

Alberta Lacrosse Referee Association

Annual General Meeting

Location: 50 Lees St, Red Deer, Ab

Date: November 2nd, 2019

Attendees: ALRA Members

Time: 4:00PM Mountain Standard Time

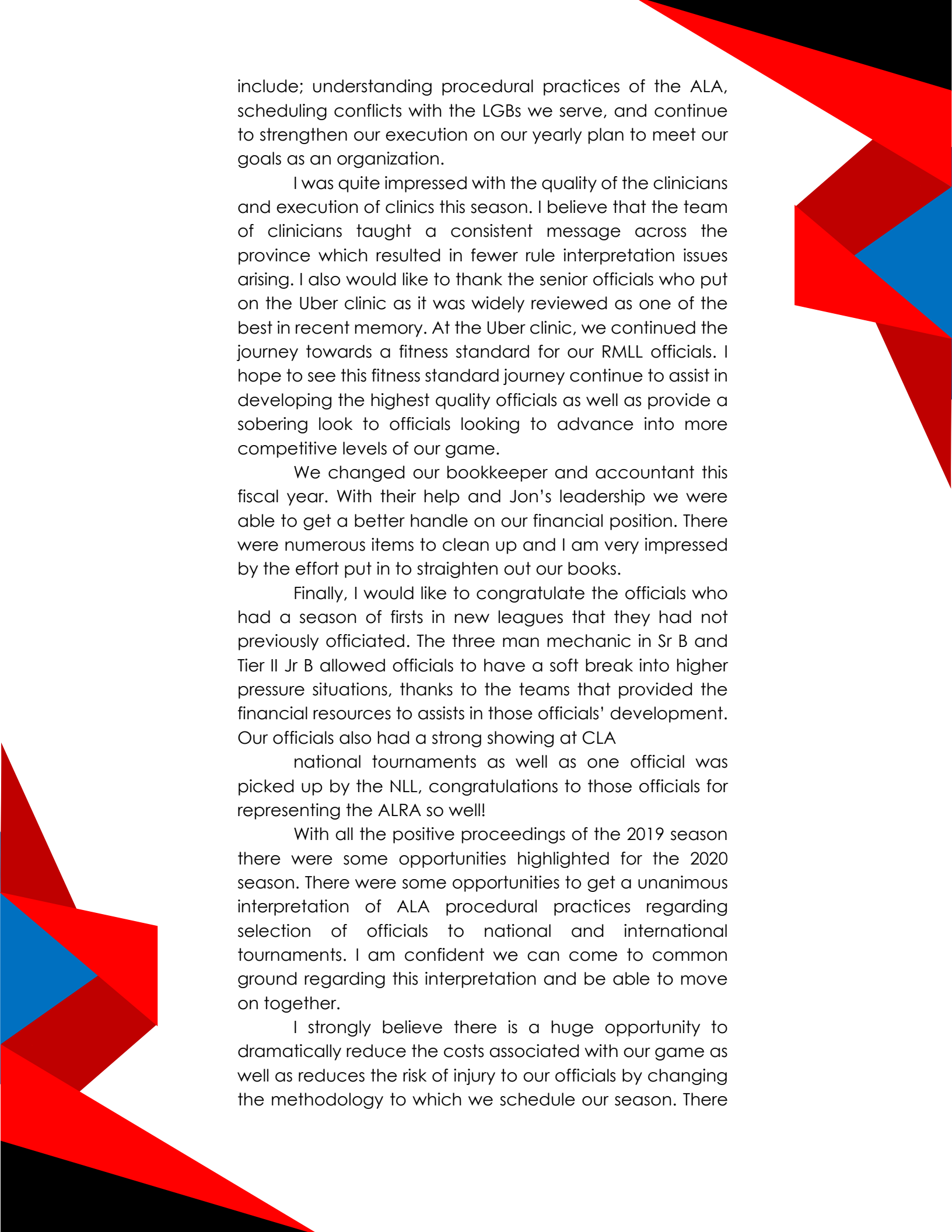
- I. **Call to order:** Wes Kendall at 4:26PM
 - a) **Roll Call of Executive & BOD Members**
 - i) Wes Kendall, Julian G, David W, Kevin K, Cole S, Jon B & Cameron L
 - ii) Regrets Joe: C, Marty G, Donny M & Brent W
 - b) **Reading and Approval of Agenda**
 - i) Julian G, Seconded by David W
 - c) **Adoption of Minutes from Previous AGM**
 - i) David W, Seconded by Julian G
 - d) **Business Arising from Prior Minutes**
 - i) None

II. **Executive Reports**

- a) **Presidents Report:**

2019 Year End Report of ALRA President Weston Kendall

Overall, the 2019 was a positive step in the right direction for the ALRA. As a group we were able to successfully execute during clinic season, straighten out our financials (with a special thanks to Jon Bennett) and we had many officials step up into new leagues as well as strong showing at national tournaments. There were also some opportunities that I hope our executive and BOD will rise to the occasion in the 2020 season. These opportunities



include; understanding procedural practices of the ALA, scheduling conflicts with the LGBs we serve, and continue to strengthen our execution on our yearly plan to meet our goals as an organization.

I was quite impressed with the quality of the clinicians and execution of clinics this season. I believe that the team of clinicians taught a consistent message across the province which resulted in fewer rule interpretation issues arising. I also would like to thank the senior officials who put on the Uber clinic as it was widely reviewed as one of the best in recent memory. At the Uber clinic, we continued the journey towards a fitness standard for our RMLL officials. I hope to see this fitness standard journey continue to assist in developing the highest quality officials as well as provide a sobering look to officials looking to advance into more competitive levels of our game.

We changed our bookkeeper and accountant this fiscal year. With their help and Jon's leadership we were able to get a better handle on our financial position. There were numerous items to clean up and I am very impressed by the effort put in to straighten out our books.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the officials who had a season of firsts in new leagues that they had not previously officiated. The three man mechanic in Sr B and Tier II Jr B allowed officials to have a soft break into higher pressure situations, thanks to the teams that provided the financial resources to assist in those officials' development. Our officials also had a strong showing at CLA

national tournaments as well as one official was picked up by the NLL, congratulations to those officials for representing the ALRA so well!

With all the positive proceedings of the 2019 season there were some opportunities highlighted for the 2020 season. There were some opportunities to get a unanimous interpretation of ALA procedural practices regarding selection of officials to national and international tournaments. I am confident we can come to common ground regarding this interpretation and be able to move on together.

