each other. There will be events around and on this date.
 - J) The ALA has a new logo. This can be purchased for your Jerseys from Lisa at the ALA office.
6. Coaching Development
- A) Coaches are reminded to log into their locker.ca account or contact Nick Thielen with the ALA to check how many points they have and to ensure they have the correct certifications for Provincial and National Competition. Duane Bratt will also be asking the ALA award on PD point to every coach that attended the Friday Sports Psychology session of the RMLL AGM. There will be a Competitive Development Course in Edmonton at the ALA Office January 13-15, 2017. The Super Coaching Clinic is March 31 – April 2, 2017 in Okotoks. The ALA will pay for the hotel room for a 2 night stay. Teams must ensure only qualified coaches are on the bench and only players that are part of the 20/2 and listed on the game sheet are allowed on the bench. Players on the bench must also be wearing a helmet.
7. Draft
- A) Rebels will be hosting the North Draft. Mounties will be hosting the South Draft. Draft dates will be set the day after the Junior A draft. The draft must be completed before February 12, 2017.
 - B) For the 2016 season the Silvertips and Marauders joined the South Draft in the 9th Round. Both teams are happy to report this was successful for them.
 - C) Boundaries – There are still some issues with draft boundaries between the Rampage and Silvertips, with Olds being able to choose where they would like to play, over all things are going well.
 - D) The new 35-45 Protected lists are going well. We will be leaving them as is.
 - E) The Junior A league made a proposal to the RMLL Executive. It was voted against 12-1. There was a suggestion that players under 18 can only be drafted by Tier 1 and only become eligible for A after the age of 18. Concerns were brought up that this would make the system too complicated and may discourage players from playing Major Lacrosse and No Motion was made.
 - F) **A Motion was made by Christine Thielen to add Strathmore Graduating Midgets to the draft. From Rounds 1-8 they will go to the Silvertips/Marauders draft and become open to the South Draft in Round 9. Wayne Sutherland Seconded the Motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.**

8. Game Day

- A) Everyone is reminded there is a \$100.00 Fine for Coaches/Trainers/Players on the bench during a game that are not in the RMLL System. CLA rules dictate only one trainer can be

on the bench. Equipment managers need to be certified as per CLA & ALA rules or they must stand to the side of the bench. Only 5 coaches and 1 Trainer can be on the bench at a time or 6 coaches. Players not listed on the game sheet cannot be on the bench. They must be part of the 18/2 roster and be wearing a helmet. CLA's reasoning behind these rules are to ensure all coaches in lacrosse are trained. Coaches can be added and subtracted from you team as needed when there is a shortage of coaches.

B) The maximum number of call up's per game is 4. The regulation states call ups need to be approved by the Commissioner and a copy of this approval should be submitted to the opposing team as well. This is so that everyone knows players listed on the game roster have been approved.

C) The RMLL Executive is asking the CLA to recognize we are a Tri-Provincial League and to recognize this and make adjustments to the CLA interprovincial regulations.

D) Christine Thielen will be sending the teams a PDF copy of what RMLL Executive and Team passes look like so that admission desks know who to let in for free. There is a fine for making anyone with a pass pay.

E) Admission prices are up to the individual teams.

F) Live scores still need improvement. With the addition of Electronic Game Sheets we expect this issue will be resolved. For the 2017 Season, teams will be required to fill out the Electronic Game Sheets and the Paper Game Sheets. The Electronic Game Sheet App allows teams to take a picture of their game sheet and submit it to the RMLL. Both Electronic and Paper Game Sheets must be submitted within 24 Hours or a fine will result. Electronic Game Sheets will work on a laptop or a tablet, they will not work on a phone as the format is too large. Teams will be able to submit their roster and sign using a PIN. Sportsoft would like feedback on the E Sheets as they are being used. Exhibition games will still require the use of Paper Game Sheets. It was also suggested the away team bring their team tablet as a backup in the event the Home Teams tablet malfunctions during a game. As all data is stored and synced, as long as there is an internet connection all data should be available once you log back in. In the event internet is not available, it's suggested that teams keep a paper copy of the game running in case of a tablet malfunction.

