

Jr. A 2019 Planning Meeting Minutes

Edmonton Delta South Conference Centre – Canmore Room
Nov. 11, 2018

On Sun, Nov 11, 2018 at 10:05 PM, <cm.fehr@shaw.ca> wrote:
Saturday November 10th 2018 @9am
Edmonton Delta South - Canmore Room

In attendance:

Jr A Commissioner - Mike Fynn
Okotoks Raiders - Christina Fehr, Jesse Fehr
Calgary Mountaineers - Joe Vetere, Duane Bratt (noon); Tim Foster
St Albert Miners - AJ Johma
SWAT - Randy Trobak, Neil Hruska
Christina Fehr acted as Secretary for the meeting

1. Call to Order by Commissioner
2. Approval of Agenda - items were added to the Agenda as follows: Christina proposed adding governance and having a discussion with Jr B teams, Mike added proposed change to shot clock rule
3. Approval of the 2017 Breakout Minutes - Randy motioned and AJ seconded
4. Body Corporate Updates - no issues
5. ALA AGM proxies - all teams will be in attendance
6. Schedule deadlines/constraints
 - must have submitted by Dec 5th 2018
 - we will play 16 game season
 - some teams are exploring the opportunity of playing in BC for a weekend and will notify the Commissioner prior to the deadline. Jesse said that BC is having their AGM this weekend and that the Raiders have been in touch with coaches there and would provide an update regarding games in BC.
 - SWAT will start their 2019 season May 4th and the other teams May 11th
 - arena constraints were noted for Calgary - Stu Peppard and Max Bell.the July 10th weekend was noted in particular. Randy suggested it could be a good weekend for playing in Saskatoon as Provincials are there too which could increase fans and coverage
 - AJ will follow up with Servus regarding booking the facility for the team's full season requirements
 - Jr B starts their season earlier so final cuts happen when we make our decisions. There is an issue with conflicting Jr B and Jr A floor times as well. It is important to discuss these items as well as collaboration regarding affiliation. These issues must be resolved for the benefit of the players.

- it was noted that the Blackfalds tournament will likely not be sanctioned by the ALA so teams would not be able to attend

7. Referee Evaluations

- the new President of the ALRA, Ray ??? joined the meeting There was a discussion about availability of refs for the Jr A level - particularly for the playoffs and Provincials, the process for getting new refs trained and certified for that level and how the evaluation feedback is used. It was proposed that video clipping be used as a valuable tool for helping refs become qualified. Randy has a software tool for clipping.

- The process for filing evaluations now is cumbersome and not timely for action to be taken. Ray reminded that there is an online form on the ALRA website.

- the Commissioner stated that there will be fines for teams - without exception - who do not complete/submit the evaluations immediately after the games starting in 2019.

- Joe asked about having a rule book in the penalty box for reference by the refs. After a discussion about the rule book and its imperfections, conflicting sections, etc, Ray said that he could not support that as it could result in coaches "waving it at the refs".

- Ray acknowledged that changing the shot clock rule could be done in our League.

- refs will be at the Supercoaching clinics April 5,6,7 so there is an opportunity to have dialogue with the Refs in advance which will be arranged by the Commissioner. It was also agreed that having dialogue with the refs during the season would be valuable and a call will be arranged by the Commissioner at a couple of points in the season.

8. Graduating Midgets info sessions , combines and live drafts

- dates were confirmed and it was noted that the combine might be impacted by the NLL situation. Randy will provide confirmation on the SK date.

- Calgary encouraged staying with the live draft format as it creates a positive vibe for the process and the players enjoy it. This year it will be Feb 15th, at Arcadia Rec Center again.

9. Data Entry into RMLL system -

- all franchise certificates need to be to Christine Thielen by Jan 15th 2019

10. Website updates

- we need a webcaster; Mike did a great job this year but he noted that much more could be done. Only the Raiders have player photos in right now.

- having a writer or an intern from Mt Royal could be an option

- stats for goalies should be added

- livestreaming is our leagues format and has been very successful this year. Raiders and Blues use it. Miners downloaded some games after they played. The Mountaineers explained that they believe it is not possible to use it but will look into the requirements and the issue prior to the season starting.

11. Protected lists/25 man roster, etc

- The Commissioner confirmed that the 25 man CLA Negotiation list has to be at to the ALA by Feb 16th 2019 - one day after draft.
- Randy is dealing with the CLA on an Interprovincial matter. AJ said that he could assist in getting the CLA to respond to Randy.

12. Minto Update

- the Commissioner commented that the Minto was a great success despite the referee issue. Christina commented that the committee and the volunteers did an amazing job of preparing and managing all aspects - including the unanticipated.

13. Financials

- The Commissioner confirmed that there was \$345.00 in the Jr A account. Christina asked about the status of the SWAT franchise fee for \$3000.00 Randy said he had not received an Invoice. Mike will send him one and the funds will be deposited in to the account.

14. Operating Policy

- Mike has included changes suggested to date. He will tweak and distribute to us for review and requested that comments are back to him in two weeks. We can then proceed to vote on the final version.

15. Regulation changes

- Affiliation proposal - a player can be called up during playoffs even if their team is in playoffs as long as the Coach is contacted and the game is not on the same day. This proposal was taken to the Jr B. (Status - was it approved?)

16. New Business

- Dialogue with Jr B teams.

