

2015 R.M.L.L. PRESIDENTS REPORT

The 2015 lacrosse season had several ups and downs amongst the various divisions in the R.M.L.L.

There were the usual blatant offences committed by players on the floor which are par for the course. Said offences are primarily dealt with within the R.M.L.L. bureaucracy by league officials, division commissioners and the R.M.L.L. directors. Unfortunately, an incident occurring in a Jr. A. game between the Titans and the Mountaineers has gone beyond the parameters of both the R.M.L.L. and the ALA and is now before the courts.

In my opinion (without pointing a finger at any person or organization within the R.M.L.L. and the ALA) this represents a black eye for lacrosse in Alberta as we were not able to deal with this incident without our own organizations. I am not however suggesting that the parties involved are not within their rights to proceed in bringing the matters before the courts.

Another matter that is causing problems for the R.M.L.L. is the lack of arena floor time necessary to accommodate the teams and requisite number of games each plays. Suggestions have been made to consolidate teams or clubs floor times in fewer arenas. The rational being that the teams in Calgary and Edmonton book fewer arenas but more floor time in those arenas. If that is the case my understanding is that lacrosse is likely to get those arenas for a longer period during the summer and not be left holding the bag when playoffs arise.

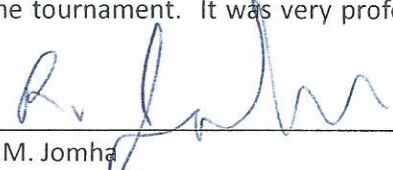
I am unaware of whether this problem also exists in places like Red Deer or in the smaller communities.

Something that appears to be becoming a significant issue is the number of players who register to play for the season and fail or refuse to pay their fees resulting in their being banned from playing unless and until they make up missed payments. These types of events can and have led to various teams dropping out of their league due to finances. That in turn leads to lesser games within the league and effects the validity of the league itself. Unfortunately for commissioners running such leagues it results in hardship for them as they then become responsible for trying to fix something they had no part in bringing about.

In the end the only solution might be that the R.M.L.L. may have to put a rule in place that stipulates a player cannot play until his fees are paid and a team cannot play until it has at least X number of players who have paid their fees.

I do know that this is causing significant hardship for the R.M.L.L. Board Members, Commissioners and Christine as their involvement gets magnified and increases both their time expenditure and the pressure as they have to try to fix problems they are not responsible for.

On a positive note having attended the Founder's Cup in Calgary in August I thoroughly enjoyed watching the games. I would commend all of those participants from players, coaches, volunteers, promoters, fans and those persons responsible for putting together such a fine tournament. It was very professionally done and well worth attending.



Rioth M. Jomha
President R.M.L.L.