

# **2010 Presidents' Cup Report**

## **- submitted by Shauna Sterparn, RMLL Sr. B Commissioner**

Location: Bill Copeman Arena  
Burnaby, British Columbia

Dates: Monday, August 16 – Saturday, August 21, 2010

### **Overview**

The venue was a wonderful facility and suited the event extremely well. Visibility of the game was unobstructed from essentially anywhere within the arena. I felt the lighting from the fans' perspective gave the appearance of a dimly lit surface. However, players reported that it was very well lit on the floor. A full concession was available and the playing surface was visible from the lobby and the concession area.

Attendance figures are unavailable. However, I did not feel that the attendance was much different from the 2008 Presidents' Cup, hosted by the Outlaws in Sherwood Park. The 2008 event was highly criticized for attendance and I did not feel that the 2010 event showed impressive attendance at the featured evening games of the host team or the medal games.

The usual 50/50 draws were held at each game and a progressive 50/50 for the entire tournament was also held. Also available was a good selection of lacrosse clothing merchandise. The host committee chose to strictly sell t-shirts and lanyards bearing the 2010 Presidents' Cup logo.

Video for the games was unavailable. I spoke to the host committee about this and they indicated that it was not a financially viable option. We agreed that from their past experience, and those from 2002 and 2008 by Alberta, video recording and internet game access is just not feasible without the host team experiencing substantial loss or sponsorship.

The tournament returned to a round robin format this year, eliminating much of the past difficulties when a pooling format was held. There were 6 association representative teams and the host team for a total of 7 teams.

### **Tournament Details**

This was my 6<sup>th</sup> attendance at a Presidents' Cup since 2002. I was pleased and surprised to see the parity of the teams in attendance. Generally, from year to year, the outcome of the medal teams can be established by Wednesday. This year, the eventual medal round teams were not decided until the completion of

the final game of the round robin format on Friday. This made for a very exciting tournament. The RMLL Edmonton Miners made a very good showing and finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the round robin. This placing by the Miners, or by the 7<sup>th</sup> place ILA representative, was not indicative of poor quality play. In several games, but for a few goals, the standings could have easily gone in other directions. I received some very admirable compliments about the Miners level of play from other commissioners, as well as other team coaches.

The refereeing was generally consistent with previous national championships. I watched many games, besides those involving the Miners, and felt that there was fairly adequate refereeing. Control was well maintained and physical altercations were generally pretty minor. The ALRA representative was chosen to be an on-floor official for the bronze medal game.

### **Areas of Concern**

Suspension carry-over from the provincial championship round to the national tournament was questioned by the Miners. They had a player that I had assessed a 2 game suspension resulting from his actions in the final game of the ALA provincial round. One of the Miners' coaches recalled precedence, at a previous Presidents' Cup, where a player from another association(s) was suspended in his province and granted the ability to play at Presidents' Cup and serve his suspension in his province the following season. When questioned about this by the Miners, I took three actions. i) I discussed the precedence with the Sr. B commissioner from Ontario. She confirmed that her feeling is that a team should not be penalized at a national tournament. She also confirmed that she had previously granted a suspension carry-over to a player so that they could play at the Presidents' Cup. ii) I discussed the situation with the CLA Convenor and he indicated that it was a league decision as the CLA would have no way of knowing what league suspensions were in place by the various associations prior to the start of the championship, unless each association was forthright about the particulars. iii) Finally, I also arranged to meet with the affected Miners' player and team representatives to discuss the issue personally. At the end of this meeting, I decided to uphold the suspension.

In closing, I wish to thank the RMLL and the ALA for providing me with the opportunity to attend the 2010 Presidents' Cup. It was a good week of lacrosse.

Attachments: Presidents' Cup Results and Stats