

Alberta Lacrosse Referee Association  
2022 Annual General Meeting  
Friday, January 27th, 2023 Minutes

\*Resignation from Kevin Kohut from VP Member Services presented.

1. Call to Order 7:12PM
2. Roll Call: Kevin Kohut, Jon Bennett, Julian Grbich, Kim Smyth, Shelby Deis, Jack Sylven, Nathan Hamilton
3. Establish Quorum:
  - More than 51% of the Board of Directors are present, there for quorum is established.
4. Approval of the Agenda
  - o Motion: Kim Smyth, seconded Shelby Deis.
  - o All in favor, none opposed.
5. Review and adoption of previous AGM Minutes
  - o Motion: Kim Smyth, seconded Jon Bennett.
  - o All in favor, none opposed.
6. Business arising from prior minutes.
  - No business arising from prior minutes.
7. Financial Report:
  - Jon Bennett, Vice President of Finance presents.
  - Under expenses, an outstanding invoice for 13500 approximately, that we didn't get in time due to executive change at the ALA level, and they will be paid. Looking ahead, 'that will' be lower by 13500. Bookkeeper to postdate, if possible, if it is not possible then we will make a note. Most income items get paid out to referees and assignors, we retain a little through registration and assigning fees. Equipment and inventory are not accurately represented on financial review. Have accurate inventory count as of now to update and plans to keep that accurate moving forward.
    - o Motion: Nathan Hamilton, seconded Jack Sylven
    - o All in favor, none opposed.
8. Executive Reports:
  - President
    - o \*President report not submitted.
    - o Motion: Julian Grbich, seconded Shelby Deis.
    - o All in favor, none opposed.
  - Past President
    - o Position is vacant, no report submitted.
    - o No motion due to the vacancy.

- Vice President Member Services
    - Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Kim Smyth.
    - All in favor, none opposed.
  - Vice President Finance
    - Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Kim Smyth.
    - All in favor, none opposed.
  - Vice President Development
    - Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Jon Bennett.
    - All in favor, none opposed.
  - Vice President Technical
    - Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Julian Grbich.
    - All in favor, none opposed.
9. Board of Director Reports: Reports:
- CALL Referee in Chief
    - Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Kim Smyth.
    - All in favor, none opposed.
  - CDLA Referee in Chief
    - Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Julian Grbich.
    - All in favor, none opposed.
  - GELC Referee in Chief
    - Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Jack Sylven.
    - All in favor, none opposed.
  - CDLA Referee in Chief
    - Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Julian Grbich.
    - All in favor, none opposed.
  - 
  - RMLL Referee in Chief
    - Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Jack Sylven.
    - All in favor, none opposed.
  - SALA Referee in Chief
    - Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Shelby Deis.
    - All in favor, none opposed.
  - 
  - Wheatland Referee in Chief
    - Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Nathan Hamilton.
    - All in favor, none opposed.

- AFLA Referee in Chief
  - o Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Kim Smyth,
  - o All in favor, none opposed.

10. Privacy Officer Report:

- o Motion: Kevin Kohut, seconded Nathan Hamilton.
- o All in favor, none opposed.

11. Special Resolutions:

- No Special Resolutions submitted.

12. Notices of Motions:

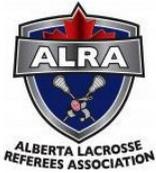
- No Noticed of Motion submitted.

13. Executive Reports:

- President (2 Year Term)
  - o Nomination of Kevin Kohut (Kim Smyth nominated Kevin)
  - o Nomination of Kevin Kohut (Braydon Lawrence nominated Kevin)
  - o No nominations from the floor.
  - o Kevin Kohut is acclaimed President.
  
- Vice President Member Services (1 Year Term)
  - o Kevin Kohut has resigned as Vice President Member Services prior to AGM.
  - o Kevin Kohut presents a nomination from the floor for Cameron Lafreniere.
  - o Nomination for Cameron Lafreniere seconded by Jon Bennett, Julian Grbich, Kim Smyth, Shelby Deis, Jack Sylven, Nathan Hamilton.
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Call: No Objections
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Call: No Objections
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> Call: No Objections
  - o Cameron Lafreniere is acclaimed Vice President Member Services.
  
