



2019 Senior (the best division EVER!) C – Season End Report

At the end of the division-planning meeting (November 2018) there were 10 teams in the division. Including the two new teams that were accepted to the division: Lakeland Heat and Olds Stingers. Due to approval delays, which were outside of the division's control, the Lakeland Heat withdrew their application. At the beginning of April the Lethbridge Pioneers withdrew from the division due to low player registrations.

The Senior C division ended up with 8 teams divided into a North and South Division. The Airdrie Mohawks, Calgary Irish, Okotoks Erratic, Olds Stingers made the south division. The Blackfalds Silverbacks, Edmonton Warriors, Lloydminster (Boarder City) Rage, St Albert Miners filled the North division.

Player registration between the 8 teams was 248 – an increase of 26 players from the season prior. Two teams had less than ideal numbers while three teams were bursting with 38 to 40 registered players.

The North played 13 games amongst themselves and the South played 12. Regular season started on April 28 and ended on July 12. There was a North-South Crossover weekend in Olds on May 25-26. The last minute withdrawal of the Pioneers left a hole in the playing schedule of the South division. Much appreciated assistance from a team manager had the South division back on track.

In previous years the division (North and South) Championship games were played by the first and second place teams; this season the division changed the playoff qualifiers giving the first place team a buy to the championships and the second and third place teams would play one additional game with the winner advancing to the final round of playoffs. The final round of playoffs was two games. Changes to the ALA regulations disallowed a third (mini-game) tiebreaker. A clever idea of adding a fourth period to the end of game two, if a tiebreaker was required, was suggested and approved.

On July 13 Edmonton was home to a first round game between the Warriors and the Rage – resulting the Warriors advancing to the final round hosted by the division leading Silverbacks on July 20-21. Accounts have this final round being a true nail biter with the Warriors winning game one and the Silverbacks taking game two. Game two saw a tie at the end of third period and overtime was required. The Silverbacks took this game and the fourth period was required. The Warriors were the victors and advanced to Provincial's.

During the same dates in the South the Irish faced off against the Erratic. The Erratic took the game and advanced to the final round. The final playoff round was hosted by the Mohawks in Airdrie. The Mohawks defeated the Erratic in both games.

Being the overall division point's leaders made the Mohawks the Provincial hosts on July 27-28. The Mohawks easily took game one, however, game two forced the Mohawks to work a lot harder for their win.

The Mohawks reign continues as they now own the hardware for 5 consecutive division and 4 consecutive provincial championships. Congratulations, again to the Airdrie Mohawks!

The week leading up to provincials brought an unpleasant surprise from the ALA. Without division or RMLL consultation the ALA determined that teams did not appreciate a silver medal so they made the decision to eliminate them from all championships consisting of two teams. Several divisions are affected by this decision. Teams were notified ahead of time; however, it left medal presentations more than awkward for the team that was not being crowned champions. Participating teams are charged a \$750 entry fee for their participation in the games. It left us wondering if there was a more cost effective way to determine Senior C provincial champion.

I felt unorganized all season and many of the teams were unorganized. Lack of attention to detail plagued the division - Game sheets/ref evaluations were not being submitted, incorrect players listed on the game sheets, not properly registering (or failing to register) players resulted in countless fines and forced the reversal of six game wins. There is no doubt in my mind that circumstances dictating the game reversals were honest mistakes and not attempts to be deceitful.

Plans for the coming season include possible solutions for team admin work concerns, division championships, and crossover games.

Rivalry between teams remains strong but the bond/connection between the division continues to grow each year – as does the amount of space they take in my heart.

Yours in lacrosse,
Tracey Haining
Senior C Commissioner