

2025 Founders Cup Report

The 2025 Founders Cup tournament featured eight teams representing six provinces, along with a First Nations team. The Rocky Mountain Lacrosse League (RMLL) was represented by the Queen City Kings, Mountainview Mavericks, and Calgary Shamrocks.

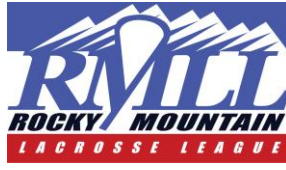
The participating teams were:

- Kahnawake Hunters (Ontario)
- Coquitlam Adanacs (British Columbia)
- Seneca Warchiefs (First Nations)
- Saint John Rapids (New Brunswick)
- Queen City Kings (Saskatchewan)
- Nova Scotia Privateers (Nova Scotia)
- Mountainview Mavericks (Alberta)
- Calgary Shamrocks (Host, Alberta)

The Seven Chiefs Sportsplex on the Tsuut'ina Nation, located on Calgary's west side, was selected as the tournament venue. The venue benefited from the use of turf supplied by the Calgary Roughnecks, an advantage appreciated by the teams. However, this turf introduced some technical challenges due to discrepancies between Lacrosse Canada's traditional playing rules and the turf's layout — specifically differing restraining lines and absence of a face-off circle. After discussion at the pre-tournament meeting, all teams agreed to play using modified rules addressing these issues. The hope remains that Lacrosse Canada will update the Founders Cup playing regulations to align with those used at other national tournaments.

Another point raised for future consideration is the high travel costs incurred by teams for this week-long event, which was slightly prolonged due to games starting at 1:00 p.m. and scheduled rest days for all teams. A shorter tournament format could help mitigate these expenses.

The balanced schedule allowed each team to play an equal number of games throughout the week, resulting in highly competitive matchups. The three RMLL teams finished the round-robin stage with identical records of two wins and three losses each. Both the Mountainview Mavericks and Calgary Shamrocks advanced to the semi-finals held on Friday. The Mavericks narrowly lost to the Coquitlam Adanacs, while the Shamrocks were defeated by the strong Kahnawake Hunters. This led to a bronze medal rematch between the Mavericks and Shamrocks, where the Shamrocks secured victory with a decisive empty-net goal in the final 30 seconds.



Meanwhile, the Queen City Kings faced the Seneca Warchiefs in the Tier 2 Consolation Final, an intense matchup that went into overtime following a 6-6 tie in regulation. Despite a strong effort with a 2-goal rally in the final 90 seconds of overtime, the Kings ultimately fell short.

Individual accolades were awarded to three RMLL players selected for the tournament All-Star teams:

- Graeson Amundson (Mountainview Mavericks) – 1st Team All-Star
- Ryan McDonald (Queen City Kings) – 2nd Team All-Star
- Liam O'Dwyer (Calgary Shamrocks) – 2nd Team All-Star

The Calgary Shamrocks organization, planning committee, and volunteers are to be commended for hosting an exceptionally well-run and smoothly executed tournament. Looking ahead, the 2026 Founders Cup will be hosted in Saint John, New Brunswick.