G) The ALRA and Junior A's have asked that Tier 1 have more games during the week. The RMLL will try to accommodate this as best as possible.

H) Tier 1 Ref Evaluations have been improving. We still need to get them in, they are very important in Ref Selection. It's also important that they contain accurate information. It appears there are some issues with the questions being asked on the sheets. Christine Thielen will be adjusting the questions for the 2017 season. Teams are reminded that it is a slow processes to make changes in regards to refs based on these sheets, however things are improving every season.

I) The RMLL Policy is that players and coaches shake both Ref's hands after the game. Teams are reminded that is shows good sportsmanship. There are some concerns over Ref's assigning penalties after the game in relation to the handshake, however general consensus is this was an isolated incident and that sportsmanship should take president over "what if" situations. It is up to the individual teams to decide if they would like to shake hands.

9. Safety – All teams must submit and EAP by April 15th, 2017.

10. Schedule

A) Division Constraints must be in by December 5, 2016

B) In relation to Jared McNicol's schedule proposal – many of the team's felt that going to this schedule could produce a playoff round in Saskatchewan or Manitoba and result in extra costs associated with traveling to these teams for these games. Teams also suggested that we meet in the middle in Saskatchewan to play some of these games instead of making the trip all the way to Winnipeg. The Blizzard pointed out this would reduce the number of home games they would be able to have, which would severely impact their ability to fundraise. Teams are feeling the pinch of the economy and will need to better reach out into the community to find fundraising dollars and it would be best to keep the current season format the same until such a time that more teams are able to raise more money to increase the amount of travel in the league.

C) The 20 game schedule will stay the same.

D) Regular season will run from April 27, 2017 – July 16, 2017

E) Playoffs format for out of town teams will remain the same with Red Deer being considered a travel team and as such their playoff games will take place on the weekend.

F) Weekday games between local teams will be scheduled more frequently, where possible, based on floor availability.

G) Teams traveling to Winnipeg are:

Silvertips

Rebels

Titans

H) Teams traveling to Saskatoon are:

Shamrocks

Marauders

Crude

I) Warriors will be hosting the RMLL Championship/ALA Provincials August 4-7, 2017 at Bill Hunter Arena.

J) James Finkbeiner submitted the 2016 RMLL Championship Tournament Report. (See appendix 1)

K) The Rebels reminded teams of their Hotel Partner. Information is in appendix 2.

11. 2017 Founders Cup will be Hosted by the Saskatchewan Swat in August 2017. Coaches are reminded to get their CCES online education courses completed. Coaches must be certified for National Play. James Finkbeiner from the Calgary Chill has offered to work with the RMLL, the ALA and the Founders Tournament committee to work as a liaison between the leagues and the tournament and the team that will be going. He will collect the relevant information and keep all teams in the loop as to the selection of accommodations, transportation, meals and all other relevant information. This will be done in hopes of having the bulk of the work done well in advance of traveling to the tournament as not to burden the team 1 week before departure.

12. ALRA

a) Referee Evaluation forms are mandatory.

b) There is a Ref shortage for Major lacrosse. The ALRA is looking at using a new system to ensure teams aren't getting the same refs over and over again. The ALRA is working to accelerate former major lacrosse players through their Refing programs in order to get experienced people to where the shortages are.

c) Shaking hands with the Refs is a sign of Sportsmanship

d) Ref's are ranked and assigned based on feedback from the evaluations. This is why they are important to fill out correctly.

e) Teams are to pay the fines to the RMLL. If they would like their player to pay the fines, they are responsible for collecting payment themselves.

f) Founders Ref's are decided by the ALRA. Refs can apply to go to nationals. Teams feel the best Refs in the province are not representing us at Nationals. Founders Refs must apply by July 15, 2017 at that time the Ref's are evaluated by the ALRA. **Earl Caron Motions: The Highest Ranked Referee based on Referee Evaluations, which applies to go to National Competition should be selected to go. Seconded by Dan Macleod. Vote: Unanimous. Motion Carried.** Christine Thielen will take our concerns to the ALRA.

g) Tier 1 teams would like to see the RMLL and ALA put a request into the CLA regarding consistency of calls made across the Country. Teams are finding calls are called very differently across the Country specifically face-offs.