I strongly believe there is a huge opportunity to dramatically reduce the costs associated with our game as well as reduces the risk of injury to our officials by changing the methodology to which we schedule our season. There

will be a point where games will not have officials due to too many games happening simultaneously, I hope to work with the schedule decision makers to reduce cost, reduce injury risk, and avoid game cancellations.

There is also an opportunity to more effectively execute our yearly plan and organizational goals by hiring an executive director to assist the executive and BOD. This was obvious during the time the ALA employed the Manager of Officiating. We are currently exploring funding options to complete this.

I look forward to the 2020 season as I feel it will be another positive step in the right direction for the ALRA and our game building on the positive momentum from the 2019 season. Thanks to everyone who made this year successful.



Weston Kendall
ALRA President

- Motion to Carry by Cole S, Seconded by Jonathan Bennett

b) **VP Member Services Report (VPMS)**

c) **VP Finance Report (VPF)**

RE: 2019 ALRA Vice-President Finance Report

Dear Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association Members,

As ALRA VP Finance for the second continuous season, my commitment to you remains the

same: to ensure our referees are paid timely and accurately for their services. I am proud to

report that the ALRA has improved upon various action items I addressed last season, most

notably by using a new payment service to pay referees. Below you will find an assessment of

the goals and priorities I set forth in my 2018 Annual Report.

1. Reducing payroll processing costs

- To achieve this objective, the ALRA Executive made the decision to migrate to a new

payment provider for the 2019 season, Plooto, which operates as a mass e-transfer

payment service. While there was an initial adjustment period (as there would be

with any new software) the payments were processed on-time and accurately, while

drastically reducing both our bank fees and data entry time.

- With the exception of a few officials who have not yet deposited their funds, over

99% of our official base have been paid successfully this season.

2. Ensuring clear communication is provided to referees regarding the payment process

and expected deposit dates

- While cash flow continues to be an issue, referees were well informed of payment

dates and guidelines before and during the season. We did not run into as many

issues as last season mostly due to receiving 50% of RMLL mileage at the beginning

of the season, and prompt payment by the leagues and most tournaments.

3. Continuing to accurately and promptly invoice leagues and tournaments and provide

transparent documentation to back-up each invoice

- Like last season, every tournament and league was provided a comprehensive

Quickbooks invoice via email, with an excel back up (in various formats, with the

ability to sort/filter) and screenshots of reporting from our assigning software. This

is to ensure all invoices are billed 100% accurately, and that all monies paid is then

distributed back to the referees and assignors in full.

4. Improving our cash flow by ensuring outstanding invoices are collected in accordance

with ALA regulations, thus settling our accounts payable more quickly

- I am pleased to report that all invoices were settled with leagues and tournaments

by our year-end this season. Additionally, most invoices were paid in accordance

with ALA guidelines, and the small percentage of invoices not paid on-time did not

greatly impact our cash flow.

5. Ensuring clinic payments and product sales are reported accurately and consistently

- RAMP Registrations was able to provide the ALRA with a comprehensive report of

our registration fees and product sales, leading to a more accurate report this

season.

6. Managing our income versus expenses to ensure the ALRA remains sustainable

- This will be a discussion item for the 2019 Planning Meeting.

7. Committing to clear and proactive communication with the ALA

- I am pleased to report that the ALRA did not absorb any losses due to

miscommunication with the ALA this season. As far as I am aware, procedures were

followed properly as all ALRA invoices to the ALA were paid promptly and in full.

The ALRA improved greatly upon many of the action items described above. Looking ahead to

2020, I plan to continue improving internal efficiencies around payment processing and

maintaining positive relationships with the ALA, LGBs, tournaments and teams through

accurate invoicing and effective communication.

2020 Action Items

In addition to continuing the initiatives described above, I plan to:

1. Research and discuss the viability of using Plotoo for future payment processing

- Given the reasonable cost and ease of use, I recommend to the BOD to continue

using Plotoo unless a more cost effective option is found.

2. Work with our new bookkeeper and accountant in January 2020 to ensure our Chart of

Accounts is accurate and up-to-date to achieve the most effective financial reporting

- The ALRA contracted a new bookkeeper, Jacqueline Van Fossen with Enterprise

Office Systems Ltd. in November 2018. The ALRA Executive and Board of Directors is

very pleased with our working relationship and will continue to use her professional

services for the foreseeable future.

- The ALRA also contracted a new accounting firm in September 2019, Romanovsky &

Associates LLP to complete our 2019 Notice to Reader.

3. Explore options for both internal and external income sources to fund various ALRA

initiatives

As mentioned before, I am very satisfied with the 2019 season overall. Regarding the financial

portfolio, the ALRA has significantly improved our internal processes in terms of accurate

financial reporting and cost reduction around payment processing. I will continue my

commitment of ensuring our referees are paid on-time and accurately, and remain accountable

and transparent when invoicing LGBs, tournaments and teams for services.

As always, I encourage any member with questions, comments or suggestions to attend our

AGM and contact myself or any member of the ALRA Board of Directors.

I look forward to a successful season ahead!

Jonathan Bennett

Vice President Finance, Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association

vpfinance@albertalacrosserefs.ca

- **Recommendations that the ALRA add a facility spending on the expenses 6-4703 & 6-4717**

