

2016 RMLL RIC's Report

For a change my report will be quite short. The ALRA had a pretty good season vis-a-vis its games scheduled by the RMLL. We were able to assign them all and except for an unfortunate human error glitch in regards to the importing of the RMLL schedule into our assigning system, the games were covered pretty effectively overall, especially as compared to the previous two years.

This was another year with NO bench clearing brawls, at least our sixth consecutive. Also match penalties and game misconducts to non playing bench personnel seemed much lower this year in my estimation. Congratulations to us all.

We continue to have problems assigning games on the July weekend that the ALA runs its provincials. Several clubs insist on having non travel games on that weekend and these remain difficult to cover but our assignors love the challenge this affords them to wheedle and beg people to drop everything and do games. Also, several newer officials received the opportunity to referee higher level games that they were used to doing.

The Junior A games in Saskatchewan were new to the RMLL in 2016 and were assigned to the satisfaction of the commissioner and to me. Three Saskatchewan based referees stepped up to achieve a high level of competence in a very short time. Kudos go out to all of them.

All the provincial series went pretty smoothly in 2016. The new format in Tier 2 was much easier to schedule.

Naturally a few problems still remain:

1. Our referee base continues to age.
2. Referee travel to outlying communities is still somewhat difficult to always cover easily and effectively.
3. As mentioned earlier, more weekday games were scheduled this year and more would be appreciated.

I have been asked to mention that the Uber Clinic, which is our high level provincial referees clinic, was held in conjunction with the RMLL Super Coaching Clinic in Okotoks this year. Our headliner was ex NHL official Paul Stewart, he did a fabulous job getting his message across to the almost 50 senior officials who attended. We hope to have him back in 2017. This event was well received by everyone to whom I have spoken with and we plan on improving on it and doing it again in 2017.

I would like to thank the following:

My assignors – Val Miles and Lawrence Zdrill

My problem solver – David Westwood

My (and everyone else's) RMLL liason – Christine Thielen

The ALA – especially Executive Director Lisa Grant

All of the above do so much work to help make sure that the RMLL games run smoothly. Thanks again to all of you and I look forward to working with you again next season, although it is likely that this is the last time that I get to say that.

Warren Renden

RIC RMLL