13. Equipment – Tony will have a contact to teams to get black mesh. Teams are reminded that as nets need to be replaced they must be replaced with Black Mesh. The RMLL has photos of what properly strung nets look like.

14. Operating Policy – Christine Thielen and Terry Dokken are still working on the updated operating policy and will have it submitted by the deadline of October 2018.

15. There will be an RMLL Casino in Edmonton in November or December 2017. 10% of the funds will be directed to the teams that participate.

16. RMLL invoices need to be paid on time. The RMLL has been having to do an unnecessary amount of juggling due to teams not paying on time. All invoices must be paid within 30 days with the exception of

fees which need to be paid within 10 days. Fees will be going up \$150.00 for 2018 from \$750.00 - \$800.00.

17. New Business:

A) As part of the discussion it was pointed out that since the SWAT Moved up to Junior A their team doesn't represent a Tier 1 team. Christine Thielen pointed out, they did not submit a Tier Request, and they applied as a whole new team. Which means there was no change to their current Franchise Certificate. Teams are reminded we should not be in the habit of kicking out the last place team .

B) Two heads up items around Founders Cup. The OLA is looking at pulling out of founders because only 4 teams in the province are going. The ILA is looking at putting in a bid for Founders 2018 hosting the tournament at Seneca. This may cause some unique problems for teams as they will have to travel to the United States.

C) A joint meeting was held between Junior A and Tier 1 in the hopes that the two divisions could work better together. All parties agreed we would help each other out and ensure wherever possible the best players are playing at their appropriate level. We all agree there are several issues around scheduling and having Junior A and Tier 1 playing on the same nights is not ideal, however due to floor space there aren't a lot of options around this topic. Both divisions agree there needs to be better information presented at the Midget Info Sessions. It is agreed that the dynamics between the two divisions and from team to team need to be improved.

18. Appendix 1

2016 RMLL Provincials Final Report

The Chill was very honoured to host the 2016 RMLL Championship this season. This was the first year the tournament allowed the host team to play in the tournament, which we found to help immensely with getting volunteers. We had upwards of 19 volunteers for each game.

The Shamrocks represented the South, The Rampage represented the North and the Blizzard represented the East. The final was between the Blizzard and the Chill with the Blizzard winning 8 to 6.

All the games were played at Stu Peppard Arena and for the most part, teams were able to keep their dressing room. The Mounties and Raiders did have a play off game, and one of the teams had to give up their room for the visiting raiders. The Mounties were very gracious and allowed us to continue selling Merch & Raffle items during their game and their fans were very supportive.

Admission Table

We had 2 admission tables, with 2 people at each. Admission sold 50/50 Tickets, Admission as well as programs. Because we had two admission tables, and had them selling 50/50 and progressive 50/50 we were unable to separate what we made in 50/50, admission, progressive 50/50 and concession sales.

Individual Game - \$7.00

Friday 2 Game Special - \$10.00

Saturday 4 Game Special - \$20.00

Weekend Pass - \$40.00

Merchandise Table & Raffle Table

We had one table selling raffle tickets and merchandise. We purchased merchandise in advance and found that it was selling very slow. We started by selling Hoodies for \$35.00, Dry Fits for \$20.00 and T-shirts for \$15.00. In an attempt to break even on the \$2436.28 we paid for the clothing, we lowered prices to \$18.00 for a Hoodie, \$10.00 for a Dry Fit and \$10.00 for a T-shirt. We offered 50% off for anyone who had already purchased an item. We were able to sell 113 total items (6 T-shirts 53 Dry Fits and 54 Hoodies) for a loss of \$575.28. We had 2 volunteers working this station every game.

