



2023 RMLL Jr. B Tier II Commissioner Report

Darrel Knight

I would first like to congratulate the Cranbrook Black Wolves on winning the MacDonald Cup, the RMLL Jr. B Tier II Champions Jack Little Trophy and the RMLL Jr. B Tier II Cindy Garant Conference with their 2nd consecutive undefeated season. I would also like to congratulate the Lloydminster Xtreme the RMLL Jr. B Tier II Jim Andrews Conference Champions.

Our 2023 Conference scoring titles were won by Fletcher Blackshell-Jones of the Cranbrook Black Wolves for the Cindy Garant Division and Kael Street of the Sylvan Lake Yetti for the Jim Andrews Conference.

The 2023 season saw the return of the Westlock Rock, moving our division to 18 teams, 9 in the Jim Andrews Conference (North) and 9 in the Cindy Garant Conference (South). Each team played a home and home within their conference for a total of 144 Regular season games, an increase of 16 over 2022. Along with the growth in teams we also saw an increase of 52 players or 13.8% in 2023 with 429 athletes in the Tier II Division and there were also 16 players listed to Tier III Cards.

Team	2023		2022		Net Gain(Loss)	
	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 3
Calgary Axemen	23	1	23	0	0	1
Calgary Bandits	25	5	19	0	6	5
Calgary Wranglers	24	5	24	1	0	4
Cranbrook Black Wolves	25	2	21	1	4	1
Edmonton Warriors	13	0	19	0	-6	0
High River Heat	19	0	21	0	-2	0
Lakeland Heat	23	0	22	0	1	0
Lloydminster Xtreme	20	0	22	0	-2	0
Mountain View Stingers	19	0	21	0	-2	0
Parkland Posse	25	0	24	0	1	0
Red Deer Renegades	25	0	21	0	4	0
Rockyview Rage	25	2	20	0	5	2
Sherwood Park Titans	24	0	24	0	0	0
Southern Alberta Chaos	25	0	23	0	2	0
St. Albert Crude	25	0	25	0	0	0
Strathmore Venom	25	2	24	0	1	2
Sylvan Lake Yetti	21	0	24	0	-3	0
Westlock Rock	25	3	0	0	25	3
Division	411	20	377	2	34	18



4 teams in the division celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st with pregame celebrations. Many teams also partnered with Lacrossing Borders, and the division unanimously supported the Bandit's request for a non-playing 26th roster spot to encourage the participation of a young man on the Autism Spectrum.

During the 2023 season, approvals were granted for approximately 272 U17 or Tier III players to affiliate with Tier II teams. Although this gives a great opportunity to prepare and develop players for more full-time playing roles in Juniors in 2024 some were also out of necessity of a couple rosters being very low on players. 15 of the 18 rosters ended the season with at least 20 players with Edmonton Warriors (13), High River Heat (19) and Mountain View Stingers (19) being the three with less.

Tier II teams are proud to contribute to the growth and development of athletes working for team success but also to advance players through the Junior Ranks. In 2023 25 players were promoted from Tier II rosters in 2022 to Tier 1 rosters this season.

	2022 to 2023 Promoted to Tier 1
Team	
Calgary Axemen	1
Calgary Bandits	0
Calgary Wranglers	1
Cranbrook Black Wolves	0
Edmonton Warriors	2
High River Heat	2
Lakeland Heat	1
Lloydminster Xtreme	0
Mountain View Stingers	2
Parkland Posse	1
Red Deer Renegades	3
Rockyview Rage	0
Sherwood Park Titans	6
Southern Alberta Chaos	0
St. Albert Crude	1
Strathmore Venom	4
Sylvan Lake Yeti	1
Westlock Rock	0
Division	25



Tier II teams also had great support of the 2023 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), 11 of our athletes represented their province at the games, 10 for Alberta and 1 for Saskatchewan.

	NAIG Players
Team	
Calgary Axemen	1
Calgary Bandits	0
Calgary Wranglers	1
Cranbrook Black Wolves	0
Edmonton Warriors	0
High River Heat	1
Lakeland Heat	1
Lloydminster Xtreme	0
Mountain View Stingers	0
Parkland Posse	0
Red Deer Renegades	0
Rockyview Rage	1
Sherwood Park Titans	0
Southern Alberta Chaos	1
St. Albert Crude	4
Strathmore Venom	0
Sylvan Lake Yetti	1
Westlock Rock	0
Division	11

Generally, we had a very positive season, but unfortunately the season did not occur without its challenges. We had 3 defaulted games during the regular season and over the course of the year there were 59-man games lost to suspensions. This number sadly is not closed as there currently 2 players that could have further games lost due to incidents that have been referred to the Discipline Committee. Tier II also saw an increase 5.5 minutes in penalties per game over 2022, with 6,369 Penalty Minutes or 44.23PiM/Game.

As a division there is significant concern for the 2024 season as 43 players will graduate out of Jr. Lacrosse as well as the players that will be promoted to Tier I more teams could be faced with under-sized rosters.

It's now time to look to the future, it's time for the division to evaluate how we are providing for player advancement. Is it time to move to 3-person mechanics for our officials, do we need to evaluate the game play and move the rules to those that are played at the higher divisions so that we can set our athletes up for success when they move to higher divisions.