



2015 Scheduler's Report

For the 2015 Season, the RMLL again used the SportzSoft Scheduling Software to assist in generating the RMLL Division schedules.

The RMLL schedule is created using the Division parameters, team scheduling constraints, arena availability, arena parameters and ALRA requirements.

In the 2015 Season, the RMLL scheduled 508 Regular Season games (488 in Alberta). 70 Playoff games were scheduled of which 55 were played. 44 Provincial games were scheduled of which 41 were required. Regular Season, Playoff and Provincial games were scheduled in 38 arenas across the Province as well as, one arena in Saskatchewan and one arena in Winnipeg (down from 45 arenas in 2014). Between Regular Season and Playoffs there were total of 11 defaults (5 in 2014), 7 cancelled games due to the June withdrawal of the Tier II Blues and 13 game change requests (26 in 2014). The two ALRA Assignors for the RMLL were able to cover all the scheduled RMLL games expect for one which had to be moved to another date. Although all games were covered, there were some concerns if Referees assigned to some games were of the appropriate level. There were also a couple of Playoff games where no Referees could be found to operate the shot clock.

The RMLL Regular Season ran from April 22 to July 12. During the twelve weeks of Regular Season play, due to the staggered start and end dates of each Division Regular Season play, there were only eight weeks where all the Divisions were playing Regular Season games.

Week	Date	Number of Games
1	April 22 to April 26	33
2	April 28 to May 3	48
3	May 5 to May 10	39
4	May 12 to May 14	11
5	May 19 to May 24	46
6	May 26 to May 31	49
7	June 2 to June 7	53
8	June 9 to June 14	49
9	June 16 to June 21	54
10	June 23 to June 28	37
11	July 2 to July 5	44
12	July 9 to July 12	25

All Playoffs and Provincials were completed by the end of the August long weekend except for the Sr. B Division where their last Provincial game was scheduled on August 22.

Division schedules continue to be extremely customized. Customization now includes avoiding conflicts between teams in different Divisions due to a shortage of coaches. All the customization along with extremely short Seasons in some Divisions, reduced arena availability and increased dates a team can not play, is increasing the difficulty of creating our schedules. Ensuring all the teams have entered their time slots, entered enough time slots,

have entered all their playing constraints and creating the map of who is playing who based on travel, etc. continues to be very time consuming. In 2015, 39 teams provided time slots. GELC provided facility constraints for 8 teams using GELC contracted arenas and CDLA provided facility constraints for the 5 teams using CDLA contracted arenas. The RMLL provided the facility constraints for 9 RMLL teams using Stu Peppard for games. Of the 38 arenas across the Province used for RMLL games, 21 arenas are in locations where the area only has one Major team.

2015 RMLL Arenas

Minor LGB	Arena	City	Major Teams	Games
CALL	Blackfalds	Blackfalds	1	9
CALL	Igloo Ice Bowden	Bowden	2	3
CALL	Innisfail	Innisfail	2	4
CALL	Olds Sports Complex	Olds	2	11
CALL	Ponoka Recreation Complex	Ponoka	1	9
CALL	Dawe	Red Deer	1	1
CALL	Kinex Red Deer	Red Deer	3	31
CDLA	Plainsmen	Airdrie	3	21
CDLA	Oakridge	Calgary	1	1
CDLA	Acadia Recreation Centre	Calgary	2	10
CDLA	Max Bell	Calgary	2	14
CDLA	Brentwood Sportsplex	Calgary	3	29
CDLA	Stu Peppard	Calgary	10	83
CDLA	Spray Lakes	Cochrane	1	5
CDLA	Bob Snodgrass	High River	1	1
CDLA	Cargill Field House	High River	1	7
CDLA	Okotoks Murray Arena	Okotoks	3	27
CDLA	Strathmore Family Centre	Strathmore	1	11
GELC	Southside	Edmonton	1	1
GELC	Millwoods	Edmonton	1	7
GELC	Grand Trunk	Edmonton	1	8
GELC	Bill Hunter	Edmonton	10	55
GELC	Jubilee Recreation Centre	Fort Saskatchewan	1	8
GELC	Dow Centennial Centre	Fort Saskatchewan	1	9
GELC	Nicholas Sheran Ice Centre	Lethbridge	3	29
GELC	Moyer Recreation Complex	Moyer	1	3
GELC	Sherwood Park Sports Complex	Sherwood Park	5	42
GELC	Akinsdale	St. Albert	2	21
GELC	Servus Credit Union Place	St. Albert	4	23
GELC	Westlock Rotary Spirit Centre	Westlock	1	13
Rural	Crosslink County Sportsplex	Grande Prairie	2	10
SALA	Albert Stella Memorial	Blairmore	1	8
SALA	Hockey Hounds	Medicine Hat	1	1
SALA	Kinplex I & II	Medicine Hat	1	11
Wheatland	Cold Lake Energy Center	Cold Lake	1	6
Wheatland	Centennial Civic Centre			
Wheatland	Lloydminster	Lloydminster	1	10
Wheatland	Vermilion	Vermilion	2	17
Wheatland	R.J. Lalonde Arena		1	4

In all Divisions, **where possible**, local games (within 100 kms) are played Tuesday to Thursday, Fridays are local games (within 100 kms) and travel games (within 250 kms) and Saturdays and Sundays are travel games.

