

## 2012 Junior Tier 1 Breakout Meeting Minutes

- 1) Approval of the Agenda
  - a. Approved by a majority
- 2) Approval of the Minutes 2011
  - a. Approved by a majority
- 3) RMLL Promotions
  - a. Graduating Midget Info Sessions for both the North and South
    - i. North: TBD, Prior to end of January. Teams agree to maintain format from previous year.
    - ii. South: Jan 10, 1900-2230 in the Rose Hall at Acadia. Teams agree to maintain format from previous year.
    - iii. Discussion on methods to improve attendance: Midget graduates need to be informed in a more efficient and timely manner. Suggest the use of website, various social media (ie: Facebook), encouragement at the club level, scheduling sessions earlier so midget players may be told by their outgoing coaches/management at the end of the midget season.
  - b. Commitment for our division's Participation in the Calgary Fitness Fair and Forzani's Mother's Days run which requires 95 RMLL volunteers
    - i. Agreement that teams would be willing to participate provided they do not have games scheduled for the same day. Silvertips, Mountaineers, Chill, Shamrocks in favour of contributing.
  - c. RMLL Showcase weekend
    - i. June 28 to July 1 at Stu Peppard Arena
    - ii. Discussion amongst members suggests communication could be improved. Concerns regarding scheduling considerations, including last year's participants having to pay for floor time, which they felt, should have been covered by their initial fees (ie: financially penalized for participating). Consider providing free admission to players, but having parents pay. Possible to have game held at soccer centre (closer to the tournament base).
    - iii. Request to have similar event held during the Rush tournament in Edmonton on the same weekend. Crude to approach Rush with the idea.
    - iv. Winnipeg hosting SAGM in May, approached by CLA to have a showcase game. Travelling team could participate in game where SAGM delegates offered free passes. Members in agreement.
    - v. Teams in favour of participating in showcase: Titans, Chill, Silvertips, Mountaineers, Gryphons, Warriors, Crude, SWAT.

- d. Olympic Heights School – Volunteers for info sessions (Spring 2013)
  - i. South teams aware. Look forward to additional information.
- 4) Coaching Development
  - a. What do we require to achieve the RMLL goal of having all coaches meeting minimum CLA standards by playoffs
    - i. Daryl joined meeting. No concerns raised by members. Contact info shared, encouraged to contact Daryl with additional questions.
  - b. RMLL Super Coaching Clinic
    - i. April 12-14 in Okotoks
    - ii. Some members requesting similar clinic to be held in North
  - c. Competitive Development Clinic
    - i. February 8-10
    - ii. Members aware
- 5) Draft – (TO BE MOVED AFTER ITEM 7)
  - a. Dates – South will go Feb 12. North will go Feb 12.
  - b. Combines: South – Jan 19, North – Feb 2
  - c. Eligibility/Geographical rights
    - i. Only area of discussion between Rockyview and Red Deer. Members agree to cooperate, as they have done respectfully and successfully in the past.
- 6) Game Day
  - a. Music during games
    - i. Only during stoppages of play, not on technical calls. Members agree.
  - b. Game passes
    - i. Many members did not receive their passes last year. Would have cooperated if they knew what the passes looked like. Disagree with “plus guest” on each card.
    - ii. Members agree to afford 4 Team passes (with team name, not individual names, without guests) to be given to each member, to be accepted by all members.
    - iii. Members requesting that passes are valid for Junior A and Senior division games. Those members to be approached by commissioner.
  - c. Handshaking
    - i. Players and coaches to shake hands after every game, including playoffs. Majority of members agree to same.
  - d. Official Scorers and Game sheets
    - i. Responsibility for incorrectly completed game sheets, with fines discussed at the Executive meeting.
    - ii. Members feel home teams should not be responsible for erroneously completed visitor rosters. Some disagreement regarding stopping play to correct referee errors. Majority agrees that box officials should be able to cross reference goals and penalties with rosters.

e. CLA Jersey policy

- i. Members aware that they must be adhered to for national competition.

