



## Report of the RMLL Vice President October 2024

In 2024 my primary role was as interim or acting Junior A Commissioner. This was, I believe, my second or third season wearing that label. The season consisted of 15 regular season games followed by playoffs resulting in the surprising Raiders team advancing to the Minto Cup. The Raiders have a young team which developed quickly through the season, narrowly finishing second in the regular season and then prevailing in the playoffs over the Mounties and Miners successively.

The Minto Cup was attended by Duane representing the RMLL and his review can be found in his report and attached to this report below. The Raiders played well but did not have the results they were looking for. My observation of the tournament over the years that I have either watched or attended (2005 to 2024) is that the teams from Ontario and BC load up their teams at the “trade” deadline. This has been a documented tradition in lacrosse for years. This year both BC teams acquired numerous players from teams lower in the standings. These are trades in name only. In the past two Minto Cups the Adanac’s most valuable player is actually the same player from another team who returns to his team once the Minto is finished. Some years ago, Ontario brought in a rule that a traded player had to play one full season after being traded before he could return to his original team. However, that does not prevent fifth year players from being downloaded onto contending teams.

Throughout the past year I have been attending a series of meetings with representatives from BC and Ontario to negotiate the new Minto Cup agreement and, secondly, to explore the development of a unified Junior A league in Canada. The new Minto agreement is essentially finished and should be ready for signing shortly after our meeting next Tuesday. Although the three provinces are in agreement the LC representatives have raised some issues that must be resolved.

The concept of a unified Junior A league across the country has been discussed before. I recall attending a meeting in BC over 14 years ago to discuss the proposal with the other two Commissioners. Whether anything comes of this initiative this time remains to be seen but at some point, the issue of roster construction for National Championships will have to be resolved in the context of a unified league or the Minto Cup agreement. There are other issues of course but that is an important one in my view.

I still believe we have an issue in our regulations with respect to the sections set out below. We had a situation in the final game of the Junior A playoffs where it was alleged that an assistant coach was verbally abusive towards the timekeepers due to problems with the clock not starting or stopping. The persons involved forwarded a written complaint to me as commissioner. When I forwarded the complaint to the team, foolishly believing I would deal with it, I was confronted with the sections set out below.

The time keepers had actually stopped the game and complained to the referees but the refs chose not to call a bench minor and did not record anything on the game sheet. There was no report forwarded to the league. I note in passing that the referee in the

timekeeper's box did not respond to the (alleged) verbal attack. The issue was further complicated by the fact that there was a verbal altercation after the game between the same assistant coach and the timekeepers.

So, if the referee does not forward a report what is the result for the complainant?  
Are there any repercussions for the referee?

Since there is nothing recorded on the game sheet the interpretation of 39.13 argued by the team is defensible; its not on the game sheet so you cannot do anything about it.

I am of the view that these sections have to be revisited.

The Commissioner should be allowed to discipline to a certain level event that occur during the game but off the floor.

Best,  
Greg Lintz

39.7. All Referees must report in full detail of any member of a Franchise who makes physical contact or who verbally abuses a Referee or game official in any manner at any time. This report will be sent to the President of the RMLL within twenty-four (24) hours following the incident. The Member of the Franchise will be subject to discipline as per the operating regulations of the RMLL.

39.13. Under no circumstances shall the RMLL or any Officer, Director, Commissioner or committee thereof, consider or issue any discipline or assess any penalty with respect to any infraction committed, or alleged to have been committed, during or in connection with a game unless such infraction is recorded on the game sheet by a referee assigned to officiate such game, which shall include, for greater clarity, any infraction which it is alleged by any party was missed or incorrectly assessed by a referee.

43.1. Any complaint or referral to the Discipline/Appeals Committee permitted by Bylaw 11.05 must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director within five (5) days of the occurrence of the action which is the subject of the complaint or referral. The Executive Director shall as soon as practicable and in any event within three (3) days of receipt of the complaint or referral forward same in writing to the Commissioner of Discipline and Appeals.

The Minto Cup was held in Coquitlam, BC. The Coquitlam Adanacs won the Minto Cup beating the Orangeville Northmen in the final. The Raiders Lacrosse Club (the youngest team in the tournament) finished fourth, but were competitive in every game (minus one bad period out of nine). The atmosphere was electric for almost every game, with crowds close to over capacity for the playoff games (around 2500). There were complaints about the \$20 cost per live stream. This was due to the cost but also because other national championships had free live streams.