Factors for why not all local to local games are played on Mondays through Thursdays:

- Many Major teams do not have access to floor in their arena on weekdays;
 - Many Major teams only have access to floor in their arena on weekdays for practices; practices are a hour or hour and a half and games require 2 and a half or 3 hours;
 - Many teams within a Division are not close enough to each other to have weekday games.
- The majority of teams in a Division close enough to each other to play local games, only play each other twice in a Season.

Other factors that affect scheduling:

- Minor Tournaments – Major is unable to schedule games on a weekend Minor Lacrosse is hosting a tournament in their home arena and therefore the Major team(s) playing out of this arena have to play an Away game(s) and in some areas they can not play at all as players have to help with tournament;
- In Edmonton Major can not schedule games during the week of Minor Playoffs;
 - Coach availability - Just as there are a shortage of Sr. Referees, there is also a shortage of coaches and there are a number of teams in different Divisions that have the same coaches, many coaches of teams in one Division are players in another Division and many coaches work shift work, so conflicts need to be avoided when creating schedules;
 - Practices - Most major teams tend to follow the CLA guidelines of 2 to 1 ratio for practices to games. Practice days are Monday to Thursday and are 1 and 1/2 hours each. Since most Major players work, practices scheduled on weekends have very low turnouts, which is why Major teams practice on weekdays and is also why practices are the same day and time every week;
 - Arenas are now operating as businesses. Unfortunately with Box Lacrosse only really using arenas for 12 weeks a year, arenas for lacrosse are becoming scarce as lacrosse can not fill an arena 7 days a week. Most arenas in large Centres state on Saturdays and Sundays they must be booked for a minimum of four hours. Arenas want Saturdays and Sundays used whereas, ALRA wants less Major games on Sat. and Sun., so a catch 22. In 2015, Okotoks lost their first class arena due to lack of utilization on Sat. & Sun, and low usage in July;
 - Major Gates - Major weekday games in an arena shared by Major and Minor, have 8:30 pm or 9:00 pm game starts. Major finds the late weekday game starts hurts their gates. Just as tournaments are fundraisers for Minor lacrosse, gates are fundraisers for Major teams.
- Major does not play games on Monday nights as most teams will have already played two games on the weekend i.e. either Friday and Sunday or Saturday and Sunday and a Tier I team may also have even played Thursday and 2 games on either on Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday.

Division Set Game Days:

Senior B Division Game Days – Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Senior C Division Game Days – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Junior A Division Game Days – Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday

Tier I Division Game Days – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Tier II Division Game Days – Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Tier III Division Game Days – Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Senior Ladies Game Days – Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Junior Ladies Game Days – Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

The above Division game days during the week allows call-ups from a lower Division to higher Division thus allowing for player development.

RMLL Contracted Arenas:

Calgary

2015 was the third year of having one arena in Calgary used specifically for Major. We were able to acquire Stu Peppard from April 6th through to August 9 and Max Bell from August 10 to 16th. Six (five in 2014) Major teams used this arena for practices and nine (seven in 2015) Major teams had their home games scheduled at Stu Peppard. Although having the RMLL hold an arena contract adds to the workload of the Executive Director and has an additional cost, the benefits outweigh the cons. The RMLL is now demonstrating arena usage in July and August, teams are not trying to find suitable arenas at a time when arena space is very limited and the ALRA found it much easier for assigning when games are backed up in one arena. The RMLL expense for floor from April 6th to August 16th was \$47.7k of which the RMLL was able to invoice back to the teams \$44.1k, leaving the RMLL with an expense of approximately \$3.6k for unused floor. (Unused floor booked for Playoff and Provincial games). The RMLL will again contract a Calgary arena for Major in 2016. Floor for 2016 must be booked by Oct. 17, 2015 and Jan. 7, 2016 is the last day to cancel a floor booking.

Edmonton

We tried booking one arena in Edmonton for July and August but the teams did not seem to have an interest. In the end we did book an arena for Sr. B Provincials and did end up using the floor time booked for practices and games even though the team did not want to use. The subject of using one arena in the Edmonton area for July and August 2016 will again be addressed.

The scheduling process starts in mid December for the Jr. A Division and at the beginning of January for the remaining Divisions. The Jr. A Schedule was to be completed prior to Dec. 31, 2014 to meet the deadline requested by Shaw to have their games televised. Two Jr. A teams were unable to acquire floor to meet this deadline, so the opportunity of having Jr. A games televised for the 2015 Season was lost. All Division “in-progress” schedules are to be posted by March 8th. The Jr. A was posted Feb. 9, Sr. B and Sr. C schedules were posted Feb. 24, the Tier I schedule was Feb. 25, the Sr. and Jr. Ladies schedule Feb. 26, the Tier III schedule Feb. 28, the Tier II North schedule was March 3 and the Tier II South schedule was March 13 The RMLL Schedule was marked final on March 29 and sent to the ALRA for assigning.