7) Members

a. Winnipeg

- i. Gryphons: Felt club was competitive in first season with 14 game schedule. Last season, club was accepted on a full schedule on the condition that they supported travel of two clubs, 50% costs, up to \$5000. Agree to maintain this arrangement for 2013 season. Regarding areas for improvement, believe they have improved their partnership within the Winnipeg community with additional corporate sponsors (provided Partnership and Founder's pamphlets), increasing involvement with the minor programs, and aspirations to bring a professional team to MB (in discussion with Jets owner), and the sport to the Olympic stage. Eager to host a strong Founder's event, taking many cues from the recent presentation by Six Nations. Additionally, believe the concerns with facilities from the first season have been resolved. With respect to Tiering, state that the Gryphons have been approved as Tier 1, with the remaining Junior B teams in Winnipeg qualifying as Tier 2. This matter to be readdressed at upcoming MB meeting, will provide commissioner with proof of the same. East teams questioned on timeline to growth of Tier 1, with SWAT believing Regina will have team in 2-3 years, as well as interest in Prince Albert; Gryphons plan to use Founder's as 'springboard' for second team. Gryphons also request that, if they are accepted, that they be accepted on a permanent basis (rather than 'year to year').
- ii. Members Response: Question capacity of officials to manage competitive games as many calls were missed, especially since officials have minimal exposure to higher level of play. (Gryphons: plan to send RIC to Alberta, though individuals who have been approached have turned down the offer). Acknowledge the facilities are adequate, if not above average as well as crediting the Gryphons as being great hosts.
  1. Gryphons stay in league under same conditions as last year, 1 from each north and south, 50% up to \$5000. In favour: Titans, Chill, Silvertips, Mounties, Warriors, Crude, SWAT, Red Deer
  2. Against: Shamrocks
  3. Motion carries.
- iii. Discussion regarding permanence. Concern that they will bridge through Tier 1 on their way to Junior A. Motion that they be accepted as a permanent member, with present

financial arrangement of travel support to be revisited annually.

1. Motion carries with majority vote.
  - iv. Members question delays with funding requests. Bill Sucha agrees to speak with Lisa Grant regarding the same.
- b. New team application(s) – Okotoks
- i. Okotoks: Has had the talent to field this team for a number of years. 24 midjets coming up out of Okotoks, with High River having 18 graduates, all from a strong minor program. Facility is “one of the best.” Volunteers are great, good product/atmosphere for Tier 2 (like a Junior B hockey game). Last year, 9 Okotoks products played in Tier 1, with several proving to be impact players. Looking to retain local products. Presently, tier 2 games are “blow outs” as retained talented players in Okotoks are playing against depleted Calgary teams who have lost their players to Tier 1 members. Inclusion into Tier 1 would even this discrepancy and allow opportunity to allow development of another local team. Believe they can compete. (South member: Do you want Tier 1 players back?). Would like currently signed Tier 1 players from Okotoks to be offered opportunity to return to Okotoks, in keeping with Regulations. Thereafter, would look at being similar to Rockyview, with players acquired from a protected geography (including Okotoks and High River) in lieu of a draft. (South member: Would Lethbridge be protected). Lethbridge would ‘probably be free agents.’ (South member: And players from Calgary minor programs that reside in Okotoks?). Players currently residing in Okotoks, regardless of minor program affiliation, belong to Okotoks. (Commissioner: Will continue discussion following lunch, members agree that a defeated motion will prompt discussion of an appropriate counterproposal).
  - ii. Okotoks original proposal: (In summary: Okotoks come into the league, protected region is south of Calgary, with players given the right to return to Okotoks from other Tier 1 teams to which they’ve currently signed.) Titans – Nay, Chill – Nay, Shamrocks – Nay, Silvertips – Abstain, Mounties – Nay, Gryphons – Nay, Warriors – Yay, Crude – Yay, SWAT – Abstain, Red Deer – Yay. Motion does not reach 2/3 required.
  - iii. Counterproposal item #1 – Territory: Players from Okotoks belong to Okotoks; players between (and including) High River to Calgary have the option to declare for draft by Feb 1. South of Lethbridge are free agents. Motion passed.
  - iv. Counterproposal item #2 - Players’ Rights: Current Tier 1 signed Okotoks products stay with the team they’ve signed with, without the opportunity to return to Okotoks. Titans –

