



Annual Report of the ALRA President
Kevin Kohut
September 2024

The 2024 season was an improvement over the 2023 season however we still faced significant challenges. A shortage of Officials seemed to be less of an issue this year however Abuse of Officials is still a concern. The factors for both of those issues are somewhat intertwined and yet some are mutually exclusive. We are continuing to discuss how we can combat both of those issues. There were also a few instances of Officials being threatened with lawsuits. This is something that needs to be addressed as it will only get worse in the future.

The ALRA hosted 19 separate clinics in 2024 (down 5 from 2023) in an attempt to provide those interested in Officiating an option that worked for their individual schedule. The reduced quantity was offset by the promotion of on-line clinics that were more feasible for Officials to attend. The specific clinic breakdown is as follows:

- Entry Level / Level 1: 14 (CALL-3; CDLA-3; GELC-3; SALA-1; WLA-2; Fort McMurray-1; Grande Prairie-1)
- Level 2 / Level 3: 3 (online-3)
- Level 4 – 6 ... 1 (Uber Clinic in Okotoks)
- Last Chance All Levels: 1 (online)

The first clinic was held on March 9th with the last one being held on April 30th. From those clinics we were able to register 395 Officials for the 2024 season (an increase of 30 from 2023), of which 190 were newer Officials. Of the 395 registered, 42 that did not step on floor. Breakdown as to the number of Officials at each level is as follows:

- Entry Level / Level 1 ... 248 (62.7%)
- Level 2 ... 49 (12.4%)
- Level 3 ... 57 (14.4%)
- Level 4 ... 32 (8.1%)
- Level 5 ... 8 (2.0%)
- Level 6 ... 1 (0.2%)

The breakdown of the number of games per Official is as follows:

- less than 10 – 68
- greater than 10 less than 20 – 80
- greater than 20 less than 30 – 55
- greater than 30 less than 40 – 27
- greater than 40 less than 50 – 30
- greater than 50 less than 60 – 13
- greater than 60 less than 70 – 10
- greater than 70 less than 80 – 14
- greater than 80 less than 90 – 4
- greater than 90 less than 100 – 4
- greater than 100 less than 110 – 1
- greater than 110 less than 120 – 4
- greater than 120 less than 130 – 1
- greater than 130 less than 140 – 0

Based on those numbers, 8% of our members were responsible for covering 24% of the games during the 2024 season. Our attrition rate from 2023 to 2024 improved over that of the one from 2022 to 2023. In total we saw 147 Officials not return from 2023. Of the new Officials we had register from 2023, we only lost 74 with 117 registering for 2024 there by making our attrition rate only 38.7% which is a vast improvement from the previous year's 70.4%. We lost 73 Officials that had two or more years experience. Again, there are multiple factors that influence this, however in a brief sample size survey I conducted, 53% percent of the sample size stated Official Abuse was their main reason for not returning.

We would like to congratulate the following ALRA Officials that were selected to attend the following National Championships:

- U17 Female – Zackary Kohut (earned the U17F Gold Medal Game)
- U17 – Caelan Thain (earned the U15 Gold Medal Game)
- Jr. Ladies – Matt Murphy (earned U15 Gold Medal Game)
- Jr. BT2 Mac Donald Cup – Ethan Hanson (earned Gold Medal Game)
- Jr BT1 Founder's Cup – Julian Grbich
- Jr A Minto Cup – Brendan Boyle
- Sr B President's Cup – Lane Hartung (earned Gold Medal Game)
- U17/U19 Field – Jonathan Bennett with Marty Gaffney as OIC and Lawrence Zdrill as OC

The 2024 season saw us continue with our 2023 jerseys (both minor and major) with the updated Lacrosse Canada logo designed in partnership with Xtreme Threads. Jersey purchases were higher than expected which caused a shortage at the beginning of the season. I will take ownership of that as I should have ordered more prior to the spring rush. Again, this jersey design was used as the standard jersey for the Minor, and all Major National Championships.

The ALRA Board met recently to discuss not only the challenges we face looking ahead to the 2025 season, but the changes we believe we need to see moving forward. The challenges/changes include, but are not limited to:

- recruitment and retention (as is always the case)
- schedule alignment between minor and major
- discipline minimums (LGB consistency)
- discipline structure (LGB consistency)
- RMLL Official's fees increases as previously discussed
- possible revival of the Manager of Officiating role at the ALA

Looking ahead to the 2025 season we will see some new faces in Executive and Board positions. I will not be running for President again so there will be a new President for the 2025 season and beyond. I would like to thank all of those that contributed their time and effort into the ALRA and your respective LGBs in both Executive, and Board, positions.

We hope to be sending our requests for clinic dates to the LGBs prior to the ALA AGM in hopes that with dates secured sooner we can begin the clinic planning process a bit earlier. There may also be some developments from LC in regards to the method of distribution of clinic material which could drastically change how we facilitate clinics and how we utilize the time spent with Officials in training.

Thank you



K.J. (Kevin) Kohut
ALRA President