- Motion to carry by Wes Kendall, Seconded by David Westwood

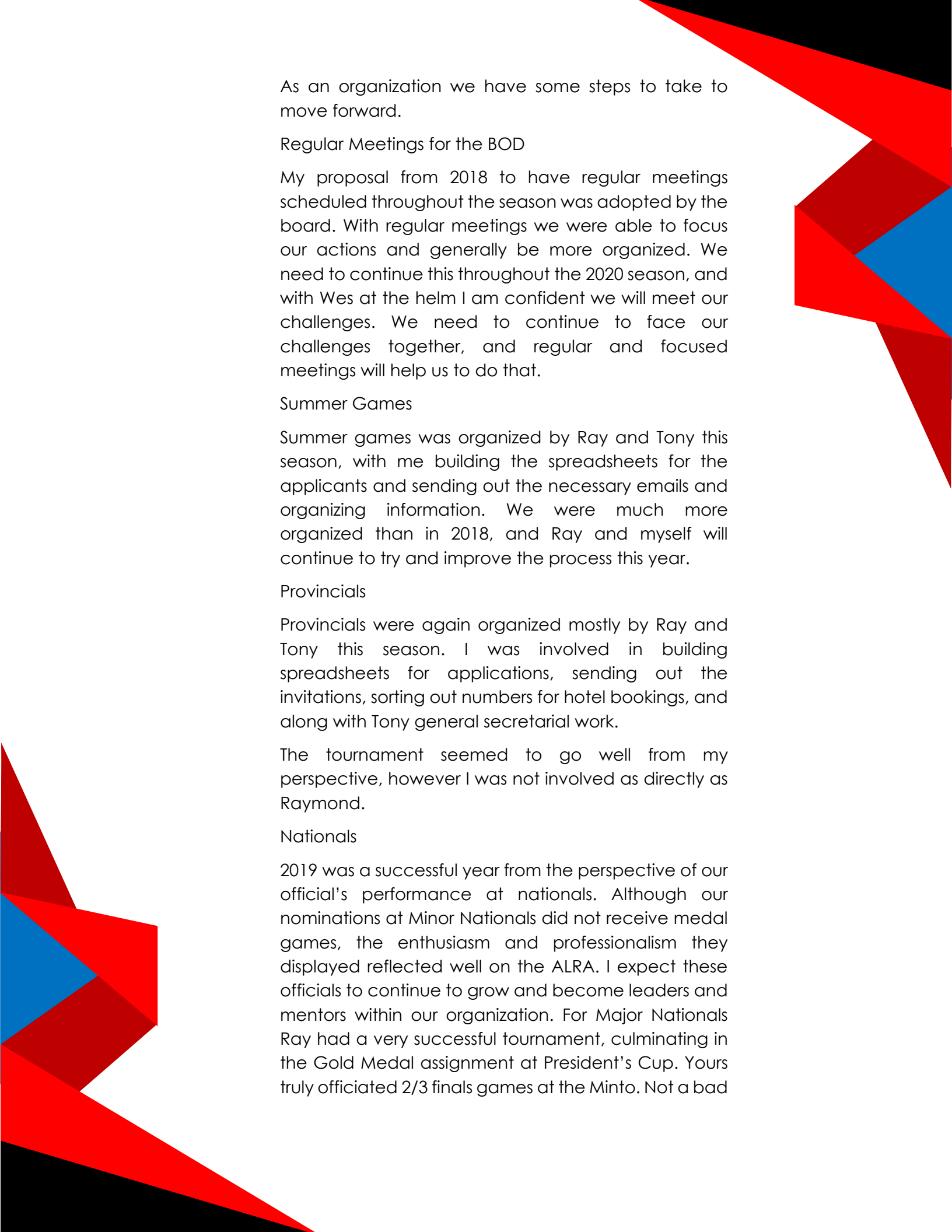
d) **VP Technical Report (VPT)**

e) **VP Development Report (VPD)**

Summary

This season was a challenge for most of the executive, myself included. That being said, I still believe it was a successful season. Having the Manager of Officiating fired by the ALA mid-season was a challenge, and I do not believe we would have been as successful as we were without the work of Wes Kendall and Tony Reid.

I believe we are in for another difficult season working with the ALA, and we will need to remain diligent and focused to be successful. As officials we had a strong season and our Nationals selections performed admirably. We continue to perform as top officials in the country at tournaments not managed by the ALA.



As an organization we have some steps to take to move forward.

Regular Meetings for the BOD

My proposal from 2018 to have regular meetings scheduled throughout the season was adopted by the board. With regular meetings we were able to focus our actions and generally be more organized. We need to continue this throughout the 2020 season, and with Wes at the helm I am confident we will meet our challenges. We need to continue to face our challenges together, and regular and focused meetings will help us to do that.

Summer Games

Summer games was organized by Ray and Tony this season, with me building the spreadsheets for the applicants and sending out the necessary emails and organizing information. We were much more organized than in 2018, and Ray and myself will continue to try and improve the process this year.

Provincials

Provincials were again organized mostly by Ray and Tony this season. I was involved in building spreadsheets for applications, sending out the invitations, sorting out numbers for hotel bookings, and along with Tony general secretarial work.

The tournament seemed to go well from my perspective, however I was not involved as directly as Raymond.

Nationals

2019 was a successful year from the perspective of our official's performance at nationals. Although our nominations at Minor Nationals did not receive medal games, the enthusiasm and professionalism they displayed reflected well on the ALRA. I expect these officials to continue to grow and become leaders and mentors within our organization. For Major Nationals Ray had a very successful tournament, culminating in the Gold Medal assignment at President's Cup. Yours truly officiated 2/3 finals games at the Minto. Not a bad

showing for two officials the ALA didn't want to endorse for Major Nationals, and who were the nominations of a broken system.

Our nationals selection protocol for 2019 was more effective than ever before. We were able, for the first time in memory, physically evaluate all top applicants for nationals tournaments. We will endeavor to continue the evaluation and mentorship this opportunity presents.

Fast Track Program

The fast track program continues to be successful for a handful of officials, however this program needs more careful attention and more consistent support. More focused assigning from local RIC's, and more focused mentorship is the next step in helping these candidates.

General Comments

- The board needs to more effectively stand up to the ALA. We cannot allow them to continue to bully us into submission. I believe this fight has just begun.

Improvements for this report

- Lots

Joe Catalano 11/01/19

- Motion to carry by Kevin Kohut, Seconded by Jon Bennett

III. Board of Directors (BOD) Reports

a) **CALL Report**

Summary

The 2019 season came with its own set of challenges and successes. CALL had a total of 72 officials, three tournaments, and a new format for playoffs. Spencer (his last season) and Nathan assigned this year and had completed a fantastic set of assignments. With only one game canceled and two relocated due to poor weather conditions, this is a success for all CALL officials. Incorporating the CARD (Central Alberta Referee Development) program for its second year

saw even greater success. With a 62% increase in officials and games both in mentoring and evaluating. Which equaled a total of 162 mentorships and evaluations this year. All in all, the 2019 season for CALL was jam-packed with games and opportunities for officials.

Season Successes

Professionalism and Discipline

Every year several things stick out. But above all else, this year was professionalism and etiquette. Through our coach feedback form, we had several teams complimenting the level of professionalism and etiquette that our officials in CALL demonstrated. We also had a new discipline chair on the CALL board this year, which aided us tremendously in keeping stats and up to date on areas of improvement and concern for the ALRA within CALL.

