

RMLL RIC Report

In the first traditional season since 2019, returning to “normalcy” was a challenging, but successful endeavour for our officials.

Season Accomplishments

The RMLL continues to maintain an overall high level of officiating competency. This was highlighted at the national level by RMLL officials refereeing on-floor for the 12U, 14U, Founders, & Presidents Gold Medal games. We have had two additional RMLL officials hired to the NLL (one who attended the Minto Cup), the pinnacle of the sport.

Season Overview

With some officials not returning to the RMLL or lacrosse officiating as a whole after the pandemic, quite a few officials were promoted to the RMLL and its higher divisions. This was also the case with the implementation of the 3-official mechanic at the leagues with National Championships (Jr A, Tier I, and Sr B). Jr A utilized the 3-official mechanic throughout the season, including all playoffs and Minto Cup. Jr B Tier I only had 3-official system in the regular season due to budget and referee availability during July and August. The Founders Cup also used a 2-official system. Sr B mirrored Tier I in that the 3-official system was only used in the regular season, for budgetary and referee availability purposes. The Presidents Cup started with 2-official system, but moved to 3-official for the semi-finals and finals.

Season Setbacks

The relocation of Lloydminster to Hillmond, Sk and Cranbrook's home games were difficult to schedule referees. Both of these centres will require local officials to continue to host home games, especially for short-notice playoffs. I will propose that teams can only host playoff games if they have officials who live within 50 km of their home arena. I will endeavour to communicate and develop a recruitment strategy with the LGB RIC of Wheatland to assist promoting officials to the RMLL for next year. Additionally, an RMLL clinic in Cranbrook, or having Cranbrook officials travel to Alberta to certify will be a necessity. I have begun the preliminary steps to have a clinic for Junior level officials in Cranbrook with the BCLOA. Scheduling with arena availability continues to be a struggle. With multiple teams requiring weekend games to accommodate travel, it would be ideal if games within 100 km travel (round trip) could be played on more weeknights (Monday-Thursday). The downside to this would mean fewer potentially practice days for teams, the upside would be lower referee travel fees. This is a decision the teams would need to consider.

Even if more weekday games are not possible, planning to only have one game per day in Wheatland, coordination to share facilities, or scheduling to allow for officials to officiate one game, then travel to another game in the region on the same day.

Refining the mileage and expense process is top of the list for the season improvements.

Growth and Recruitment

With the success of LC utilizing the 3-official system and moving towards it for major national championships, the RMLL would best support the continued excellence of officials at national championships by using the 3-official system for all playoffs and provincials. This will require more officials be moved into the RMLL and be available during July & August. Having a normal season where officials gained experience in real game situations is crucial to promoting more officials to the RMLL. Existing officials also have improved over the course of a typical season.

Looking to the Future/Upcoming Season Goals

Staffing 50% of all regular season games in the leagues with national championships, and

100% of playoffs/provincials with the 3-officials system is a goal. Continuing to have Alberta officials in medal games and having more hires to the NLL is a goal for the season.

I am happy to share that I'll be getting married in 2023. The wedding ceremony will be July 1, 2023. Due to my circle of friends, many of them are lacrosse officials, and will be in attendance. I would ask the RMLL to continue to limit the amount of games at the Jr A, Sr B, and Tier I level in Alberta. This might be a good weekend for out of province travel.

Thank you to everyone for their support in making the 2022 season an enjoyable experience.

David
RMLL RIC