



April 20, 2023

Hi everybody,

As we are on the verge of the start of the 2023 regular season, I wanted to send out a reminder about fan conduct and team responsibilities.

In previous years, we have had a few issues with fans (and sometimes even team officials) taunting opposing teams and/or abusing referees. Some of these were resolved informally by the teams, others required intervention by commissioners, and a few were sent to discipline. Obviously, we want to be pro-active and avoid having to deal with incidents after the fact.

To be fair, the vast majority of games go forward without any incidents. However, the very few that occur are damaging to all involved, the RMLL, and the game of lacrosse as a whole.

Lacrosse is a fast, physical game, and this can lead to an excited audience. We also have some very strong rivalries. Overall, this is great for the game. But we do not want unfortunate off-floor incidents to detract from the game.

The Lacrosse Canada rule book states:

Rule 18: Police Protection

The home club shall provide adequate police or other protection for all players, Referees and Off-Floor Officials at all times.

Situation 1 – Rule 18

Q) What happens if a Referee or Off-Floor Official is threatened or assaulted?

A) Any time a Referee or Off-Floor Official is threatened or assaulted they shall contact the police immediately and report it to the appropriate governing body immediately.

Situation 2 – Rule 18

Q) Does the referee's control of the game extend to spectators?

A) Yes, where deemed necessary, the Referee may suspend play until the home team has removed an abusive spectator.

Now, outside of national championships, home clubs rarely (if ever) use police protection. But home clubs should have some individual(s) responsible for crowd control. This does not necessarily involve removing spectators from the arena, but it might involve moving them to another area. For example, harassing an opposing goalie from behind the net or abusing a team's

bench from a near vicinity. It might also be warning a spectator who is being too loud, vulgar, and demonstrative towards a Referee. Yes, there may be rare moments when a spectator will have to be expelled from an arena or calling the police.

While the rule book emphasizes that the home club is responsible for crowd control, we also know that there could be obvious situations where the disruptive fan(s) are from the visiting club. There should be an arrangement to work with an official from the visiting team to address the situation.

We also want to ensure that Referees are focused on the game, and not off-floor activity. The home club should be proactively halting activity detrimental to the game and actively assisting the officials should the referees request individuals be removed.

We also address these situations in the RMLL Regulations:

Regulation 13.9. All persons, including those who pay admission fees or receive passes, who attend games under the jurisdiction of the RMLL, shall be deemed to have agreed that they were admitted to the grounds on the condition that they would subject themselves to and abide by the provision of the rules of the RMLL, even to the extent that they may be subjected to the necessary force to insure their expulsion by the police, the referee, or the officers of the home Franchise.

Finally, I wish to remind all teams of the RMLL Code of Conduct from the By-Laws:

11.02 CODE OF CONDUCT

Each member of the RMLL Executive, Franchise Holder, Member and Member of Member shall:

- a) at all times work toward the goals and Mission Statement of the RMLL and the game of Lacrosse;**
- b) strive to heighten the image and dignity of the RMLL and the sport of Lacrosse as a whole;**
- c) always be courteous and objective in all dealings with respect to participating within the RMLL;**
- d) except when made through proper channels, refrain from unfavorable criticism of other Franchise Holders, Members, Members of Members, Referees, or members of the RMLL Executive;**
- e) strive to achieve excellence in the sport while supporting the concepts of “Fair Play” and a Drug-Free sport;**

**f) show respect for the cultural, social and political values of all participants in the sport;
and**

**g) as a guest in a foreign country, other province or other Association, abide by the laws of
the host and adhere to any social customs concerning conduct.**

**All Franchise Holders must take reasonable efforts to require all persons involved, or
associated with, their Franchises to comply with the above code of conduct.**

Thank you for your attention to the matter, and hopefully we will not have any issues around
crowd control during the 2023 season.

Yours in lacrosse,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duane Bratt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Duane Bratt
RMLL President