CARD (Central Alberta Referee Development) Program

This was the second year that we brought in the CARD program and proceeded with the feedback from last year. With the help of CALL, we received a total of \$6,000.00, \$2,000.00 more than the previous season. We accomplished 101 evaluations and mentorships during the 2018 season and completed a total of 162 throughout the 2019 season. I handpicked several mentors to work these games and placed a few on a list to evaluate. This program aided us to see areas of improvement in our younger officials and with our more senior officials. To support our top officials and to help them in receiving a new and fresh perspective for moving up within the ALRA, we brought in David Westwood the RMLL RIC and number of others from around the province. This program dramatically changed the way we do mentorships and evaluations within CALL and has helped our younger officials find their voice and aided our seniors to help further the career as an official.

Playoffs

In CALL, we have Novice and Peewee playoffs that are hosted by one Community. This year we had our Novice playoffs hosted by Lacombe and our Peewee Playoffs hosted by Settler. With the funds set aside, we hand-selected 6-8 officials for each community based on their season experience and evaluations. I hand-selected a RIC for each host city so that we had a point of reference and representation at the ALRA level. This format helps with game evaluations and giving the younger officials that safety of someone there to help out should things turn sideways. Playoffs that are hosted in one community create the opportunity for a Festival format, which in turn helps us to see our officials more and aids us in selecting those that can move up within CALL and which ones need more time and resources.

Season Setbacks

Scheduling

As many of our assignors can attest to, scheduling itself can be chaotic and challenging at its best. Both assignors this year had brought significant issues to my attention. One of them is the challenge of solely having weekend games. More to the point, the problem heavily lies on our tournament weekends. CALL does not have enough officials to supply these tournaments, league games, and RMLL games. The CALL board would like to have their officials come first in terms of their schedule. Though that is challenging as many work for the RMLL as well, and with it being central many are asked to travel around the province. This year I have asked the league to not schedule games on our tournament weekends for Bantam and Midget. This idea will help free up some of our younger officials that are on those teams and help relocate our officials that would otherwise be officiating them.

Weather

Similar to most years but by far not the worst. We had snow that hit our outlying communities hard. Luckily the assignors and CALL Scheduler worked tirelessly to make sure that all of our games were rescheduled to somewhere with easy and safe access or cancel the game. We had two games rescheduled, and one canceled to help accommodate these weather conditions.

Final Thoughts

With the year at its end, it is now time to take away what this season has taught us and use it to improve the next season. Focusing on the foundations of officiating, we have allocated a portion of funds to our retention and training of officials. We have asked CALL for a larger budget, and they have accepted. We are now revamping the playoff format for Bantam and Midget to help bring that towards the Festival format and improve our higher-level officials. We have chosen to add a few more assignors to help alleviate the stress and spread the work over our CALL team.

All in all, I want to thank the CALL board for being so friendly to work with. Secondly, I want to thank the ALRA for helping to aid CALL by bringing in outer officials for those challenging weekends. Lastly, I want to thank all the officials in CALL, who have worked tirelessly to make sure that games are played. Who had changed their schedules to help get our assignors out of a jam, and to all of them for being there for the kids when we needed it most. The sport could not be played without you, I and the ALRA thank you for that.

Sincerely,

Cole Smith RIC CALL

b) **CDLA Report**

Not Applicable

c) **GELC Report**

Not Applicable

d) **RMLL Report**

RMLL 2019 Season Report

1. Growth and Recruitment

Approximately 75 officials who were assigned RMLL games, or were eligible to be in 2019. With a turnover of retiring officials, or officials who may no longer be interested in the RMLL, I expect this number to stay approximately the same for 2020, which is consistent with the last three years. The officials working their way through Minor Provincials, Summer Games, and Minor Nationals have continued to impress, and should continue to push for the above number to increase. Christine and I had discussed an RMLL Application form, for officials who are interested in starting to work the league, which was published on both the RMLL website, and the ALRA website. We received responses from four individuals, two of which were utilized during the 2019 season. My goal is to have this published more prominently for the 2020 season, so more responses are gained. Currently, all who filled out the form were already officials, but I would like to see more individuals with lacrosse experience who are interested in officiating, but may not be currently registered in the ALRA, filling out the forms, especially retired Sr B players, and Junior graduates who are not continuing on the Senior lacrosse.

2. Season Overview

The approximately 75 RMLL officials all received RMLL jerseys, which was a goal for the 2019 season with the addition of the jersey number line on the RMLL games sheets. There is discussion about a redesign for the RMLL jersey to standardize with Saskatchewan and Manitoba, adopting the WLA/NLL style of black and white stripes. Over 700 games were covered, with one game needing to be canceled due to poor highway conditions and the subsequent road closer, which blocked the official from being able to make the game. Due to the conflicts with clinics and other games, we unfortunately could not find another official to cover this game. Less than 1% of the games needed their start times moved in order to facilitate appropriate officials to be

assigned. Mileage costs did not significantly differ from 2019, but were slightly reduced. The inclusion of two BC based Tier III teams, accounts for approximately 14% of the RMLL's total mileage bill, but only represents approximately 3% of the total games played. In an effort to reduce this cost, I am reaching out to the BCLOA, ALA, and RMLL to host and certify officials in this area to be Level 3 referees, which are required for Junior and Senior level games. This would have two benefits in terms of mileage. The first would be the cost of sending officials to BC to work these games. The second would be allowing the Alberta officials who would have to spend their weekend in BC to be in Alberta to help us cover our games.

3. Season Accomplishments

The 2019 season largely carried on the programs from 2018. These were:

