



2025 Alberta Series Lacrosse Commissioner's Report

The 2025 ASL season went fairly smooth from a governance perspective. Player registrations were done correctly, teams played all games and discipline was light during the regular season with only one suspension being handed out for a match penalty. The ASL plays a 14-game season, with the regular season requiring a 35-game schedule.

The parity in ASL is tightening up with the new rules restricting teams to 3 NLL/PLL players/team. This rule along with the adoption of the "NLL/JR A modified rules" across the board in Sr B has led to a very fast and exciting game to watch. As a huge fan of the game, I enjoy watching the ASL games, we have developed some pretty exciting talent in Alberta.

The Edmonton Miners once again finished the season in first place with a record of 12-2, the Outlaws continued their rebuild and finished second with an 8-5-1 record, followed by the Mountaineers, Knight and Rebels.

The first round saw the Miners beat the Knights 3 games straight and the Mounties beat the Outlaws 3 games to 1. This set up a rematch of the past 5 previous provincial championships. This series saw 2 serious infractions called in two straight games. For the first time in many years in over a decade there was a Match Penalty for Abuse of Official called in Game 2 against a Mounties player and another one in game 3 against a Miners player with an additional Gross Misconduct. Both incidents had video available, which was reviewed by myself, RIC David Westwood and RMLL President Duane Bratt. The first call was upheld based on the video evidence and referee report. The second incident was rescinded by myself and the RIC David Westwood. Both myself and Duane Bratt were present at the second incident and used what we witnessed in person, along with video provided to render this ruling. I also relied on medical evidence presented by the team and referred to a ruling made by Greg Lintz in another division.

One of the takeaways from both incidents in the play-off rounds was an observation made by myself and David Westwood that officials do not seem to have much direction on how to handle fight situations and gatherings. Some official's actions accidentally cause the situations to boil over due to their approach to the situation. We have both discussed that a session on gathering and fight situations should be taught at the Uber clinic, the same way it is at high level officiating camps in hockey. In my days in the AJHL and WHL in the 90s, we had a full one hour session at our summer camp to deal with breaking up various altercations and handling players properly once an altercation has been diffused.

Once again it has been an honour to serve the GMs of the Alberta Series Lacrosse. We have developed great working relationships throughout our division and the quality of our game is rising.

Yours truly,

Norm Shaw
Alberta Series Lacrosse Commissioner