



## **Junior B Tier II Commissioner Report**

### Growth and Recruitment

The 2019 Tier II Season had a total of 19 teams, 9 north and 10 south teams. The division grew by one team, the Westlock Rock, who reapplied to join the division after not being able to field a team in the 2017 season. The Edmonton Wizards Franchise was taken over by the Parkland Posse out of Spruce Grove prior to the 2019 season. There was a total of 412 players registered in the 2019 season which was a 3 % increase in players over the 2018 season (400 players) with the addition of one team. The total RMLL junior players registered for 2019 was 1,052 in which the Tier II division represented about 39% of that total.

### Recruitment

We had two teams who were given approval to play without the minimum 16 registered players at the beginning of the season and continued to recruit. Both teams utilized affiliates and were able to continue to play throughout the season. On a whole the majority of the teams did well with recruitment, but we need to continue to recruit as we all know how difficult it can be with the players working and returning from school.

### Season Overview

The 2019 season was a competitive within the teams. The penalty minutes over the season was a huge improvement over the prior year. In total for Tier II for 2019, there were 3019 penalty minutes compared to 4743 in 2018. That is a 37% reduction in penalty minutes in the division on a whole. A huge shout out to the coaches and players for such a great improvement in penalty minutes which helped focused play more on the skill of the game. I hope to see this downward trend in penalty minutes continue. The south division did cross over games with the Tier III division as they only had two teams remaining this season. These were scheduled as a mini-series where 2 south teams would travel to either Cranbrook or West Kootenay to play. This went over well except for one of the travelling teams having to play two games in one day. This was hard on the players and coaching staff to have travelled the long distance and play two games that day and then leave again the next day. It was suggested that if this were to happen again, the team who does not have to travel play the two games in one day. This will be up for further discussion at our 2020 planning meetings. Overall, the season ran well. I would like to thank the RMLL and volunteers for all their work as everyone's contributions make the season such a success. I would also like to thank the ALRA and the referees as without them, we could not play this incredible sport.

### Season Accomplishments

I would like to congratulate the Sylvan Lake Yeti on their Provincial Championship and South Division Championship. Congratulations to the Sherwood Park Titans for winning the North Division

Championship and for second place in the Provincials and to the High River Heat for placing third in provincial play. We seen some incredible talent and play during the provincials and throughout the season and would like to thank all the teams and their volunteers for such a great season. I would like to thank the south teams who graciously agreed to do the cross-over games with the Tier III teams. It gave these two teams an opportunity to play higher level teams and to help them with the growth and development of their players to help them grow the sport in their communities.

#### Season Setbacks

I cannot honestly say that our division had any setbacks this season. If any, it was the challenges with the floor at the arena in Sherwood Park for playoffs and provincials that were the only real concern. It may be suggested going forward for playoffs and provincials not to utilize that floor as it has been mentioned that this arena has been a concern in the past.

#### Looking to the Future/Upcoming Season Goals

It has already been mentioned that one of the Tier III teams will be applying to Tier II division for the 2020 season. This will generate some discussion at the planning meetings regarding formats and travel should they be accepted into the division. I would like to see the division continue its reduction in the overall penalty minutes to focus more on skill of the game. We would like to see continued coaching development and continued recruitment and retention of players.