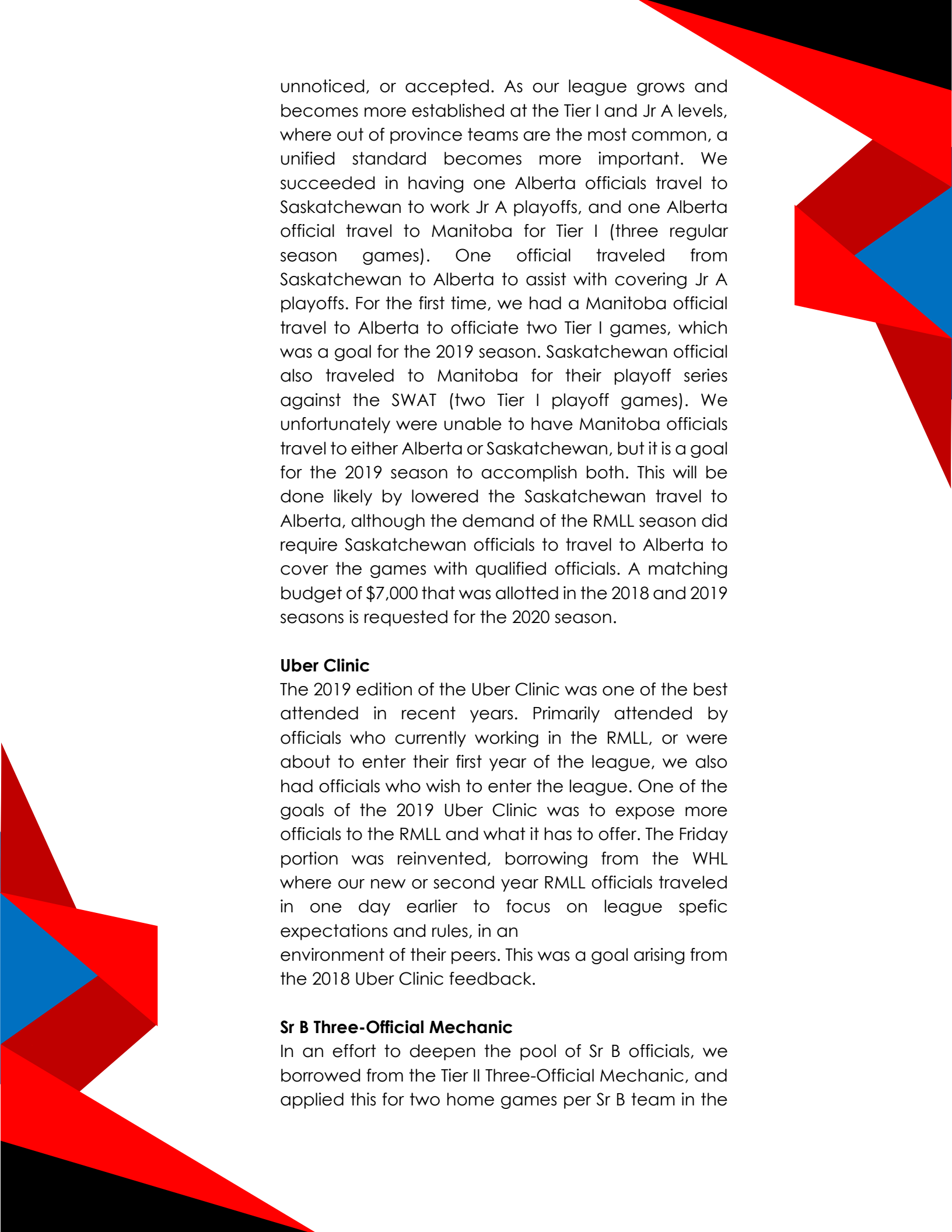
- Tier II Three-Official Mechanic
- Referee Interprovincial Exposure Agreement
- Uber Clinic
- Sr B Three-Official Mechanic
- Jr A Regular Season Shot Clock Official
- Individual Official Achievements

Tier II Three-Official Mechanic

The Three-Official Mechanic was piloted in the Tier II division in 2018 with the goal of having twelve games (six in Wheatland and six in SALA) staffed with one official each that we are preparing to be full-time RMLL officials. The full details of this project's origin and vision can be found in the 2017 RMLL planning meeting minutes. The results for 2019 were a sharp drop from 2018. In 2018, seven games utilized this program, while in 2019, only two were completed, while eight were budgeted for (\$680 total). As such, it is my recommendation that this program not be utilized in 2020, and I will not be submitted the project request. The reason so few games were able to use this was largely due to scheduling conflicts with other games, both minor tournaments, and other RMLL games.

Referee Interprovincial Exposure Agreement

The RMLL is unique as it spans four provincial bodies, allowing for difference in officiating standards to go



unnoticed, or accepted. As our league grows and becomes more established at the Tier I and Jr A levels, where out of province teams are the most common, a unified standard becomes more important. We succeeded in having one Alberta officials travel to Saskatchewan to work Jr A playoffs, and one Alberta official travel to Manitoba for Tier I (three regular season games). One official traveled from Saskatchewan to Alberta to assist with covering Jr A playoffs. For the first time, we had a Manitoba official travel to Alberta to officiate two Tier I games, which was a goal for the 2019 season. Saskatchewan official also traveled to Manitoba for their playoff series against the SWAT (two Tier I playoff games). We unfortunately were unable to have Manitoba officials travel to either Alberta or Saskatchewan, but it is a goal for the 2019 season to accomplish both. This will be done likely by lowered the Saskatchewan travel to Alberta, although the demand of the RMLL season did require Saskatchewan officials to travel to Alberta to cover the games with qualified officials. A matching budget of \$7,000 that was allotted in the 2018 and 2019 seasons is requested for the 2020 season.

Uber Clinic

The 2019 edition of the Uber Clinic was one of the best attended in recent years. Primarily attended by officials who currently working in the RMLL, or were about to enter their first year of the league, we also had officials who wish to enter the league. One of the goals of the 2019 Uber Clinic was to expose more officials to the RMLL and what it has to offer. The Friday portion was reinvented, borrowing from the WHL where our new or second year RMLL officials traveled in one day earlier to focus on league specific expectations and rules, in an environment of their peers. This was a goal arising from the 2018 Uber Clinic feedback.

Sr B Three-Official Mechanic

In an effort to deepen the pool of Sr B officials, we borrowed from the Tier II Three-Official Mechanic, and applied this for two home games per Sr B team in the

2019 season. The goals were similar, to utilize officials who we believe to be skilled enough to begin officiating in the 2020 season, or even the end of the 2019 season, as Sr B regulars. We used three officials in the south, and three officials in the north. All teams had their two home games staffed with three officials. We are in need of former players or officials who have taken time off to return continue this program. The officials we currently have were slightly less experienced than was desired, although all will receive either two-man or three-man Senior B assignments next season. The challenges of this division are different from Tier II, as the level of officiating is required to be much higher, as the players are much more skilled, and used to a certain standard of officiating. The commissioner, Norm Shaw, and I were in contact throughout the year discussing the pros and cons of the system. It needs to be communicated to the teams that this is not a system using referees to achieve a higher rate of correct calls and non-calls, but rather to introduce new officials to the level. If the division is interested in pursuing the utilization of a three-man mechanic for performance, then different selection of officials would occur, where they were all very experienced with Sr B, as opposed to just being introduced.

