

2016 Season End Report – Tier III

Just prior to the season the Cudas and Ravens withdrew due to low registration numbers. After a two year lapse the Brooks Drillers came back to junior lacrosse making this a four team division. They had a large roster and nearing the end of the season managed to replace players who were leaving for holidays, or had not played, with new players. They will be a large, strong team in the coming years.

The division is dwindling down and with that goes player and parent satisfaction. Come provincial weekend two of the four teams required relaxation of the affiliate regulation to guarantee their participation in the games. A replacement coach had to be found for one of these two teams as family obligations kept them from joining.

In the past I felt the best thing for this division would be for the teams to move up to become part of tier II, however, after reviewing the scores this season I do not feel this is the best interest of the remaining teams. One team is strong and is being encouraged to move up to tier II. One team is physically strong and within the next season or so will dominate as their skill set will have improved. One team has the skill set but lacked players to keep them going. The last team has not been successful for several years but remains strong in heart.

The purpose of tier III is development. If development is occurring a team should move within the standings each season. Not remain dead last year after year. During provincials several team parents spoke with me regarding the team. These parents feel the issue is lack of leadership and coaching. If both were strong, player and parent commitment would remain strong throughout the season. They would not be booking holidays over provincials but around provincials. The teams club has essentially left them foundering with little or no administrative assistance or guidance.

This division requires board intervention in order to remain a viable option of play for 17-21 year olds. The RMLL cannot allow the remaining teams to disappear. If players and coaches leave because the division dissolves they will not return. This would be a great loss to the sport

2016 was my final year with the division. My feelings for the division have not changed over the last four years. They are still the best group I've had the pleasure of working with. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your team for so long.

Sincerely,

Tracey Haining
Commissioner – Tier III