



2018 Executive Director Report

The function of the Executive Director is to carry out the administrative support of the RMLL on behalf of the Executive. Although a volunteer position, this role is a full-time job for all twelve months of the year.

2018 was an extremely challenging season. From RMLL Franchises meeting the body corporate requirements, through accounting implications of body corporates, to Franchise Certificate changes due to the implementation of body corporates, to bookkeeping with loss of our support person, to the use of RAMP for rosters, to the number of Jr. A teams, to the export of the schedule to Arbiter and with the resignation of the Sr. Ladies and Tier II/Tier III Commissioners at the beginning of the season, 2018 was a season with many struggles.

The Graduating Midget “welcome” document was posted to the RMLL website the middle of January. Copies of the document were handed out to everyone attending the North and South Information Sessions.

We again held our North and South Graduating Midget Information Sessions. The North Session was held in Edmonton on Wednesday January 10, 2018 at the Central Lions Senior Rec. Centre. Thirty-four Graduating Midgets attended of which five were female Graduating Midgets. The South Session was held in Calgary on Friday, January 12, 2018 at the Acadia Recreation Centre with our largest attendance to date of ninety-one families.

This year the North and South Junior Combines were held by the RMLL. Online Registration was used again for the both Combines. The South Combine was held on Saturday January 27, 2018 at the Scotiabank Saddledome in Calgary. Seventy-one players attended which included six goalies. The North Combine was also held on Saturday January 27, 2018 at Servus Place in St. Albert. Fifty-four players registered of which Seven were goalies.

The RMLL Super Coaching Clinic was held on the weekend of April 6, 2018 in Okotoks. This year the RMLL paid for the accommodations for coaches attending who resided a hundred kms outside of Okotoks. Thirty-one coaches registered for the Clinic of which eleven attended for further information and twenty attended for their Competitive Introduction Course.

With an offer from the Edmonton Miners Lacrosse Club to take the Bandits under their body corporate, on April 17, 2018 the ALA approved and the last RMLL Franchise met the body corporate requirement. With all Franchises in compliance for the 2018 Season, hopefully annual filings will not become an issue. We will however, need to address the time given to a brand-new Franchise for acquiring a body corporate and a process for a Franchise moving from one body corporate to another.

In the Fall of 2017, the ALA BOD decided to go back and use RAMP once again as their provider for the ALA Registration System. RAMP provides Club registration and in the past when the ALA used RAMP for the ALA Registration System, the RMLL exported a file to

RAMP at the end of the RMLL Season. Major Lacrosse operates and is structured quite differently from Minor LGBs and Clubs under Minor LGBs. RMLL Franchises do not register players until a player has made a Franchise roster unlike Minor Clubs where players register to a Club based on boundaries and then are placed on a team within the Club. Before the end of 2017, a meeting was scheduled with the ALA, RMLL and RAMP where it was agreed the RAMP would implement a RMLL Intent To Play where any Alberta player planning to play in the RMLL in the current Season would complete an Intent To Play and then at the end of the Season, players would be assigned teams as per the final rosters in the RMLL System. The ALA and RAMP were made aware that there would be players in the Intent To Play who would not be assigned to a team as just because a player completed an Intent To Play did not mean the player would actually play. As RAMP and the RMLL went into more detail, it was discovered that an easy process was required for a Commissioner and a team to ensure a player on a roster had indeed completed an Intent To Play. Thus, a new field was added to the RMLL System roster called Reg. # where a team entered the player's RAMP unique ID #. RAMP also added this number to the Player's Confirmation Receipt. A player on a roster without an Reg. # was not allowed to go on the floor. Although initially it was thought, each RMLL Franchise would be given a RAMP login and would have to go into RAMP and assign their players from the Intent to Play and to assign their coaches, managers, trainers and executive, this fell through for four reasons: one RAMP did not have the functionality built to give every RMLL team a login and access, two, potential tampering issues to have teams with access to every player in the Intent To Play, three, a privacy issue with every team having access to all players information and not just their own players and four RAMP did not have the functionality available for registering coaches, managers, trainers and executive until the end of June. Therefore, assigning the players and coaches, managers, trainers and executive became another function for the RMLL Executive Director. Also, given the RMLL did not fit into RAMP's Club registration, the RMLL had both a Club login and a LGB login. RAMP did not understand the RMLL's requirements and the RMLL did not understand RAMP's limitations, which caused a rushed implementation where business implications and processes were not be flushed out which resulted in mass confusion. The learning experience from 2018 would result in a much smoother operation for 2019, but apparently the process for 2019 will be completely different.

Ongoing administration included such activities as New Team Franchise Requests, scheduling constraints, rosters and bench Personnel, Division transactions, Sr. B Jr. A and Jr. B Tier XX Man Protected Lists, reports, invoicing and collections, monthly financial reporting, bond tracking, Regulation revisions, management reports, etc.

Contracts included Hartzler Enterprises for book keeping, SportzSoft for the RMLL System and website and the City of Calgary for the RMLL arena.

Christine Thielen
Executive Director, RMLL