

RMLL 2022 Founders Cup Report

The 2022 Founders Cup returned after a two-year hiatus, and the tournament was held in Brampton, Ontario, who was awarded the bid way back in 2020. The tournament unfortunately had some teams drop out late, but still had a solid field of 6 teams.

The games were pushed back to Tuesday given the teams that dropped out, which I thought was an interesting decision, and would have preferred to see games start on the Monday still, and hold a semi-final on the Saturday, instead of only doing a round robin. More on the Schedule to follow.

This years Founders Cup had two teams from the RMLL Tier 1 division, the Edmonton Warriors, and Saskatoon SWAT. The SWAT had a tough week as far as score differential goes, but did improve as the week went on, including scoring twelve goals in their final game of the tournament.

The Warriors had an up and down week, with a less than favourable schedule in terms of timing. The Warriors were tasked with playing the final game of the day, followed by the first game of the next day, on two separate occasions. Note, neither Ontario team was asked to do this once during the week. To add to this challenge, the schedule was changed mid-week to accommodate an arena change, which ended up making the time between games just about 12 hours, which is a massive challenge.

The way in which the schedule was changed was really unfortunate, and was a factor that should never be a possibility at a National Championship. The tournament host committee and tournament convener, called a meeting with all the teams, on Friday afternoon, to tell them they were changing the Saturday schedule, while attempting to have the minimal effect on teams. What they meant was, they were changing the schedule to accommodate an arena change, as the Brampton Memorial Arena has some dressing room challenges, but were not willing to move the Ontario teams' game later, as that may hurt them on Sunday. There was zero discussion on the matter, and the convener made the decision with seemingly zero input from anyone who resides outside of Ontario. After it became evident the schedule was decided and could not be changed, I asked the convener to pass on the Lacrosse Canada that it is not appropriate for schedule changes during a National Competition, barring emergency situations, and furthermore, it is my belief that LC should provide schedule templates for every scenario of competition (number of teams). Included in these templates, should be specific amounts of time between games that must be followed for the integrity of competition, as well as injury prevention.

Even with these factors in play, the Warriors were able to rise to the occasion, and not only win on Saturday morning, but play their best game of the week and win the bronze medal, in a 12-11 victory over the host Brampton Excelsiors on Sunday. Credit to the Warriors for an awesome showing, and a great week of lacrosse for all teams.

Congratulations to Joe Royer of the Edmonton Warriors who was named a tournament all-star, and to Head Coach Vay Diep, Assistant Coaches Owen Williams and Dean Casey, Manager Tony Materi, and the entire Warriors organization for a great season.

Jason Crook

Jr B Tier 1 Commissioner - Interim