- Vice President Finance (2 Year Term)
  - o No nominations were submitted in advance of the AGM.
  - o Kevin Kohut presents a nomination from the floor for Jon Bennett.
  - o Nomination for Jon Bennett seconded by Julian Grbich, Kim Smyth, Shelby Deis, Jack Sylven, Nathan Hamilton.
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Call: No Objections
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Call: No Objections
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> Call: No Objections
  - o Jon Bennett is acclaimed Vice President Finance.

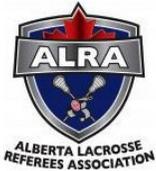
14. Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.
- o Motion: Julian Grbich, seconded Kevin Kohut.
- o All in favor, none opposed.



Alberta Lacrosse Referee Association  
Annual General Meeting – Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Agenda

1. Call to Order
  -
2. Roll Call
  -
3. Establish Quorum
  -
4. Approval of Agenda
  -
5. Review and Adoption of Previous AGM Minutes
  -
6. Business Arising from Prior Minutes
  -
7. Financial Report
  -
8. Executive Reports
  - President
  - Vice President Member Services
  - Vice President Finance
  - Vice President Development
  - Vice President Technical
9. Board of Directors Reports
  - CALL Referee in Chief
  - CDLA Referee in Chief
  - GELC Referee in Chief
  - RMLL Referee in Chief
  - SALA Referee in Chief
  - WLA Referee in Chief
  - AFLA Referee in Chief
10. Privacy Officer Report
  -
11. Review Special Resolutions
  -
12. Notice of Motion
  -
13. Elections
  - President (2 year term)
  - Vice President Member Services (1 year term)
  - Vice President Finance (2 year term)
14. Adjournment



Alberta Lacrosse Referee Association  
Annual General Meeting – Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Via Zoom Call

1. Call to Order
  - 7:05pm
2. Roll Call
  - Raymond McCarthy, Kevin Kohut, Jon Bennett, Weston Kendall, David Thalheimer, Cole Smith, Terry Rocchio, Cameron Lafreniere, Julian Grbich, Warren Renden, & Lyndon Pye
3. Establish Quorum
  - Greater than 51% of the Board of Directors are present, there for quorum is established
4. Approval of Agenda
  - Motion – Kevin Kohut, 2<sup>nd</sup> Warren Renden
    - i. all in favour, none opposed
5. Review and Adoption of Previous AGM Minutes
  - Motion – Kevin Kohut, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cameron Lafreniere
    - i. all in favour, none opposed
6. Business Arising from Prior Minutes
  - no business arising from prior minutes
7. Financial Report
  - see provided financials
  - Motion – David Thalheimer , 2<sup>nd</sup> Cole Smith
    - i. all in favour, none opposed
8. Executive Reports Terry/David all in favour
  - provided in advance for membership to read
    - i. President
    - ii. Vice President Member Services
    - iii. Vice President Finance
    - iv. Vice President Development
    - v. Vice President Technical
      1. Motion to accept all reports – Terry Rocchio, 2<sup>nd</sup> David Thalheimer
        - a. all in favour, none opposed
9. Board of Directors Reports Jon/ Cameron all in favour
  - provided in advance for membership to read
    - i. CALL Referee in Chief
    - ii. CDLA Referee in Chief
    - iii. GELC Referee in Chief
    - iv. RMLL Referee in Chief
    - v. SALA Referee in Chief
    - vi. WLA Referee in Chief
    - vii. AFLA Referee in Chief
      1. Motion to accept all reports – Jon Bennett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cameron Lafreniere
        - a. all in favour, none opposed

#### 10. Privacy Officer Report

- provided in advance for membership to read
  - i. Warren - procedure for Officials to follow to simplify process
    - 1. Motion – Kevin Kohut, 2<sup>nd</sup> David Thalheimer
      - a. all in favour, none opposed

#### 11. Review Special Resolutions

- none

#### 12. Notice of Motion

- none

#### 13. Elections

- VP Development
  - i. Julian Grbich
  - ii. none
  - iii. none
    - 1. Julian Grbich acclaimed
- VP Member Services
  - i. Kevin Kohut
  - ii. none
  - iii. none
    - 1. Kevin Kohut acclaimed
- VP Technical
  - i. Weston Kendall
  - ii. none
  - iii. none
    - 1. Weston Kendall acclaimed

#### 14. Adjournment

- Motion – David Thalheimer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Terry Rocchio
  - i. all in favour, none opposed
    - 1. meeting adjourned at 7:28pm

January 28th, 2023

TO: Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association, and its Members

FROM: Cameron Lafreniere, Zackary Kohut & Kevin Kohut

RE: 2022 ALRA Financial Review

We have thoroughly reviewed the books and associated records, produced by Jacquelin Van Noss, that were provided to us by Jon Bennett on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Through this review, it would appear that all revenues and expenses have been recorded and accounted for appropriately and truly reflect the current financial position of the ALRA. Please note that this review is for the ALRA's internal use only and should not be taken as an audit, or full-scale review engagement.

