



2024 RMLL Jr. B Tier II Commissioner Report

Darrel Knight

I would first like to congratulate the Lakeland Heat on winning the RMLL Jr. B Tier II Champions Jack Little Trophy and the RMLL Jr. B Tier II Jim Andrews Conference Title. I would also like to congratulate the Calgary Wranglers the RMLL Jr. B Tier II Cindy Garrant Conference Champions. I would also like to congratulate Olivia Schmidt of the Rockyview Rage, I mean Team Canada! I would also like to extend a thank-you to the Southern Alberta Chaos in hosting the 2024 MacDonald Cup.

Our 2024 Conference scoring titles were won by Austin Sheen of the Southern Alberta Chaos for the Cindy Garant Division and Bret MacLeod of the Lakeland Heat for the Jim Andrews Conference.

The 2024 season saw the departure of the Westlock Rock and the Cranbrook Black Wolves, moving our division back down to 16 teams, 8 in the Jim Andrews Conference (North) and 8 in the Cindy Garant Conference (South). As a result, the division initiated our first Crossover weekend, thank-you Amanada, Lane and the Mountain View Stingers for hosting, each team played a home and home within their conference and a home and an away game against teams from the other division for a total of 18 games each for a total of 128 Regular season games, the same number as in 2023.

With the loss of 2 teams the division (including Tier 3 Cards) realized a loss of 17 players or 3.9% in 2024 compared to 2023, with 385 athletes in the Tier II Division and there were also 29 players listed to Tier III Cards.

Team	2024		2023		Net Gain(Loss)	
	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 3
Calgary Axemen	24	0	23	1	1	-1
Calgary Bandits	25	4	25	5	0	-1
Calgary Wranglers	25	5	24	5	1	0
Cranbrook Black Wolves	0	0	25	2	-25	-2
Edmonton Warriors	23	0	13	0	10	0
High River Heat	25	2	19	0	6	2
Lakeland Heat	24	2	23	0	1	2
Lloydminster Xtreme	24	0	20	0	4	0
Mountain View Stingers	20	1	19	0	1	1
Parkland Posse	23	2	25	0	-2	2
Red Deer Renegades	24	0	25	0	-1	0
Rockyview Rage	24	0	25	2	-1	-2
Sherwood Park Titans	23	3	24	0	-1	3
Southern Alberta Chaos	22	0	25	0	-3	0
St. Albert Crude	25	5	25	0	0	5
Strathmore Venom	29	4	25	2	4	2
Sylvan Lake Yetti	25	1	21	0	4	1
Westlock Rock	0	0	25	3	-25	-3
Division	385	29	411	20	-26	9



During the 2024 season, approvals were granted for approximately 300 U17 or Tier III players to affiliate with Tier II teams. Many times, it was difficult to find U17 AP's as all Divisions seemingly were looking for affiliated players all year. We also were happy to see that 68 (40 runners and 28 goalie man games) Tier 2 players were given an opportunity to affiliate with Tier 1 programs. Again, we are happy to see the number of Tier 2 athletes getting the chance to play higher levels, as a developmental division, we and our Tier 1 partners have some work to do to increase this result. In 2024 Tier 1 teams used ~317 AP's (79 Goalies and 238 Runners) of these AP's Tier 2 filled 21.45% of these spots (35.44% Goalies and 16.81% Runners). It is imperative that we the RMLL look at tactics to ensure that we are developing our athletes to give them a path to the highest level of lacrosse that they wish to get to.

During the Crossover Weekend held in May, the ALA performed a GAP Analysis on the Division and the report to the division will be shared at the upcoming Planning and AGM weekend. The outcome of the analysis is aimed at developing more Tier 2 players and coaches for opportunities in Tier 1.

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	2
Calgary Bandits	3
Calgary Wranglers	2
Cranbrook Black Wolves	0
Edmonton Warriors	0
High River Heat	0
Lakeland Heat	0
Lloydminster Xtreme	0
Mountain View Stingers	0
Parkland Posse	0
Red Deer Renegades	5
Rockyview Rage	0
Sherwood Park Titans	2
Southern Alberta Chaos	1
St. Albert Crude	4
Strathmore Venom	3
Sylvan Lake Yetti	0
Westlock Rock	0
Division	22



The 2024 season also saw the division adopt the same rules of play that is being played at Jr. A as well as approved the use of 3-person referee crews in our games. These decisions were chosen to improve the level of play in Tier 2 to again provide opportunities for our players and coaches to develop for higher levels but to also provide more opportunities for our partners from the ALRA to develop more officials capable of refereeing in the 3-person mechanic. I feel that both additions to our division were successful! The adoption of the new rules package went off seamlessly and the 3-person mechanics had moderate success, unfortunately not all games were covered by 3 officials. The number of games that had 3 officials vs 2 officials led to an interesting collection of data. At the season end, 50 of the 128 games have had 2-person officiating crews (39.06%), if we take the Crossover weekend out the percentage moves to 44.64%.

2-person games by Team

Team	Home Games	Away Games	Total
Axemen	2	4	6
Bandits	1	3	4
Chaos	4	5	9
Crude	5	4	9
HR Heat	4	1	5
LL Heat	5	5	10
Posse	5	3	8
Rage	1	3	4
Renegades	2	3	5
Stingers	5	1	6
Titans	3	1	4
Venom	1	2	3
Warriors	2	5	7
Wranglers	2	1	3
Xtreme	6	5	11
Yettis	2	4	6



Penalty Stats:

All Games – 5,962 minutes in penalties, 85 Game Misconducts, Gross and Match Penalties

2 Person Games – 2,176 minutes in penalties (36.5%), 35 Game Misconducts, Gross and Match Penalties (41.18%).

In my opinion 2 person officiating mechanics elevates the level of aggression. Penalty calls are relatively equivalent to the ratio of games. However, the stats would suggest 2 person mechanics misses penalties that result in the escalation and severity of the player actions, resulting in the need to eject more players.

Generally, we had a very positive season, but unfortunately the season did not occur without its challenges. In 2024 there were 34-man games lost to suspensions from this season plus another 22 man-games that were carried over from 2023. Given that we removed the suspension for being ejected in the last 10 minutes of a game, this is still a high number. Tier II saw an increase 2.6 minutes in penalties per game over 2023 (removed Black Wolves and Rock data), with 6,036 Penalty Minutes or 47.16PiM/Game. Congratulations to High River, they lowered their penalty minutes and took 71 fewer minutes in penalties than the next closest team and to the Parkland Posse who lowered their penalty minutes by over 45% year over year. I would be remised if I don't address the level of inappropriate "trash talk" this year. Coach to player should never occur and the use of homophobic, racist and sexist is not apart of the Medicine Game. I was disgusted to hear that players in our Division, were making comments about sick and deceased family members, we MUST be better!

As a division we will see 62 players graduate out of Jr. Lacrosse further Tier 1 will lose 45 and Jr A 19 for a total of 126 Grads, ALA U17 Minor Lacrosse is graduating 369 players, just to replace the graduating players, we the RMLL need to retain 24.14% of the U17 Grads. This does not cover the players returning to their home provinces from LC transfers, rosters that were not at 25 and current player attrition.

Thank-you to Deputy Commissioner Mike Medhurst, you have no idea how much you have helped this season! Thank-you for taking on the Affiliation requests and some of the other responsibilities in the Division!

Thank-you to you all, the time and energy that you all volunteer to grow our sport does not go unappreciated! Have a great off-season and cheers to 2025!

Darrel Knight, Commissioner

RMLL Jr B Tier 2