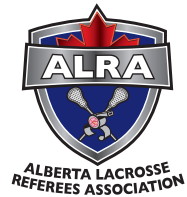


Referee Development in the RMLL



The ALRA is implementing an ambitious referee development program beginning in the 2011 season. Some activities were piloted in the 2010 season and will now be rolled into the overall strategy. This strategy will be the standard setting approach in box lacrosse.

There is an evaluation and mentoring component that covers rules understanding, presentation, mechanics, game knowledge, and fitness. There are separate development tracks for recreational and competitive referees, evaluators, mentors, and clinicians.

An important part of this process is evaluation of officials at all levels but especially in the higher performance segments of lacrosse - specifically the RMLL. Referees can participate in the evaluations process in three different ways:

1. Self-evaluation (will be piloted this year in the RMLL)

Referees will reflect on their own performance, how well they worked with their partner, what the relationship was like with players/coaches, and how the game flowed. The purpose is to get referees in the habit of thinking about and improving their performance and taking responsibility for doing that. The information will only be shared with the evaluation group within the ALRA.

2. Peer-evaluation

These are formal assessments conducted by trained evaluators who attend games for the explicit purpose of assessing the officials in the game. These assessments are the primary source of information when considering increases in the referee competence level and/or NOCP levels.

3. Coach Evaluation

The RMLL and the ALRA have jointly developed a form to allow coaches to provide feedback after every game. Both coaches will complete the form - scoring according to several basic dimensions of referee competence - and submit it with the game sheet. The RMLL will collect the data and the ALRA evaluation group will monitor the results for trends and as a way to monitor officials and leagues for specific attention. Since the ALRA is unable to evaluate referees in every game (or close), this feedback becomes vital. It is important that this data is collected routinely and not just in scenarios where there is obvious controversy in a game.

Summary

Referee development is central to the lacrosse experience. The ALRA is focused on developing all referees to the maximum of their capability. We want to put competent and qualified officials on the floor for every game. None of this is reasonably achievable without a collaborative approach to the process. Coaches have important feedback for referees and we need to gather it consistently in order for that feedback to have maximum impact. This RMLL/ALRA initiative will be a strong step in that direction.