Unfortunately, while there are some pockets of improvement, the efforts to collaborate with Jr B coaches regarding players have not been successful and relationships are deteriorating. The Raiders suggested that despite past history, since these people were here this weekend we should have face to face discussions and asked the Commissioner to arrange a meeting after lunch. Our League went to the Tier 1 Break out meeting room and spoke to them about working better together for the sake of the players. Jesse suggested practicing on different nights to reduce conflicts, etc. Joe reiterated the willingness to try and work together better. Many members expressed appreciation for us reaching out and the need to do more of it however there was also an outpouring of emotion and complete frustration with the Jr A situation in Edmonton. This feedback was then discussed back in our break out meeting.

AJ and Paul responded.

- Governance

- The Raiders and Blues raised concern over a lack of vision and a plan by the RMLL Executive for our Division that will enable us to become more competitive, deal with the systemic barriers to Jr A success, and the need to prevent another crisis like we had last year. The Miners echoed this concern and the SWAT also added that discussions last year to look at an interlocking schedule with BC also had not been followed up.

- Duane indicated that the RMLL had done some initiatives this year like the coaching clinics, casino, etc. He also said that at the ALA Planning meeting a proposal had been put forth by the GELC regarding vertical integration and a vote was taken and approved to strike a committee with a rep from our division to be named. (Duane can you confirm how you voted on this? My understanding, subsequent to our meeting, is that you voted against it??).
- Christina asked Duane to put on his hat as a member of a team in our league and answer if he was happy with Jr A and what he would do to fix it. Duane said that he would reduce to one Jr A team in Edmonton and also reduce one Jr B team. Christina suggested that we restart those discussions. The Raiders and Mountaineers said that they would support this initiative as long as there is a plan to revisit the competitiveness each year and a firm plan to return to two teams in Edmonton. One team could be suspended for a period to allow this to happen. AJ and Paul agreed to meet and follow up with the group within 2 weeks. Assuming that the talks are successful, the league would then need to discuss the details - for example player protected list and make a decision to proceed quickly - given scheduling deadlines, etc. .
- Notwithstanding this decision, there is still a need to create a vision and plan for our League.

The meeting was adjourned by the Commissioner. The teams then had a brief incamera discussion.

Update November 14, 2018

On Wed, Nov 14, 2018 at 1:24 PM Duane Bratt <dbratt@mtroyal.ca> wrote:
Hi everybody,

A couple of items stemming from the draft minutes.

Jr. A Draft Date - All draft dates must be completed by Feb. 12 so we need to change the date of Feb 15.

Scheduling - The playoff format for Round One is required along with the date and time for each game in the series. The same info is required for the Provincial Format (which is our finals).

Referee Evaluations - RMLL teams have to use the RMLL Form and not the form on the ALRA website. This is because all the info from the RMLL forms go into a RMLL database which produces reports by Referee and RMLL Division. In 2019 there will be a RMLL google form that can be used. In the current system, RMLL Ref Evals are not acted on a game by game basis. However, if the Jr. A Division believes this is necessary, the completed forms can be sent to ALRA on a per game basis for the ALRA to act on.

Duane

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Update – November 19, 2028

From: [Duane Bratt](#)
To: [Dave Fehr \(cm.fehr@shaw.ca\)](mailto:cm.fehr@shaw.ca)
Cc: [Joe Vetere](#) ; [Randy Trobak](#) ; [Paul Rai](#) ; [AJ Jomha](#) ; ['Jesse Davis Fehr' \(jesse.davis.fehr18@gmail.com\)](#)
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 1:38 PM
Subject: Re: Draft Minutes of RMLL 2018 Jr A Breakout Meeting - for your review and comments. Duane - With Mike's resignation, I did not cc him. Christina

Hi everybody,

In addition to the items that I identified in my note last week (new JrA draft night, scheduling, and ref evaluations), I have a couple of updates from this past weekend's ALA AGM. Many, but not all of you, were there, hence the update.

- We have a new ALA Executive: Rob Matsouka was re-elected a President, Kim Natt (Organizational Development) remains, but three new people (Erin Oor Administration, Jesse Fehr High Performance, and Shawn Cable Development). All three new people have extensive JrA experience.
- Christine, Amanda, and myself had a very productive meeting with RAMP and Lisa. Christine will be sending out the details, but the registration should be much smoother this year. One key difference is that all players who fill out the "intent to play" will pay their registration fees directly to the ALA. This solves issues of player movement from team to team, players not being on a roster at the end of the year, ALA invoicing of teams, etc.
- We need a representative from both Edmonton and Calgary to sit on the ALA's vertical alignment committee. The JrB reps are Terry Dokken and Jason Crook. Since the Raiders are already represented on the committee (Both Rob Matsouka and Jesse Fehr are on the committee due to their position on the ALA Executive). There will be a RMLL Executive member, but I have told them that it will not be me. Therefore, I suggest that it be either Joe or Sean. The Edmonton rep should be decided between the Miners and Blues.

- Board passed my motion that all RMLL games (based on input from the RMLL Planning Meeting) will have the 30 second clock run on shorthanded situations. The rag rule is now dead. It will be formally dead in the CLA rule book in 2021. The rag rule will still be in place at the President's Cup, Minto Cup, and Founder's Cup. BC and Ontario have already implemented the same change provincially. This is good news.

Duane

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