



## RMLL 2024 Founders Cup Report

The 2024 Founders Cup tournament featured 9 teams from 7 provinces as well as a First Nations team. According to Lacrosse Canada rules, if there are more than 7 teams, then the tournament is divided into 2 divisions rather than a round robin. This caused an unbalanced schedule for half of the teams leaving them to play one less game during the week.

The following teams made up this year's tournament:

Elora Mohawks – Ontario	Victoria Shamrocks – British Columbia
Onondaga Redhawks – First Nations	Saint John Rapids – New Brunswick
Winnipeg Blizzard - Manitoba	Nova Scotia Privateers – Nova Scotia
Queen City Kings – Saskatchewan	Hamilton Bengals – Host
Mountain View Mavericks – Alberta	

Heavy rainstorms in the greater Toronto area caused travel delays for at least 3 teams and a couple of the officials. Due to this, the first 2 days of games had to be rearranged to accommodate the late arrivals. What should have been an easy process hit roadblocks due to the host teams' unwillingness to move any of their games during the week. Finally, a revised schedule was set and voted on with the tournament starting on Monday and running during the week and finishing with the playoffs on the weekend. The games were very competitive throughout the week with the 2 teams from Ontario leading the way. Neither team lost a game during the tournament until the final where Elora defeated Hamilton 10-1.

The officiating at this year tournament was not as consistent as it was the previous year. The standard which they started calling at the beginning of the week was not what you would expect at a Founders Cup tournament. It appeared to frustrate a lot of the teams throughout the tournament.

Congratulations to the Mountain View Mavericks as they finished the tournament winning the Tier 2 Gold Medal in the consolation final. Both the Regina Queen City Kings and Winnipeg Blizzard had very competitive tournaments as well.

Lastly, getting any information for this year's tournament was a challenge just like the 2023 tournament. I reached out to at least 2 people in the Bengal organization as well as the Ontario Jr B Commissioner a couple of times a month out from the tournament but never received any communications back. Hopefully Lacrosse Canada can fix this issue for future tournaments.

I look forward to another competitive Founders Cup Championship in 2025 when the Calgary Shamrocks host next years tournament.

Ian Stewart  
Jr B Tier 1 Commissioner