



## Scheduler's Report

For the 2014 Season, the RMLL again used the SportzSoft Scheduling Software to assist in generating the RMLL Division schedules.

In the 2014 Season, the RMLL scheduled 543 Regular Season games. With the withdrawal of the Parkland Posse Tier II team, 18 of these games were cancelled, leaving 525 Regular Season games to be played. 66 Playoff games were scheduled of which 46 were played. 40 Provincial games were scheduled of which 33 were required. Regular Season, Playoff and Provincial games were scheduled in 46 arenas across the Province including, one in Saskatchewan and one in Winnipeg. Between Regular Season and Playoffs there were total of 5 defaults (13 in 2013), and 26 game change requests (4 less than 2013). Although we had to change some game start times at the last minute to ensure Referee coverage for games and although we came very close to having to cancel games, Referee "no shows" again this Season were zero...fifth consecutive year. We did however, have six Playoff games where no Referees could be found to operate the shot clock.

Division schedules continue to be extremely customized. 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 addition, scheduling parameters agreed on at the Division Planning Meetings are unrealistic and require re-work before the scheduling process can even start. In 2014, 42 teams provided time slots. GELC provided facility constraints for 8 teams using GELC contracted arenas and CDLA provided facility constraints for the 6 teams using CDLA contracted arenas. The RMLL provided the facility constraints for 7 RMLL teams using Stu Peppard for games.

2014 was the second year of having one arena in Calgary used specifically for Major. We were able to acquire Stu Peppard from May 8<sup>th</sup> through to August 17<sup>th</sup>. 5 Major teams used this arena for practices and 7 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 8 to August 17<sup>th</sup> was \$36k of which the RMLL was able to invoice back to the teams \$33.5k, leaving the RMLL with an expense of approximately \$2.5k for unused floor. (Unused floor booked for Playoff and Provincial games). The RMLL will again contract a Calgary arena for Major in 2015. 5 Major teams will use for practices and we will increase to 9 teams using for games, so we can better utilize Fridays, Saturday and Sundays.

The scheduling process needs to start at the beginning of January but again due Division issues, did not start until the middle of February. The Jr. A Schedule was to be completed prior to Dec. 31, 2013 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 2014 Season was lost. All Division "in-progress" schedules are to be posted by March 8<sup>th</sup>. Again in 2014 we were unable to meet this deadline as the Jr. A and Sr. B schedule was posted Feb. 11, the Tier I schedule was Feb. 21, the Sr. C schedule was Feb. 25, the Sr. and Jr. Ladies schedule Feb. 27, the Tier II North schedule was March 7, the Tier III schedule as was March 11 and the Tier II South schedule was March 27. In 2014 we implemented a new step to our scheduling process and had the ALRA review the schedule before it was made final. As per the request from the ALRA, we changed a

large number of games, especially in Central Alberta, to allow Referees to be assigned to more than one game a day due to the shortage of Senior Referees in this area. Unfortunately, although this required a lot of re-work, in the end, the revising of game times in this area was not fully utilized by the ALRA Assignors. The RMLL Schedule was marked final on April 1 and sent to the ALRA for assigning.

Divisions need to ensure their scheduling parameters are realistic and teams must enter their playing constraints and home game arena information the RMLL System by the Division deadlines. Teams need to start acquiring their home game floor and entering time slots and constraints into the RMLL System in December. Making date changes is almost impossible after the Division schedule has been created. Division "in-progress" schedules are posted to the website during the month of February and teams need to be vigilant in reviewing these schedules as soon as they are posted.

Teams withdrawing after a Division schedule has been generated, create a very difficult task in trying to re-schedule the Division games, so all remaining teams end up with a balanced schedule. This is an impossible task if the Division has an unbalanced schedule where all the teams do not play each other equally. Major scheduling is done before Minor scheduling, so another issue is floor not used by Major has been given to Minor. Teams need to adhere to the withdrawal notice deadline of December 31 for the upcoming Season.

There were a number of scheduling setbacks in 2014. In addition to teams not entering their time slots and constraints into the RMLL System by their Division deadlines and the withdrawal of the Parkland Posse on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

The ALRA is anticipating a shortage of Sr. Referees again in 2015 and to assist in being able to cover RMLL games with the appropriate Referees is asking the RMLL to schedule more game on weeknights, (local vs local only play weeknights), 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. The ALRA request will be difficult to implement as teams practice on weeknights, gates are lower during the week than on weekends, arenas contracted by GELC and CDLA require Major and Minor games to be backed up and very difficult to coordinate the time slots provided by the 40 some teams who hold their arena contracts. In addition, Minor Lacrosse is given first priority for floor on week nights.

Detailed realistic Schedule Plans need to come out of the 2015 Division Planning Meetings in November as we must adhere to the scheduling deadlines for the 2015 Season. In-progress schedules for all Divisions must be completed by March 8-2015. In addition, out of the 2015 Division Planning Meetings, all Divisions must submit the date and time for all their Playoff and Provincial games to avoid the schedule delays caused by teams trying to agree on dates on times for their Playoff and Provincial games.

Christine Thielen  
Executive Director, RMLL

**2014 Regular Season**

Division	# of Teams (Final)	Season Games per Team	RMLL Original # of Games (April 1)	RMLL Final # of Games (April 17)	Game Change Requests	Defaults	Cancelled	Referee "No Shows"
Senior B	6	16	48	48	2	0	0	0
Senior C	7	14 N-15 S	51	51	0	1	0	0
Jr. A	4	18	36	36	0	0	0	0
Tier I	11	20	110	110	5	0	0	0
Tier II N	11	18	108	90	7	1	18(Posse)	0
Tier II S	9	16 SC; 17 SW	74	74	4	2	0	0
Tier III	7	16	56	56	1	1	0	0
Sr. Ladies	3	15	22	22	1	0	0	0
Jr. A Ladies	2	15	15	15	0	0	0	0
Jr. B Ladies	3	15	23	23	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>		<b>543</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>

**2014 RMLL Playoff Games**

Division	# Games Scheduled	# of Games Needed	Game Change Requests	Defaults	Referee "No Shows"
Senior B	10	7	0	0	0
Senior C	6	5	1	0	0
Jr. A	5	3	1	0	0
Tier I N	8	7	0	0	0
Tier I S	8	7	0	0	0
Tier II N	11	8	1	0	0
Tier II S	11	8	2	0	0
Tier III	0	0	0	0	0
Sr. Ladies	4	4	1	0	0
Jr. A Ladies	3	2	0	0	0
Jr. B Ladies	8	7	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**2014 RMLL Exhibition Games**

Division	# of Games	Game Change Requests	Cancelled	Defaults	Referee "No Shows"
Senior B	1	0	1	0	0
Senior C	1	0	0	0	0
Jr. A	9	0	1	0	0
Tier I	9	0	1	0	0
Tier II	1	0	0	0	0
Tier III	0	0	0	0	0
Sr. Ladies	0	0	0	0	0
Jr. Ladies	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Comparable**

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