Raffle Sales were much slower than anticipated; we offered 7 different raffles of donated items, selling \$810.00 worth of tickets.

We also offered 50/50 tickets and progressive 50/50 tickets. We made \$397.73 on individual game 50/50 and \$147.50 on progressive 50/50.

Concession

We were able to set up a concession, selling pizza by the slice, assorted candy and pop. The cost to set this up was \$744.90. However, to keep things moving quickly and simplicity, we did not track how much of each item we sold or our total profit on this. We do know that this was very successful, as we sold out of all items every day and had nothing left over at the end of the tournament. We were very lucky to have Matador Pizza as our sponsor this season, and sold us pizza to sell by the slice at a very large discount. We had 2-3 volunteers working this station for almost every game.

MVP

The coaches of each team selected the MVP of the tournament. After each game coaches nominated one player from their own team and the opposing team, the player with the most votes won.

We had a very simple program that had the provincial logo, the RMLL Logo and the roster of all four teams, the schedule and a few sponsors.

In conclusion, this was a very successful tournament. We had very few issues to deal with and the ones we did have were of the minor type. We were a little concerned whether we would make money or lose money but after it was all said and done we are proud to say that we came out with a profit of \$6207.37

Recommendations

1) Do not had out anything ALA related at this tournament. It would be better and less confusing to hand out the ALA awards at a later date. Having one set of metals from the RMLL and 3 from the ALA, would have meant if the Chill won against the Blizzard, the Chill would have received 2 metals and the Blizzard would have left with none, the Rampage would have had the Silver and the Shamrocks the Bronze.

2) There was a lot of request to have the tournament live streamed online. I have already started looking into this for next year.

3) The tournament document hasn't been updated in years. It would be great if it could be updated as a step-by-step guide to hosting, as well as contain the new rules around the tournament.

4) Apparel – I would suggest that we order a lot less and the next team pass around the logo before the tournament. The biggest feedback we got was the players didn't like the logo. We also got shipped the wrong hoodies, I wouldn't suggest getting the hoodies we went with.

Thank you

James Finkbeiner
General Manger, President
Calgary Chill Lacrosse Club

Please blame any errors contained in this document on Terry Dokken, because I ripped off his report from 2015

Appendix 2

Here is the hotel information that I spoke to at the planning meeting.

Through our business partnership discussions, the Kanata Inn in Fort Saskatchewan (<http://www.kanatainns.com/fort-saskatchewan>) has come onboard to be our Preferred Accommodations Partner. They have put together a pretty interesting deal for any of the Tier I teams that are travelling to the Edmonton Area this season.

Hotel in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta | Kanata Inns, Fort ...
www.kanatainns.com

Welcome to the Kanata Inns. We are a bit more upscale than most hotels in the Fort Saskatchewan Area. Free Dedicated Hi Speed WIFI, Telus TV, Continental Breakfast.

Here is the deal:

- \$100 per night with double occupancy (+ \$10 for additional players in same room)
- Complimentary breakfast
- Complimentary meeting room space
- Complimentary room for bus driver

All that you have to do is:

- Call them, Toll Free: 1-877-998-2770,
- Fax them, 1-780-992-2007, or
- Email them, fortsaskatchewan@kanatainns.com

Ask for the Rebels' Rate and you are good to go!

FYI, below are the travel times from the Kanata Inn to the various venues in the Edmonton Area.

Crude – Akinsdale Arena, St. Albert – 24 mins

Titans – Sherwood Park Arena, Sherwood Park – 23 mins

Warriors - Southside Arena, Edmonton – 35 mins

Rebels – Jubilee Recreation Centre – 3 mins

Might be worth the drive for the savings!

Just let me know if you book. I want to be able to show sponsors the value of partnering with us.

Dave

Dave McGarva, General Manager
Fort Saskatchewan Junior B Rebels

19. Meeting Adjourned.