Jr A Regular Season Shot Clock Official

The Jr A Division, through commissioner, Sean Aggus, requested a third RMLL official be provided at the end of the regular season, after issues arose in the application of players leaving the bench at the end of periods/games, and during altercations. This copies the model Saskatchewan has used, where this official runs the shot clock, as well as monitors the benches and the minor officials. I believe this was successful, as the four games it was utilized in before the playoffs had no issues. To make sure this is cost neutral to the teams, I would suggest that this come from fine money for coach feedback forms that were not submitted on time, or through the casino funds (guidelines for casino funds in relation to officials/referee cost can be found here:

[https://aglc.ca/sites/aglc.ca/files/aglc_files/Guidelines%20-%20Sports-Use%20of%20Proceeds%20\(5504\).pdf](https://aglc.ca/sites/aglc.ca/files/aglc_files/Guidelines%20-%20Sports-Use%20of%20Proceeds%20(5504).pdf)

Individual Official Achievements

One of the easiest ways to judge the performance of a program is the number of officials it produces that make their way to the pinnacle of performance. With this in mind, I would like to congratulate Joe Catalano on his recent hire to the NLL, joining Ron Getz, Ray McCarthy, and myself as the four RMLL

officials in the league. Additionally, Red Deer resident and social media magnate, Todd Labranche, has given his years of NLL experience and feedback to RMLL officials he has watched in person. Todd has also taken on the role of WLA (BC Sr A) Referee-in-Chief, which afforded me to travel to the WLA to officiate Sr A lacrosse over the summer. The plan is to open up a pipeline of Alberta officials into BC, to allow for our top end officials to continue to develop over the summer. Joe also attended the Minto Cup, working two games in the final series, and Raymond McCarthy officiated the gold medal game at the Presidents' Cup.

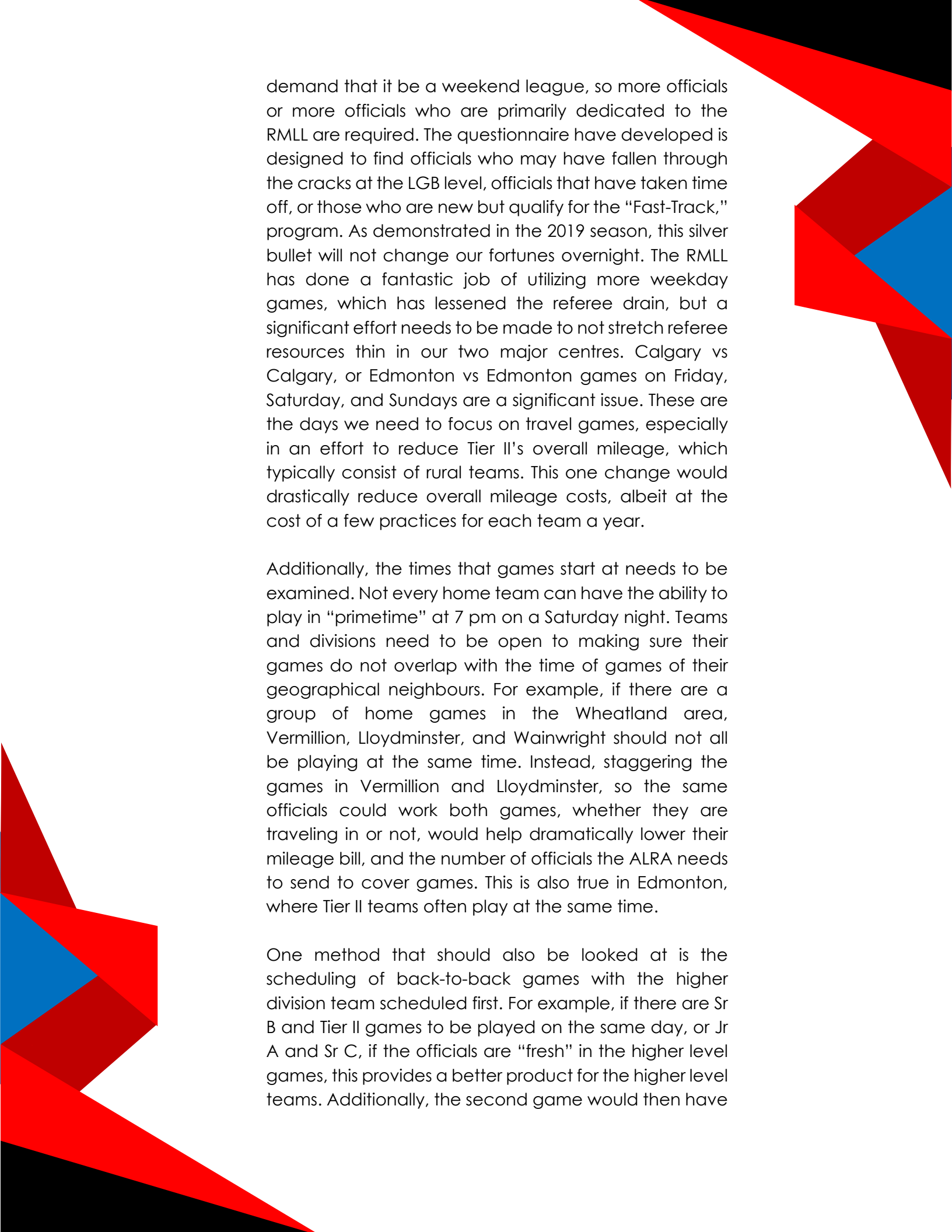
4. Season Setbacks

This 2019 was one of turbulence for the ALRA. The loss of the Manager of Officiating Position at the ALA office, along with international and national referee selection issues highlighted strained relationships. That being said, none of these issues are unsolvable, and open communication and dialogue would solve most of the issues.

- Scheduling
- Coach Complaints, Process for Rule Interpretations & Perceived Conflicts of Interest
- Larry Bishop Memorial Tournament
- RMLL Interprovincial Assigning
- World Championship and National Selection Issues

Scheduling

Scheduling of appropriately qualified officials continues to be a struggle as the sport of lacrosse is primarily a weekend endeavour. The logistics of the RMLL, in terms of travel, arena availability, and scheduling constraints,



demand that it be a weekend league, so more officials or more officials who are primarily dedicated to the RMLL are required. The questionnaire we have developed is designed to find officials who may have fallen through the cracks at the LGB level, officials that have taken time off, or those who are new but qualify for the “Fast-Track,” program. As demonstrated in the 2019 season, this silver bullet will not change our fortunes overnight. The RMLL has done a fantastic job of utilizing more weekday games, which has lessened the referee drain, but a significant effort needs to be made to not stretch referee resources thin in our two major centres. Calgary vs Calgary, or Edmonton vs Edmonton games on Friday, Saturday, and Sundays are a significant issue. These are the days we need to focus on travel games, especially in an effort to reduce Tier II’s overall mileage, which typically consist of rural teams. This one change would drastically reduce overall mileage costs, albeit at the cost of a few practices for each team a year.

Additionally, the times that games start at needs to be examined. Not every home team can have the ability to play in “primetime” at 7 pm on a Saturday night. Teams and divisions need to be open to making sure their games do not overlap with the time of games of their geographical neighbours. For example, if there are a group of home games in the Wheatland area, Vermillion, Lloydminster, and Wainwright should not all be playing at the same time. Instead, staggering the games in Vermillion and Lloydminster, so the same officials could work both games, whether they are traveling in or not, would help dramatically lower their mileage bill, and the number of officials the ALRA needs to send to cover games. This is also true in Edmonton, where Tier II teams often play at the same time.

One method that should also be looked at is the scheduling of back-to-back games with the higher division team scheduled first. For example, if there are Sr B and Tier II games to be played on the same day, or Jr A and Sr C, if the officials are “fresh” in the higher level games, this provides a better product for the higher level teams. Additionally, the second game would then have

higher quality officials, who can handle the rigors of back-to-back games, with the second being not as strenuous as the first. This also allows for mileage to be split.

Coach Complaints, Process for Rule Interpretations & Perceived Conflicts of Interest

The RMLL needs to ensure that complaints from coaches are handled correctly, and the forms for feedback are utilized, in addition to conversations with the division commissioners. Without these datapoints, we are unable to track trends, growth, and regression. Any rule interpretations are to include the RMLL Referee-In-Chief, as per RMLL Bylaw 7.08.2. Direct contact with the CLA has been discouraged by the ALA office in the past and occurred again this year. Unfortunately, during an RMLL playoff game, it was reported to me that a member of the ALA Executive, who was affiliated with the team in the game, chased down the division commissioner while carrying a rulebook, shouting obscenities at both the officials in the arena and the commissioner. This type of conflict of interest is prevalent in lacrosse and leaves the RMLL with a blackeye when it occurs. This type of referee abuse must be handled severely.

Larry Bishop Memorial Tournament

Unfortunately, we were not able to have a Referee-in-Chief at the Larry Bishop Memorial Tier I tournament, which took away from the development of five of our RMLL officials who committed to Red Deer under the belief they were going to receive coaching and feedback from one of our top RMLL officials. All officials were appreciative of Mike Fynn, the division commissioner, stepping in to help when needed, but not having an RIC was a negative at the event. We rarely get to have our top officials in the same room for a day, let alone a weekend, so it was disappointing to not have someone with a high-level officiating background to assist the officials in terms of enforcing the RMLL standard and rule interpretations. To correct for this, I have submitted a budget proposal for an Larry Bishop Memorial Tournament to have an RIC.

World Championship and National Selection Issues

At the eleventh hour, the ALA did not endorse the ALRA's Founders Cup, Minto Cup, and Presidents' Cup selections. The blanket blocking was unprecedented, and reasons giving actually raised issue with the ALA's Regulations for selection, not the ALRA's process. Fortunately, an amicable resolution was agreed upon, with the original Minto Cup and Presidents' Cup selections, Joe Catalano and Ray McCarthy, attended those tournaments. As mentioned above, Joe worked on-floor in the final Minto Cup series, and Ray McCarthy was the Crew Chief in the Presidents' Cup gold medal game. The level of disconnect in the ALA referee evaluation cannot be understated, and shows the ALRA's efficacy in referee selection for these tournaments. Unfortunately, due to similar reasons as mentioned above, the RMLL will not have any officials attending the 2019 World Indoor Lacrosse Championship in Langley, BC, after Tony Reid officiated the Gold Medal game in 2015.

5. Looking to the Future/Upcoming Season Goals

The 2020 season appears to be one of advancement for our RMLL officials. We will need to promote officials, especially in the Wheatland and CDLA regions to facilitate covering the games with qualified officials. Goals for the 2020 season will be to lower the need of GELC officials travel to Wheatland, and lower the travel for the BC teams, by facilitating a collaborative Level 3 clinic in BC. The Sr B Three-Official mechanic, the Interprovincial Exposure Agreement, and the Uber Clinic are all goals to continue pursuing in the 2020 season.

David Westwood

- David to follow up with RMLL game scheduling (with how many teams can be in one town at one time).
- Motion to carry by Cole Smith, Seconded by Wes Kendall

e) **SALA Report**

SALA RIC Report:

The 2019 season was filled with a lot of challenges for us as a referee group down here in the south this passed

year. We started the year with 3 clinics, 2 entry level clinics with one in Lethbridge and one in Medicine Hat, and one level 2 clinic held in Lethbridge. We had a total of 35 certified refs register this passed season. Tyrel and I did the assigning with only 5 games having to be moved due to lack of officials. Of the 35 certified officials, 10 took 5 games or less for the season. The biggest problem we face assigning, is that we only have 14 senior refs that can work Bantam and above, and out of the 35 refs, 15 of which are from Lethbridge. Tyrel and I had the schedule for SALA weighted for the Lethbridge area, as it is getting harder to travel refs out of the city. On any given weekend we only have 10 to 15 officials available to do games throughout SALA, so assigning is becoming extremely difficult from week to week. Recruitment is a must for the next few years if we are going to have the number of games played here remain the same. Lethbridge and Med Hat both hosted tournaments this past year, with us having to put the SALA schedule on hold for the tournament dates, as we needed all available refs for the tournaments. Both tournaments were well attended, and both were a success, with most refs doing 12 to 15 games each during these 2 weekends. Development and mentorship of new officials was a bit challenging, but Tyrel managed to put one of our senior refs with a new or younger official each game to avoid them quitting or getting yelled at by coaches or fans. This seems to work best as we are generally too busy working games to get out a do a proper supervision on our new and younger officials.

As for the upcoming 2020 season, I will remain RIC for SALA, and Tyrel has indicated that if he is still in Lethbridge, he would like to remain assignor and clinician for our area. Thanks to everyone for their help down here and to another great season of Lacrosse!