Our review process included the following:

- review of the ALRA Bylaws, as currently posted on the website
- review of the bank statements and reconciliations
- confirmation of all revenues and expenses as were provided by the back-up documents associated with the respective revenue/expense

Upon completion of our review, we are of the opinion that there are no concerns about inappropriate, or unapproved, spending. Nor are there concerns with the financial statements and records that were provided to us. We do have the following comments:

- mobile deposits need to have images or copied of cheque being deposited
- more details on receipt of e-transfer as to specifically what it is for
- payment of invoices should be processed on different days than Official payments for ease of reconciliation
- copies of detailed receipts need to accompany the expense form and should be included in the review package

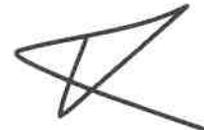
Respectfully,



Cameron Lafreniere



Zackary Kohut



Kevin Kohut

# Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association

## Profit and Loss

October 2021 - September 2022

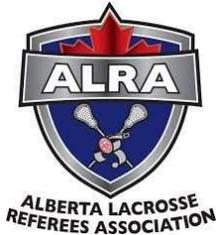
	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>	
4-1200 Program Income	
4-1210 LGB's Game Fees	139,450.00
4-1215 Travel for LGB Games	1,015.38
4-1217 Mileage/Travel	92,029.93
4-1218 Perdiem	11,565.00
4-1220 Provincials Fees	14,997.05
4-1230 Registration Fees	20,561.11
4-1240 Tournament Fees	76,533.00
4-1260 Clinics	5,400.00
4-1270 Field Game Fees	4,446.00
4-1280 RIC Fees	10,500.12
<b>Total 4-1200 Program Income</b>	<b>376,497.59</b>
4-1290 Referee Evaluations/Mentorship	4,468.00
4-5000 Interest Income	7.58
Discounts given	-93.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$380,880.17</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$380,880.17</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b>6-0000 ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>	
6-1050 Accounting & Audit	693.00
6-1090 ALA Officials Fees	1,689.20
6-1150 Bank Charges	646.09
6-1151 Plooto Fees	859.75
6-1152 Merchant Processing Discount	737.43
6-1770 Internet & web page	1,050.00
6-2675 Software	
6-2677 Software-Arbiter Assigning Sys.	3,173.73
<b>Total 6-2675 Software</b>	<b>3,173.73</b>
6-2850 Travel & Conferences	
6-2851 Accomodation & Lodging	357.02
6-2853 Meals & Refreshments	128.00
<b>Total 6-2850 Travel &amp; Conferences</b>	<b>485.02</b>
<b>Total 6-0000 ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>	<b>9,334.22</b>
<b>6-4000 PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>	
6-4100 Assigning Fees Paid Out	-354.00
6-4700 Clinics	
6-4703 Clinics-Clinician Fees	6,339.28
6-4706 Clinics-Facility Rental	2,847.93
6-4709 Clinics-Materials	346.50
6-4712 Clinics-Meals & Refreshments	2,315.25
6-4715 Clinics-Mileage & Travel	1,190.46
6-4717 Clinics - Hotel	3,383.36
6-4720 Clinics - Clinicians - Mileage & Travel	1,918.20
6-4721 Clinics - Clinicians - Hotel	535.53
6-4722 Clinics - Clinicians - Meals & Refreshments	42.55
6-4724 Clinics - Clinicians - Entertainment/Promotion	277.40