- Yay, Chill – Yay, Shamrocks – Yay, Silvertips – Yay, Mounties – Yay, SWAT – Yay, Gryphons – Yay, Warriors – Nay, Crude – Yay, Red Deer – Nay. Motion passed.
- v. Counterproposal including the above items. Titans – Yay, Chill – Nay, Shamrocks – Nay, Silvertips – Yay, Mounties – Nay, Gryphons – Yay, Warriors – Yay, Crude – Yay, SWAT – Yay, Red Deer – Nay. Motion does not reach 2/3 required.
  - vi. Okotoks representative informed of decision. Calls members “chicken shits” as he exits. Returns shortly thereafter to speak to the merits of Okotoks’ inclusion into Tier 1 with respect to lacrosse development.
  - vii. Note: At RMLL AGM, Warriors motion to reconsider decision, seconded by Crude, carried. Quorum met (9 of 10 members). Warriors propose Okotoks’ be admitted under counterproposal, with boundaries amended to include only those players with “Okotoks” as the city line in their mailing address to be property of Okotoks, and all other players between (and including) High River and Calgary must declare their intention (draft vs. Okotoks) by February 1. Secret ballot vote with 6 in favour, 3 against. Motion carries. At subsequent executive meeting, accepted counterproposal presented. Executive members express concerns regarding the subversion of RMLL Regulations with respect to player’s rights, and an Executive member affiliated with Okotoks’ program expresses concern regarding boundary amendments. Okotoks presented with counterproposal following AGM; Okotoks refused counterproposal, and counter-counterproposal submitted with boundary distinctions reflecting those of the minor program. Members vote 3 in favour, 2 non-votes (counting in favour), and 5 against. Motion does not receive 2/3 required support, is defeated.

## 8) Scheduling

### a. Division Alignment

- i. North: Warriors, Titans, Crude, Red Deer, SWAT
- ii. South: Chill, Shamrocks, Mountaineers, Silvertips, Gryphons
- iii. Suggestion made by member to focus play intradivisionally, with Saskatoon and Winnipeg alternating divisions annually. Would even out travel costs between Edmonton and Calgary members (approx. \$10,000/each). Red Deer would be required to pay more to accommodate this change; Winnipeg offers to assist Red Deer with travel costs. Many members feel they would prefer interdivisional play to continue (versus only intradivisional play).
  - 1. Titans – Nay, Chill – Yay, Shamrocks – Yay, Silvertips – Yay, Mounties – Yay, Gryphons – Yay, Warriors – Nay, Crude – Nay, SWAT – Nay, Red Deer – Nay.

