



Annual Report of the RMLL Vice-President

Duane Bratt
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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 the SrC, JrB Tier 1, and JrB Tier 2 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.

One of the major projects that I was involved with in 2016 was organizing the coaching Super Clinic in April. I worked with Warren Rendon and Greg Hart in organizing the event. This time we ran the clinic in conjunction with the referee über clinic. We also had special guest speakers/instructors attending the two clinics including:

- Walt Christianson (former Assistant Coach Calgary Roughnecks & Colorado Mammoth, former Head Coach Victoria Shamrocks Senior A, current Head Coach of Victoria Shamrocks Junior A)
- Paul Stewart (former WHA, NHL player and veteran NHL Referee, currently Men's and Women's League Director of Officiating for ECAC Hockey and a judicial and discipline consultant to the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL).
- Dave Paskevich (University of Calgary Sport Psychologist, former consultant to Calgary Roughnecks, current national team psychologist for multiple sports).

While there were different tasks associated with each clinic, there were several opportunities for joint collaboration. For example, the Friday night round table discussion with Christianson, Stewart, Paskevich, Bratt, and Hart was attended by coaches and officials. On the Saturday night there was a JrB exhibition game between the Calgary Shamrocks and Calgary Chill with all the coaches/officials watching and taking notes. Sunday morning saw a recap of the game. Which was very valuable in showing what game aspects the coaches focused on versus what the officials focused on. Later on Sunday, Paskevich led an insightful mental training session for all participants. Having both coaches and refs in the same room was a good start at sharing perspectives about lacrosse. Running a joint super coaching clinic and referee über clinic was a great idea that was effectively delivered. It's not something that can be done every year, but we continue to seek out professional development activities to improve the lacrosse experience. In total, 17 coaches received their competitive-introduction training and there was over a dozen who received professional development points.

Not all of my projects worked out. I was unsuccessful in securing a government travel grant for the JrB Tier 1 division.

Finally, I want to offer my public congratulations to the St. Albert Miners for hosting a successful President's Cup and, just as importantly, winning the trophy. Great work to all players, coaches, staff, and volunteers!