	TOTAL
<b>Total 6-4700 Clinics</b>	<b>19,196.46</b>
6-4900 Referee Evaluations/Mentorship	
6-4903 Evaluations/Mentorship Fees	4,468.00
<b>Total 6-4900 Referee Evaluations/Mentorship</b>	<b>4,468.00</b>
6-5300 Referee Accomodation Paid Out	1,015.38
6-5400 Referee Fees Paid Out-Box	188,459.43
6-5405 Referee Fees Paid Out-Field	4,592.00
6-5500 Referee Mileage Paid Out	
6-5503 Mileage Paid Out-LGBs	58,395.52
6-5506 Mileage Paid Out-RMLL	32,661.43
<b>Total 6-5500 Referee Mileage Paid Out</b>	<b>91,056.95</b>
6-5600 Referee Per Diem Paid Out	10,454.90
6-8025 RIC Fees Paid Out	12,386.44
6-8100 Scheduling Fees Paid Out	1,887.00
<b>Total 6-4000 PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>	<b>333,162.56</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$342,496.78</b>
PROFIT	<b>\$38,383.39</b>

# Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association

## Balance Sheet As of September 30, 2022

	TOTAL
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
1-1111 Chequing Account-ATB	11,231.72
1-1112 Petty Cash	0.00
1-2950 Undeposited Funds	198.62
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalent</b>	<b>\$11,430.34</b>
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
1-2000 Accounts Receivable	45,757.55
<b>Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)</b>	<b>\$45,757.55</b>
1-2200 Accrued Receivables	0.00
1-3000 Inventory Asset	9,525.35
1-3440 Jerseys	16,122.75
1-3480 Rule Books	1,505.00
1-3500 Whistles	3,146.98
<b>Total 1-3000 Inventory Asset</b>	<b>30,300.08</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$87,487.97</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$87,487.97</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
2-1000 Accounts Payable	0.00
<b>Total Accounts Payable (A/P)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
2-2000 Accrued Liabilities	13,410.81
2-2250 Loan Payable-ALA	0.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$13,410.81</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$13,410.81</b>
Equity	
3-3000 Opening Balance Equity	82.33
Retained Earnings	35,611.44
Profit for the year	38,383.39
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$74,077.16</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$87,487.97</b>



## **RE: 2022 ALRA Vice President Member Services Report**

Dear ALRA Members,

It has been a pleasure serving you, again, for the last year. I hope you agree that email inquiries were answered in a timely manner and that any issues that arose were dealt with expediently and a professional manner.

The 2022 season brought some challenges as our first “back to normal” season. The transition to RAMP Assigning for the 2022 season did not happen as we thought it would due to limitations within the RAMP system that we could not function without. RAMP had been very accepting of our feedback and implemented specific coding changes and updates that we requested but there was still not enough functionality for us to fully transition to RAMP from Arbiter.

We utilized the store function on the ALRA website to remove equipment purchases from the registration system to streamline registration reporting to only actual registrations. This prevented equipment purchase activity to be counted as registrations by the ALA ensuring we were only charged for actual registrations. There is still an issue within the registration process where people can “register” yet not select a clinic, nor pay, but they believe they have registered. This has been discussed with RAMP and they are looking fixing the issue.

The delayed arrival of our jerseys (informed to expect them at the end of April they did not arrive until the end of May) had some Officials Officiating without their jerseys. We should have enough remaining inventory to cover the first few clinic dates with new inventory (with updated LC logo) arriving prior to the season beginning.

The continual addition of fresh social media content was an area that I did not excel at. I was able to update our social media outlets with announcements but I was not providing engageable content that our Membership was potentially hoping for. This is something that I hope the next VP Member Services can excel at far beyond what I was able to do. I have set the bar fairly low, so it should be easy to do.

Thank you,

**Kevin Kohut BMgt, PGA, PBCA**

Vice President Member Services, Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association  
[vpmemberservices@albertalacrosserefs.ca](mailto:vpmemberservices@albertalacrosserefs.ca)

## 2022 ALRA Vice President Finance Report

Dear Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association Members,

While revenue is down compared to our pre-pandemic 2019 season, we saw a significant increase in programming from last year. Our financial position is stronger after collecting more registration and scheduling fee income. To help recover from losses in 2020 and improve our overall financial position, we implemented strict budget considerations in 2022. Because of this, relatively speaking, our expenditures decreased from those of previous seasons. We once again performed an internal financial review (per our bylaws) to save on accounting fees, and continue to contract Jacqueline Van Fossen with Enterprise Office Systems Ltd. for our bookkeeping requirements. I have continued to process referee payments on a voluntary basis to save on administrative costs. Leagues and tournaments were excellent overall in promptly settling their invoices allowing the ALRA to pay referees on-time this season. RMLL mileage reimbursements were delayed and we will strive to be more efficient in 2023 to prevent invoicing delays.