In 2014 there were delays with Playoff and Provincial schedules due to teams not being able to agree on dates and times and due to a shortage of Sr. Referees we had issues with games coming close to be cancelled and not always having the appropriate Referees assigned to

games. Due to administrative revisions implemented in the Fall of 2015, this was mostly a non issue in 2015.

The ALRA is anticipating a shortage of Sr. Referees again in 2016 and to assist in being able to cover RMLL games with the appropriate Referees is asking the RMLL again to schedule more game on weeknights, (local vs local only play weeknights), less games on Saturday and Sunday, more back to back games in the same arena and to not schedule games in the same Division at the same time in different arenas in the same local areas.

Weekday	2013 %	2014 %	2015 #	2015 %	ALRA Request %	RMLL Affect
Sun.	34.3	34	166	34%	30%	20 less games
Mon.	1.4	.2	0	0%	5%	25 more games
Tues.	2.7	4.7	15	3%	5%	10 more games
Wed.	10.1	9.9	49	10%	10%	
Thurs.	3.6	3.7	20	4%	5%	5 more games
Fri.	11.6	14.7	68	14%	15%	5more games
Sat.	36.3	32.9	171	35%	30%	25 less games

Currently 31% of RMLL games are scheduled on weekdays. How realistic is for the RMLL to move 9% of the games currently played on Saturday and Sunday to a week night? Examples of some of the barriers:

- Sr. B Outlaws - only allowed floor on Sat. and Sun. at the Park
- Sherwood Park Arena - lacrosse can not have floor on Fridays as arena is rented to Ball Hockey (affects 4 Major teams besides Outlaws and since we currently only use Wed. at the Park, would need to access to Mon., Tues. and Thursday nights which are currently all used by Minor lacrosse;
- Red Deer Major (3 teams) - only has access to floor for games on Fri. Sat and Sun.;
- Lethbridge Major (3 teams) - only has access to floor for games on Fri. Sat. and Sun.;
- Jr. A Raiders - only can have floor for games on Fri., Sat. and Sun.;

Questions:

- Are RMLL teams going to move their practices to the weekends?
- Is Minor Lacrosse going to give Major Lacrosse more floor during the week?
- Is Major Lacrosse going to travel during the week?
- Are Divisions going to realign their scheduling, so only local teams play each other?
- Are the Divisions going to reduce the number of games they play?
- Will gates be impacted moving to weekday games opposed to weekend games?
- What Division is going to volunteer to play Monday night games?

As per ALRA 2014 Stats, of the total games for the ALRA, Major games represented 11.5%. Of the total games played on Saturday and Sunday, Major games represented 12.2%. Minor Tournaments represented 42.1%.

Christine Thielen
Executive Director, RMLL

2015 Regular Season

Division	# of Teams (Final)	Season Games per Team	RMLL Original # of Games (April 1)	RMLL Final # of Games	Game Change Requests	Defaults	Cancelled	Referee "No Shows"
Senior B	6	16	48	48	1	1	0	1
Senior C	8	12	48	48	0	7	0	0
Jr. A	4	18	36	36	1	0	0	0
Tier I	11	20	110	110	1	0	0	0
Tier II N	10	18	90	90	4	2	7 (Blues)	0
Tier II S	8	18	72	72	2	1	0	0
Tier III	6	16	48	48	1	0	0	0
Sr. Ladies	3	14	21	21	1	0	0	0
Jr. Ladies	5	14	35	35	1	0	0	0
Total	61		508	508	12	11	7	0

2015 RMLL Playoff Games

Division	# Games Scheduled	# of Games Needed	Game Change Requests	Defaults	Referee "No Shows"
Senior B	10	7	1	0	0
Senior C	6	5	0	0	0
Jr. A	5	4	0	0	0
Tier I N	8	6	0	0	0
Tier I S	8	8	0	0	0
Tier II N	15	12	0	0	0
Tier II S	15	11	0	0	0
Tier III	0	0	0	0	0
Sr. Ladies	3	2	0	0	0
Jr. Ladies	0	0	0	0	0
Total	70	55	1	0	0

2015 RMLL Exhibition Games

Division	# of Games	Game Change Requests	Cancelled	Defaults	Referee "No Shows"
Senior B	2	0	0	0	0
Senior C	2	0	0	0	0
Jr. A	6	0	1	0	0
Tier I	13	0	1	0	0
Tier II	3	0	0	0	0
Tier III	1	0	0	0	0
Sr. Ladies	0	0	0	0	0
Jr. Ladies	0	0	0	0	0
Total	27	0	0	0	0

Comparable

	Exhibition	Regular Season	Playoff	Provincial	Total
2009		471	51	43	565
2010		455	63	15	533
2011	19	542	44	42	657
2012	23	506	45	27	600
2013	35	516	49	30	630
2014	21	525	53	33	632
2015	27	508	55	41	631