



RMLL Update on 2021 Season  
April 3, 2021  
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RMLL President

Dear RMLL Teams,

This is an update on the 2021 RMLL season.

Alberta is currently in Step 2 of the government's COVID-19 Path Forward. This restricts floor times to players 18 and under with social distancing and other restrictions in place (please refer to the *RMLL Junior Teams Pre-Season Practices for Players 18 and Younger* that was released on March 2). Step 3, which would allow those 19 and over to take the floor in some form, has been delayed due to rising hospitalization rates. Step 4 would allow games, but some restrictions, such as cohort requirements, may still be in place during this phase. It is currently anticipated even once the province moves to Step 3, there will be a minimum of a three-week period before we can move into Step 4.

On March 17, 2021, Lacrosse Canada (formerly the CLA) announced that a decision on 2021 national championships would be made at their Board of Directors meeting the first week of May.

The RMLL Executive met on March 29, 2021. Based on the above information from the Alberta Government and Lacrosse Canada, the RMLL Executive passed the following motion:

If by May 24, AHS has not provided guidance that would permit the RMLL to commence league play by the first weekend of June (June 4-6), the formal RMLL season will be cancelled and the RMLL Executive, in consultation with each of the Divisions, will explore the possibility of alternate forms of "Return to Play"

Beyond the loss of lacrosse, cancelling the formal 2021 season also has financial implications for the RMLL and its Member Franchises. The RMLL fiscal year ends on September 30. To date, October 1, 2020 to now, the RMLL expenses have totaled only \$504.61. This is largely because most "normal" off season and pre-season activities have either been cancelled or significantly modified, including the AGM (virtual), Graduating 16U Information Sessions (South-cancelled and North-virtual), Combines (cancelled) and scheduling (delayed).

However, even with the cancelling or modification of these past activities and the cancellation of the RMLL formal season, the RMLL still has on-going fixed expenses that will continue to occur. The RMLL fixed expenses include items such as the RMLL bookkeeper, completing the RMLL Notice to Reader (NTR) financial statements (which the RMLL must file with the government under the Societies Act), bank service charges,

annual credit card fees, Executive ALA Registration Fees, website administration, website maintenance, website publisher and RAMP administration expenses.

At the 2020 AGM, it was announced the 2021 Franchise Fee for all RMLL Franchises would be \$600. It was agreed at the March 29, 2021 RMLL Executive Meeting the 2021 Franchise Fee would be reviewed in the event the RMLL 2021 formal season was cancelled.

Once a decision is made to cancel the formal 2021 RMLL season, the Executive will determine a revised 2021 Franchise Fee based on expenses which have already occurred and expenses which will occur prior to the RMLL 2020/2021 fiscal year end. The Executive will also consider if it is appropriate to charge a different Franchise Fee to Franchises in different Divisions, if there is a significant additional expense variance in alternate programming some Divisions may wish to pursue.

With no formal 2021 RMLL season, ultimately the Franchise Fee will depend on making tough decisions to which activities occur and which don't and the related expenses.

If the 2022 Executive Planning Meeting and the Members 2021 AGM and 2022 Planning Meeting are held virtually, as they were last year, there would be a significant cost saving which could result in a significant decrease in the 2021 Franchise Fee. However, if these meetings were held in-person, it is unlikely there would be any decrease in the approved \$600 fee. Ultimately the value of in-person or virtual meetings and the costs of each will have to be weighed against each other before the final decision is made.

RMLL Franchises will be consulted prior to the Executive making any decision to hold the 2022 Planning Meeting and 2021 AGM in-person or virtually.

Your Executive is committed to being diligent in proactively managing the financial resources of the RMLL and your Franchise Fees. Although it was generally the consensus at the 2020 AGM last Fall that the RMLL must develop a plan going forward to improve its financial strength and to start to build a financial reserve, given the unique challenges posed by COVID-19 your Executive felt this was not the year to start that process recognizing the financial situation being faced by some Franchises.

Finally, we would like to remind those 22 RMLL Franchises who have not yet submitted payment for their 2020 Franchise Fee that this fee is now due.

**It is critical that those fees are paid to ensure that the RMLL remains financially viable for when full lacrosse returns.**

If a Franchise has not yet submitted their payment, please do so now. Payments are to be mailed to:

Rocky Mountain Lacrosse League  
P.O. Box 47083 Creekside  
Calgary, Alberta  
T3P 0B9

As more information is obtained from the Alberta government, Lacrosse Canada, and ALA, further updates will be circulated.