As we look forward to 2023, I anticipate our cash-flow to be stable and referees should be paid on-time. Plooto continues to be a cost-effective and practical way of processing payments. We have developed a budget to ensure spending is reasonable and will provide value to our members. We will continue to improve inventory tracking to ensure our records are kept up to date. I look forward to continuing my position as VP Finance to ensure the ALRA remains accountable and sustainable to best support our members.

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.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Bennett', written in a cursive style.

**Jonathan Bennett**

Vice President Finance, Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association  
[vpfinance@albertalacrosserefs.ca](mailto:vpfinance@albertalacrosserefs.ca)



## **2022 Year End Report of VP Technical, ALRA Weston Kendall**

The 2022 season was one of the more difficult season I have been involved in from a clinic planning and delivery perspective. This was do to the impacts of new boards and executive directors as well as variability in facility booking. Overall the senior leaders of the Alberta Lacrosse Association handled it well and we were able to deliver a great program this year.

Looking at the 2023 season there will be some opportunities to improve on some gaps which were exposed during the 2022 season. These opportunities are working more closely with the new boards and executive directors to develop a better system for selecting clinic dates and locations, having on floor sessions for entry level and level 1 officials as well as more follow up with minor officials throughout the season via mentoring/shadowing and email communication.

I look forward to continuing to be a part of this team of lacrosse loving officials and volunteers and hope to continue to advance the reputation of the ALRA and ALA throughout Lacrosse Canada and the world lacrosse community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Weston Kendall', is positioned below the main text.

Weston Kendall  
VP Technical, ALRA

# Vice President of Development

## Year End Report 2022

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### Summary

The 2022 lacrosse season was a significant learning experience as it was my first year in the role of VP Development as well as the first full season returning to play after the global pandemic. Overall, I believe the season was a success as many barriers were overcome and saw many officials grow in various aspects. I am confident our association will continue to succeed into the 2023 season with the strength of our Board of Directors (BOD), and learning from past seasons difficulties.

### Meetings for the BOD

The board of directors had several meetings before the season. Our initial planning meeting was set up the season with goals we wanted to achieve in 2022. As we were return to play after two partial seasons, there were many unknown variables taken into consideration. Although meetings were scheduled to occur throughout the season, a couple could not be conducted; however, the BOD did meet as necessary. Reflecting on previous Year end report suggestions, meeting appeared much more structured and organized. For the 2023 season meetings should be held once or twice a month.

### Provincials

The 2022 Provincials, held in Cold Lake, Alberta, were an overall success. Tony Reid was approached to RIC the tournament, with strong support from Cameron Lafreniere and Kevin Kohut. Due to the limited number of teams attending the tournament, ALRA officials applied to the tournament and were later selected by Tony Reid. At the tournament, there was a safety issue off floor involving one of our officials, which was handled exceptionally well. 2023 Provincials will be held in the GELC.

### Nationals

For the National selection process in 2022 I took a different approach than in previous seasons. After officials had applied to their desired National tournaments, I conducted interviews with each official individually, asking various questions about their lacrosse experience, game preparedness, amongst others. I found this process to be beneficial as it allowed me to better determine which official would benefit and succeed at the LC tournaments. Following interviews, policy was followed in the selection process of officials selected to each tournament.

National tournaments in 2022 were positive and successful for the ALRA officials who attended the various tournaments. Proudly, several ALRA officials officiated gold medal games at their respective tournaments. Alberta was able to host the 2022 President Cup,

sending two officials to the tournament. One official provided feed back into the selection process for major tournaments that I will take into consideration moving forward while making selections for these events.

2022 was a special year for Lacrosse Canada and the U17 division as it was the first time since the 1980's box lacrosse was involved at the Canada Summer Games. The official selection process was conducted by Lacrosse Canada and began in November 2021. Julian Grbich was selected to represent Alberta at the Female and Male divisions.

Due to the limited Field Lacrosse in Alberta, the ALRA sent one official to a National tournament. The selection process for the Field is difficult as there are no games held until shortly before the national tournament. Relying on the Field RIC will continue to be beneficial in this selection process.

This coming season, I would like to have the end date of applying to national tournaments sooner to allow for officials to be evaluated and have additional of these developments of officials prior to attending their respective tournaments. The 2023 Minor Nationals are being hosted in Regina, