

RMLL JR A COMMISSIONERS REPORT

September 9th, 2019



EXECUTIVE SEASON REPORT

1. Growth and Recruitment

i *This season the JrA division contracted from 5 teams to 4. Thus, reducing the number of players, but dramatically improving the level of competition. It is believed that by reducing teams and creating more parity, player retention in the A division will improve. Particularly in the north.*

The season went from a 16-game schedule to a 15-game regular season. Last year playoffs were 2 rounds of a best of 7. The 2019 playoffs were 1st round best of 5 and championship best of seven.

There were no know growth objectives for this season until the contraction effects are realized. Contraction will be reviewed yearly.

2. Season Overview

i *The 2019 regular season was a competitive success the worst goal for / against differential was -28 compared to -137 in 2018. The best differential was +21 compared to 85 in the 2018 season.*

2019 penalty minutes average per team was 289 compared to 273 in 2018. The increase is partially due to the number of teams and anecdotally attributed to the enforcement of CLA rules of emphasis. There appeared to only be minimal discipline issues, with this being my first year as commissioner.

Playoffs saw strong competition, with the finals highly attended in Calgary. The social atmosphere and local media coverage were strong takeaways from the championship round.

Alberta Lacrosse TV streamed games live this season. Regular season viewership averaged 168 with a high of 482 (JA-002). Playoffs averaged 258 with a high of 420 Championship game 6. (numbers do not include the SWAT viewers)

The Raiders performance at the Minto Cup was received well. Both the OLA and BCLA commissioners were impressed with the ALA showing. There is no argument from the OLA that the RMLL belongs at the Minto Cup.

3. Accomplishments

i *The greatest accomplishment the 2019 season was the RMLL performance at the Minto Cup. With contracting one team in the league and making every game much more competitive it better prepared our league champion for national competition.*

After the 2018 Minto Cup relationships with the ALRA and the division were not at the level of trust in which a league should be at. Working closely with David Westwood, I believe that the JrA division took a step forward in rebuilding this relationship.

The use of a third official in the box and during playoffs was successful and received very well by the teams. It's likely that the clubs will adopt this for the entire regular season and is believed to be a great project to develop upcoming officials.

4. Setbacks

i *There were a few setbacks this season;*

- 1. Season Schedule was late in creation and finalizing adding a delay to playoff schedule. These delays may have compounded facility access issues and impact operating costs for clubs.*
- 2. Referee reports. One club refused to submit and opted for being fined rather than completing. This club does not see value in completing the reports as they, in their opinion, do not benefit the development of officials.*
- 3. Alberta Lacrosse TV. Three of the four teams were able to stream live. The remaining team has issues with wifi connections in their home facility. Not all clubs have the same provider for streaming as well there were complications and issues with the ALA platform.*

5. Upcoming Season Goal/Objectives

i *2020 Objectives*

- New league operating policy (in Committee)*
- Season Schedule completed on time including playoffs*
- Game streaming for all clubs*
- Increase number of regular season games from 15 to 18*
- League Sponsorship and marketing program*
- Expanded social media presence*

6. Observations

i *Communication remains an issue or appears to be. Meetings have agendas and minutes which are circulated to the contact for each team. However, consistently questions would be asked that were covered in previous meetings or “issues” would be brought forward at an arena that were not brought by the club. Often by staff that should be aware of the decision made by governors.*

My concern is that miscommunication impacts adaption of processes agreed by governors. Many tend to be rule enforcement related and lead to criticism of the officials when not necessarily warranted.

To address this a google drive will be created for clubs to review meeting agendas and minutes. Last season I've brought David into my post regular season governor call and also held a pre playoff call with the officials to review the Governors rule enforcement concerns.