2. Titans motion to revert to status quo with Winnipeg in South, SWAT in the North (Red Deer in the North as well). Second by Warriors. Titans – Yay, Chill – Abstain, Shamrocks – Nay, Silvertips – Yay, Mounties – Nay, Gryphons – Nay, Warriors – Yay, Crude – Yay, SWAT – Yay, Red Deer – Yay. Motion carries.
  - b. Consider number of weekends available, long weekends, total games wanted, team constraints (ie: travel), tournaments, costs.
    - i. Members aware
  - c. Regular Season start and end date
    - i. Members agree to keep season scheduling comparable to 2011. Regular season will run from April 25 through July 13. Playoffs will be a Best of 3, Best of 3, and Best of 5 (unless MB/SK make the Finals, then a Best of 3).
  - d. Playoff Format: Note item ‘c.’
  - e. South Combine (Jan 19), North Combine (Feb 2)
    - i. Again confirmed with members.
  - f. Founder’s Aug 19-25
    - i. Lisa Grant joined breakout meeting.
    - ii. Consensus on flights and hotels to be booked amongst the division. Motion by Mountaineers to use \$1500 to secure seats, Second by Warriors. Titans – Yay, Chill – Yay, Shamrocks – Yay, Silvertips – Yay, Mountaineers – Yay, Gryphons – Abstain, Warriors – Yay, Crude – Yay, SWAT – Abstain, Red Deer – Yay. Motion carries.
    - iii. Hotel Rooms – Winnipeg offers to hold hotel rooms for division. Several members agree that each team’s demands may not be consistent across the board; would prefer to book their own hotels. Members agree not to ask the ALA to book hotel rooms on the division’s behalf.
- 9) Referee Assigning Rules
- a. Greg Hard joined the breakout meeting: discusses aim to have proper pool of adequate officials for games, as well as possible grant money to bring refs to and from SK and MB. Acknowledges concerns with assigning in past, but situation improving.
  - b. Members discuss option of compiling a list of unwanted refs, including ‘guest refs’ from last season. Brief mention of bringing referees to SK and MB on team buses, determined to be inappropriate. Members concerned that evaluation forms from last season were not utilized.
- 10) Administration (TO BE MOVED AFTER ITEM 13)
- a. Calendar of details.
    - i. Not finalized at breakout meeting. To be considered by Operating Policy committee.
  - b. Entering and updating contacts, executive, bench personnel, players in the RMLL Team Management System –

- i. Amanda Thielen joined breakout meeting, spoke to any concerns. Reminded members about fines.

#### 11) Arenas

- a. Non-CDLA and non-GELC arenas need to be contracted by teams, through the end of playoffs
  - i. Members aware.

#### 12) Discipline

- a. Supplementary Discipline
  - i. Members aware that video review may be used in cases where a call was made on the play, or where a call was not made BUT the infraction would warrant more than 5 games at the commissioner's discretion (the case would be reviewed by the Discipline Chair).
- b. Fighting
  - i. Discussed implications of CLA proposal, and list of pros and cons.
    - 1. Pros: Reduce injuries, improve image, increase retention of midget graduates, decrease need for 'role players,' encourage better practices amongst coaches.
    - 2. Cons: Players no longer able to protect themselves, increase 'cheap shots,' previous attempt at similar policy has been unsuccessful with weaker players targeting stronger players.
  - ii. Clarified definition of staged fights, following discussion from Executive meeting
- c. Taped wrists/hands
  - i. Warrants further discipline if the official deems the tape to provide a dangerous advantage.
- d. 3<sup>rd</sup> Man In
  - i. The automatic one game suspension in addition to the game misconduct will still apply; however, it will be at the commissioner's discretion to reduce this suspension. Such a decision will be based on an investigation by the commissioner into the incident, including officials' account of the event.

#### 13) Proposed protected list

- a. Unable to address this item during breakout
- b. Note: Protected list motion carried by email vote following AGM. 30 player protected list, to be increased to 40 at time of draft, and thereafter reduced back to 30. List to include those previously signed players, injured players, and drafted hold-out players. These details subject to change at the discretion of the Operating Policy committee.

#### 14) Operating Policies

- a. Unable to address this item during breakout
- b. Note: Operating Policy motion carried by email vote following AGM. Majority of members agree to rewrite division OP by committee, with one representative from each the North (Crude, Titans, Warriors),

South (Chill, Shamrocks, Mountaineers), Central (Red Deer, Rockyview), East (Gryphons, SWAT).

15) Commissioner Election

a. Nathan Finkbeiner's name stands. Majority votes in favour.

16) Adjourn