



RMLL 2018 RIC Season Report

1. Growth and Recruitment

Approximately 75 officials who were assigned RMLL games, or were eligible to be. With a turnover of retiring officials, or officials who may no longer be interested in the RMLL, I expect this number to stay approximately the same. Christine and I have discussed an RMLL Application form, for officials who are interested in starting to work the league. Potential questions could include, but would not be limited to: Applicant demographic & contact information, occupation, years of experience as a referee in lacrosse, years of experience as a referee in another sport, highest level officiated, highest level players, highest level coached. Once an appropriate set of questions are established, it will be made available on the RMLL website.

2. Season Overview

The approximately 75 RMLL officials nearly all received RMLL jerseys, which will be a goal for the 2019 season with the addition of the jersey number line on the RMLL games sheets. Over 700 games were covered, with no games needing to be canceled. Less than 1% of the games needed their start times moved in order to facilitate appropriate officials to be assigned. Mileage costs increased, but are related to the addition of two BC based Tier III teams, Lethbridge moving to Tier I, where there is a lower pool of officials to draw from, and Wainwright and Rockyview rejoining the Tier II division.

3. Season Accomplishments

The 2018 season was one of a steep-learning curve for myself as I entered the role of RMLL Referee-in-Chief for the first time. While experienced as a member of the ALRA Executive for the previous four seasons, the RMLL RIC position is unique in terms of challenges and governance. With the 2018 season approaching, outgoing RMLL RIC, Warren Renden, and I worked on a few projects:

- Tier II Three-Official Mechanic
- Referee Interprovincial Exposure Agreement
- Uber Clinic

Tier II Three-Official Mechanic

The Three-Official Mechanic was piloted in the Tier II division with the goal of having twelve games (six in Wheatland and six in CDLA) staffed with one official each that we are preparing to be full-time RMLL officials. The full details of this project's origin and vision can be found in the 2017 RMLL planning meeting minutes. The results were three

games in Wheatland (Wainwright, Lloydminster, Cold Lake) and four games in CDLA (Strathmore, High River, Cochrane, Stu Peppard). This means that \$595 of the \$1,020 budget was accessed, as the Crew Chief in each game was paid at the Jr A/Sr B rate of \$85. As the season moved along, filling the games with both qualified Crew Chiefs and appropriate "Applicant" Officials became more challenging. For the 2019 season, the program should be repeated, but with a lowered budget and expectation of games to will. Eight games is the suggested target for the 2019 season, which would require a budget of \$680. I would like the Tier II Division's input for reach regions they believe would benefit from the program the most.

Referee Interprovincial Exposure Agreement

The RMLL is unique as it spans four provincial bodies, allowing for difference in officiating standards to go unnoticed, or accepted. As our league grows and becomes more established at the Tier I and Jr A levels, where out of province teams are the most common, a unified standard becomes more important. We succeeded in having three Alberta officials travel to Saskatchewan to work Jr A (three playoff games and one canceled playoff game) and Tier I (two regular season games and one evaluation) and one Alberta official travel to Manitoba for Tier I (three regular season games). Two officials traveled from Saskatchewan to Alberta (Two Tier I regular season, one canceled Tier I playoff, two Jr A playoff, one Sr B regular season, one Sr B playoff). A Saskatchewan official also traveled to Manitoba for their playoff series against the SWAT (two Tier I playoff games). We unfortunately were unable to have Manitoba officials travel to either Alberta or Saskatchewan, but it is a goal for the 2019 season to accomplish both. This will be done likely by lowered the Saskatchewan travel to Alberta, although the demand of the RMLL season did require Saskatchewan officials to travel to Alberta to cover the games with qualified officials. A matching budget of \$7,000 that was allotted in the 2018 season is requested for the 2019 season.

Uber Clinic

The 2018 edition of the Uber Clinic was one of the best attended in recent years. Primarily attended by officials who currently working in the RMLL, or were about to enter their first year of the league, we also had officials who wish to enter the league. One of the goals of the 2018 Uber Clinic was to expose more officials to the RMLL and what it has to offer. The Friday portion is one piece that our returning officials would like to see removed from the weekend, but we would like to see our new officials attend to go over RMLL specific rules and expectations.

4. Season Setbacks

Scheduling of appropriately qualified officials continues to be a struggle as the sport of lacrosse is primarily a weekend endeavour. The logistics of the RMLL, in terms of travel and scheduling constraints, demand that it be a weekend league, so more officials or more officials who are primarily dedicated to the RMLL are required. The questionnaire we are developing is designed to find officials who may have fallen through the cracks at the LGB level, officials that have taken time off, or those who are new but qualify for the "Fast-Track," program.

5. Looking to the Future/Upcoming Season Goals

The 2019 season appears to be one of advancement for our RMLL officials. We will need to promote officials, especially in the SALA and CDLA regions to facilitate covering the games with qualified officials. Goals for the 2019 season will be to lower the need of CDLA officials to travel to Lethbridge for Tier I games, and lower the travel for CALL and SALA officials to travel to CDLA for Tier I. The Tier II Three-Official mechanic, the Interprovincial Exposure Agreement, and the Uber Clinic are all goals to continue pursuing in the 2019 season.