



Junior B Tier I Commissioner Report

Growth and Recruitment:

The 2018 season had the most growth Tier I has had since its inception. This is thanks to the addition of three Franchises to the group totaling fifteen teams and the commitment by their Executives, Coaches and players. With the addition of the Lethbridge Barracudas, Olds Mavericks and Regina Barracudas, we also added sixt-six more players. There were 355 Players and of that 281 were in Alberta. To compare that with 2017 there was 297 players of that number 248 were in Alberta. Percentage wise the division only grew by a total 1.27%, in Alberta the division grew 1.23%. On the retention side each of the Clubs is responsible however from what is been seen I believe each Club is doing well.

As far as Recruitment we as division need a plan going forth. However, as this has to do with many other things like affiliating players from Tier II and Midget we need to do better as a division. This is not only a recruitment issue for us but the other Junior programs as we do not have access to current season Graduating midget lists until ALA sends. This is hindering our ability to pick the best available players. This will not only in the long run benefit teams but the players as well.

Having the graduating midget lists out at the start of the season allows more time for the teams to scout and which in turn makes it more competitive. It also allows the people running the Information nights to have the right number of Packages on hand. Well ahead of the Info Sessions we can get times and dates out. As well it will allow our Division to know who is planning to attend the Jr. Combine as well to better determine time. There will be an Information Session the Edmonton and one in Calgary.

Season Overview:

In the 2018 season the level of competitiveness was widespread. We as a Division started using the electronic game sheet. Overall the Electronic Game sheet was a benefit to many of us for tracking stats Overall the way the schedule was set up was fine, for all teams

The lack of discipline across the Division is serious issue. Total penalty minutes have increased sharply, and the number of suspensions has also increased. The worst part of all this is the number of suspensions to coaches has increased.

With all that being said, I have to thank the teams, RMLL, and volunteers for all their hard work. I also must not forget the ALRA, without the Official's time we would not have this great sport.

Season Accomplishments:

We must congratulate the Calgary Jr. B Shamrocks on their Provincial championship, the Larry Bishop Memorial Cup. Also, we need say great job to them and their Volunteers for a very well-organized Tier I Provincials. Great job to all the Divisional Champions.

Finishing order for Tier One Provincials

1. Calgary Shamrocks (Host)
2. Red Deer Rampage (Central)
3. Fort Saskatchewan Rebels (North)
4. Manitoba Blizzard (East)
5. Calgary Mountaineers (South)

For the Shamrocks winning this means they were Alberta's representative at Founders Cup 2018 hosted by the Mohawk Medicine Men in Cornwall Island, Quebec. We must also Congratulate Shamrocks Goaltender Jared Ferris on being Awarded the Jayden Sommerfeld MVP for the Larry Bishop Memorial Cup.

Here are the scores from Provincials weekend. Done by teams finishing order.

Shamrocks:

Shamrocks 7-11 Rampage
Shamrocks 9-5 Rebels
Shamrocks 15-6 Blizz
Shamrocks 9-6 Mounties
Shamrocks 8-3 Rampage

Rampage:

Rampage 11-7 Shamrocks
Rampage 8-11 Rebels
Rampage 17-10 Blizz
Rampage 16-5 Mounties
Rampage 3-8 Shamrocks

Rebels:

Rebels 8-2 Mounties
Rebels 5-9 Shamrocks
Rebels 11-8 Rampage
Rebels 15-4 Blizz

Blizz:

Blizz 14-5 Mounties
Blizz 6-15 Shamrocks
Blizz 10-17 Rampage
Blizz 4-15 Rebels

Mounties:

Mounties 2-8 Rebels
Mounties 9-14 Blizz
Mounties 6-9 Shamrocks
Mounties 5-16 Rampage

The greatest accomplishment of the season is that all the new teams managed to at least win a single game.

There is one player who also must be congratulated on a record setting Tier I Career and that is Tyler Sonnichsen #21 of the Edmonton Warriors. Tyler set three new all-time records, those records are Career Goals at 224, Career Assist 194 and Career Points 418 in 86 Games or four seasons as a Warrior Tyler spent his fourth year in Ontario playing with the Green Gaels.

Season Set Back:

The sad part of this year was the lack of discipline across the division. Total Penalty minutes increased sharply and with that the number of Suspensions increased slightly. The bad part is the issues that had coaches be suspended has increased. That is unacceptable because of your leadership position. The Players take after their coaches which increased Player Penalty Minutes as well.

The largest set back is timing around when Jr, A makes their final cuts. This effect both Tier 1 and Tier II as it is a trickledown effect. Junior B as a whole would like to see Junior A finish there cuts Six weeks prior to the Tier II season start date so the Tier 1 teams have three weeks to set rosters.

There is a big need to be discussion on travel as cost is still high. We need to figure out for the future. Our coaches need to get and maintain proper Coaching Certification level. We as individual teams and groups of teams need work closer with minor programs.

Looking to the Future:

We will retain the same requirements on coaching certification. We also have to reduce penalty minutes and the number of suspensions. Player discipline will be increased. We also will explain to new players and parents more in depth how junior lacrosse works. Teams still need keep working on retention of our current players.

Tony Materi
Junior B Tier I Commissioner