Yours in Lacrosse,

Brent Woods

- Motion to carry David Westwood, Seconded by Cole Smith

f) **Field Report**

Field Lacrosse, 2019

The 2019 season for field lacrosse was definitely different from other years, especially given the departure of the ELEV-8 program not only from Alberta Lacrosse, but from participating in any event in Canada. This resulted in a

sharp decrease in teams participating as this transition took place.

Womens' Field Lacrosse

This season saw us use an Umpire-in-Chief for the first time, which I feel is a good direction to go, given that the womens' program and game is so different from the mens' game. Brenna Jobb took on this role for this season, and was able to handle development of officials and scheduling for the season. At this time, there is still no clinician in Alberta, and I want to move in a direction where someone in Alberta can handle this, as opposed to paying to bring someone in every year (although it was good to have a more senior official here to mentor all officials this season).

Clinics

The first clinic was well attended, and we were able to get number of good new officials on board, for both mens' and womens'. The struggle on the first set of Field Days in July, however, was having enough senior officials available to work higher-division games. I was able to certify the remaining returning officials in an online clinic prior to Okotoks Field Days, and I found that format worked very well, given officials were from all over Alberta, and this worked to minimize expenses on both ends. As always, all officials working field games in Alberta were certified for the season they were officiating.

Remaining Field Days and Provincials

In a bit of an overreaction to our referee shortages in Lacombe for Central Alberta Field Days, I recruited too many officials for Okotoks Field Days, and as a result, we had officials working very few games, and expenses for this tournament were therefore higher – this is something I will need to keep in mind in future seasons with fewer teams participating compared to previous seasons.

For Edmonton Field Days, the schedule changed from two days to one about a week prior to the tournament happening, and a number of teams were caught off guard. At the same time, the games were played at a different location, where the fields were much smaller than

regulation, and grass had been cut right before the games, which resulted in clippings everywhere.

Provincials went relatively well, and with the smaller number of participating teams, assigning officials was definitely easier than previous years. As per recommendations, we went with 2-man systems for all games (even medal games), however where officials agreed on it, they

worked 3 or 4-man games with either one official working for free, or all officials splitting the 2-man fee so everyone could get experience

- Motion to carry by David Westwood, Seconded by Kevin Kohut

g) **Wheatland Report**

IV. Non-Voting Members

a) **Privacy Officer (PO)**

2019 Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association (ALRA) Annual General Meeting – Privacy Officer Report

In the 2019 season, the ALRA implemented a record check system, My Background Check. My Background Check enabled Officials to complete easy criminal background checks to ensure the safety of players and fellow officials. In the 2019 year all officials were required to complete their background check by a certain date. Select Officials did not have to complete a background check as they had completed one from other sports (Alberta Hockey). As Officials were completing their background check several results had come back negative, with a note indicating the report was "Deferred back to Local Police". This required the select Officials to complete a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector at their local police detachment and provide me with a copy of their report. In the 2019 season, we did not have any Officials who were in question. We had several come back with criminal record, but I did determine as their offences were dated and or related, those individuals were able to Officiate for 2019.

I did run into some issues where several Officials did not properly complete the My Background Check properly and had to resubmit their documents. There were some instances where Officials struggled to follow through with the directions.

With the loss of the Manager of Officiating my role became difficult because there was a loss of communication and information sharing. As a result, it was difficult to identify which Officials were of age and which were not. Of serious concern, there were several Officials who officiated in the 2019 season who chose not to complete their required Criminal Record Check. Moving forward this is something which cannot happen.

2020 season and onward:

- Officials who have completed their background check in 2019 or earlier from other associations, are not required to complete another check as the checks are valid for 3 years. Officials who are turning 18 or first time Officials over 18 will be required to complete a check.
- I would like to have better communication with someone who will have a contact list of all the Officials in Alberta to ensure every Official is adhering to our policy and for public safety.
- I would like to look create a policy which would allow any Official who works law enforcement (Police Officer, Peace Officer, etc.) to be exempt from having to complete their record check. The main reason for this is as law enforcement, you are not able to have a criminal record and be in this field.
- I believe we can help eliminate confusion of Officials completing their record check if we have Officials complete their record check while they attend their mandatory clinic. For this to work, I would need access to all registered Officials to a clinic prior to the date of the clinic and I would be able to send the Official the required information to complete their check. While at the clinic the Officials will be able to complete their record check and should they have any questions they would be able to ask the Clinicians or be able to get in contact with myself.
- I would like to have better communication with RIC's to ensure their Officials have completed their record checks and if they have not, then those Officials are not being assigned games until they have successfully completed their record check.
- I would like to create a policy for Officials who officiate without having their record check completed.

Bless,

Julian Grbich – ALRA Privacy Officer

- Recommendation, you have to have the criminal record check completed before you attend the clinic.
- All ALRA members must have their criminal record check completed through sterling background checks.
- Motion to carry by Wes Kendall, Seconded by Cole Smith

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

- a) Development Budget form 2020 and allotment requirements
 - David & Joe will develop and propose definitions for appropriate access to ALRA development budget. This will be due during the ALRA's January BOD Meeting.
- b) Minor and Major Referee of the year
 - Wes & David would like to create a proposal to acknowledge minor and major officials who have exceed expectations both on and off the floor. Such as but not limited to "Minor and Major official of the year". This will be due on January's BOD Meeting by VP Member Services.
- c) Provincial Midget A league assignments and showcase/tournaments for national selection
 - The board of directors would like to see 1 assignor along with a selected RIC for the showcase and regular season playoffs.
- d) ALRA Post-Secondary Scholarships
 - The BOD would like to set aside x amount for a post-secondary scholarship and would accept all ALRA Members in good standing. Wes and Kevin will bring a proposal for this to January's BOD meeting.
- e) Elections
 - i) President: The Incumbent President Wes Kendall is seeking re-election. **Term 1 year**
 - (1) The Incumbent President Wes Kendall Acclaimed
 - ii) VP Member Services: The Incumbent VPMS Dusten Todd is not seeking re-election. **Term 2 years**
 - (1) Nominated: Kevin Kohut

- (2) Acclaimed by: Kevin Kohut
- iii) VP Technical: The Incumbent VPT Tony Reid is NOT seeking re-election. **Term 2 years**
 - (1) Nominated: Raymond McCarthy & Denis Deis
 - (2) Acclaimed by: Raymond McCarthy
- iv) VP Development: The Incumbent VPD Joe Catalano is seeking re-election. **Term 2 years**
 - (1) Acclaimed by: Joe Catalano

VII. Adjournment

- a) David Westwood Motion to adjourn at 6:18PM, Seconded by Wes Kendall