

RMLL 2023 Junior B Tier 1 Commissioner Report

The 2023 season was another successful one and continued with building some great momentum that we had achieved the previous season coming out of Covid. Player registration at the Tier 1 level remained at a constant level from the previous year as well.

There was a total of 14 suspensions and 1 team fine handed out across the Tier 1 division this season. That compares to the 14 in 2022 and 30 in 2019. The competitiveness and parity within the divisions was a strong contributor to this number as most games we were close scores. The 2023 division champions were the Edmonton Warriors (North), Manitoba Blizz (East), Red Deer Rampage (Central) and Calgary Shamrocks (South). Division scoring champions were Graham Dicken (Warriors), Quaid Bolger (Chill), Max Janousek (Shamrocks) and Jackson Klewchuk (Blizz).

The Beaumont Outlaws hosted this years Larry Bishop Memorial Cup. The weekend was full of high-level lacrosse and fierce competition on the floor. Special thanks to the Outlaw organization and more importantly Kevin Hobday and all his volunteers. Many of them were at the arena from start of the tournament right until the finish and put in some very long days. The Player of the game awards was named after Jackson Porter, who sadly passed in April before the season began. Jackson was a skilled lacrosse player and was a 2nd round draft pick by the Fort Saskatchewan Rebels in 2021 and one of their leading scores during the 2022 season. The standings after the round robin were as follows: Warriors 4-1, Blizz 3-2, Shamrocks 2-2, Outlaws 1-3, Rampage 1-3. The final standings were not decided until the final couple of games in the round robin which made for some intense games on the Sunday. In the final it was the Warriors defeating the Blizz by a score of 16-8 to earn the right to be called the RMLL and ALA champions for a second year. Ben Royer was selected the Jayden Sommerfeld MVP for the weekend.

We had very few issues during the season and the competition was at a high level in almost every game. The Tier 1 division has built up some great moment over the last 2 seasons but unfortunately a couple of teams were hit with the injury bug which kept them from finding success this season.

The 2024 Larry Bishop Memorial Cup will be hosted by the Rockyview Silvertips and I am sure they will put on a first class tournament. With the creation of CROW Lax tv by North Division and more teams starting to stream their home games it can only mean better exposure for our players and teams in the future. Hopefully we can keep building on that interest and explore some new opportunities for sponsorship.

I look forward to the 2024 season!

Ian Stewart
Jr B Tier 1 Commissioner