

RMLL JR A COMMISSIONERS REPORT

September 28th, 2021



EXECUTIVE SEASON REPORT

1. Growth and Recruitment

i *The Exhibition season allowed the teams to play larger rosters and affiliate players from JrB tier 1 and even a couple T2 players. Giving these players a greater developmental opportunity by playing more games. Especially beneficial after a season of no play.*

2. Season Overview

i *The 2021 season was played with modified rules that more closely resembled NLL rules. The general opinion of the coaches was that this improved competition and pace of play. I will include the survey results from the division with my report.*

The Box sector has enlisted the members of the Minto Committee to assist in a rules review. While the composition is not complete the ask is for a player and coach to attend and provide feedback.

3. Accomplishments

i *The single greatest accomplishment in the 2021 was getting the players back on the floor.*

The mood of the Governors in the April meeting was to cancel the season. With the subsequent announcement in May from the province regarding a return to play with amateur sport the mood completely reversed and all clubs agreed with a plan to run an exhibition season.

I cannot understate the appreciation from the Division to Pat Hanson from Tier 2 and Christine Thielen, RMLL Executive Director, in securing floor time and assisting with the execution of our year end cross over event. If it were not for their cooperation and quick thinking this season would not have been the success that it was.

A league operating policy was developed and currently in edit process with the expectation to be presented to the RMLL for ratification in November.

4. Setbacks

i *Lack of exposure of the JrA division and its players in the media and to the NLL continued. Without the exposure of participating in a national championship, no player was drafted in the first two rounds of the NLL Draft.*

The inability to run an NLL ID camp hampered that exposure as well. The NLL moving its September draft into August largely contributed to the cancelation of the project. The sanctioning process, budgeting and administration of the event also contributed. A longer planning cycle for a 2022 event should correct this.

Our relationship with the officials calling the game took a set back without a clear expectation of standards by coaches and officials the amount of conflict was increased. The emotional state of all parties appeared out of balance after a year off and in pandemic response modified societal restrictions. All appeared frustrated and intolerant.

5. Upcoming Season Goal/Objectives

i *2022 Objectives*

- *Planning for a regular unimpeded season. (with contingency plans being developed)*
- *Game Quality Assurance Program - Officiating Standard of Practice & Coaching Standard of Conduct*
- *Game streaming for all clubs*
- *Increase number of regular season games to 20*
- *Exhibition play with the BCJALL*
- *League Sponsorship and marketing program including greater social media presence*