



2017 Junior B Tier II Season Report

This season in our division Tier II Junior B division was harried with some ups and downs starting right out of the gate. We lost 2 teams from the north division before the season started, which required a bit of creative planning in order to facilitate the North Division game schedule, and to further compound our problems we also had one team in the South Division cease operations mid-way through the season.

In all, our division played 132 regular season games and 26 playoff games before the North division Lakeland Heat were declared North Division champs, the Lethbridge Barracudas the South Division champs and the Lethbridge Barracudas as the overall 2017 league champions! Other Provincial medal play-off winners were the Lakeland Heat with the Silver medal and the Sherwood Park Titans who won the Bronze. Honorable mention goes to the Olds Mavericks who finished fourth in the provincial playoff tournament which was held at the Olympiette Center in Sherwood Park.

Growth in our division was facilitate this year with the addition of the High River Heat Lacrosse club who moved from Tier III to Tier II prior to the 2017 season beginning. High River showed they were a very competitive team in our division, knocking the Calgary Wranglers out of the of the South Division playoffs the in the very first round!

A great deal of interest in joining our division was also received from the Parkland Posse Lacrosse Association prior to the start of the 2017 season, unfortunately their interest was received a couple of days before the season began so their late application could regretfully not be accommodated for at the time.

For the 2018 Season I am very happy to state that we have interest from 3 organizations in the North alone who have expressed varying degrees if interest in participating in the Tier II division, as well as 2 additional teams in the South! Interest has ranged from phone conversations regarding the requirements of developing a team at one end of the scale right through to actual submission of team registration documents.

Overall penalties and other general anti-social behaviour remained low this season, with only one player receiving the standard suspension for individual penalty minutes exceeding 100 and one team being assessed a fine for season penalty minutes in excess of 650. Great job everyone for representing the spirit of our game!

A special tip of the hat to both the High River Heat in the South and the Lloydminster Xtreme in the North division. High River, being the new team in the league, exemplified sportsmanship and discipline and accumulated only 272 penalty minutes for the entire regular season!

Lloydminster Xtreme has also been working to become a disciplined organization and this year was no different as they knocked another 100 minutes off their season total point in accumulating only 270 during the regular season!

Another acknowledgement has to go out to the Sylvan Lake Yeti, having gone 0 and 16 in their inaugural year they came back this season to win a number of games, and were competitive in a large number of the other games they did not win in which they only lost by a goal or two.

The unfortunate news that I have to share this year is that due to time constraints with my own team, I have to step down as Commissioner for the 2018 season. Unfortunately last season my co-coach moved up to a Tier 1 team at the beginning of the season and I did not have anyone else that was committed to the Wranglers organization on a full time basis. As a consequence I held the role of manager, coach, bbq chef, jersey washer, and anything else that needed doing. As the league games were typically held on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday nights, and the game sheets are absolutely necessary to be gone through in order to make sure suspended players etc weren't trying to fly under the radar and play in games they shouldn't have been, that left only Tuesday and Thursday nights to do that. Coincidentally enough, those were our practice days and as a result this season, I had a lot of floor times where I was drawing up the practice plan on my way to the arena, as league stuff needed to come first. That is not fair to my players or their supporters, and our season suffered dramatically as a result.

I will be asking for a volunteer to step into the role as Tier II commissioner for the upcoming season from our teams. It is a rewarding job as the commissioner gets to work with all the teams and their management through the season and I will miss doing just that immensely, however not at the detriment to my teams performance which, as a coach is my number one objective.

I will certainly be available to mentor anyone who is interested in the role if needed, however it was apparent to not only me, but my players as well, that I was spread too thin to be effective at any of the roles I was trying to do. Quite frankly, in the dissection of our season at the end of it, a number of my senior players admitted resentment of my participation in league administration as it left little time to focus on the team. I owe it to them to do a better job...

Regardless, I am looking forward to chairing the upcoming Tier II division-planning meeting and, my continued involvement with yourselves as we move forward into the 2018 season.

Best regards,

Wayne Zadderey

Tier II Commissioner.

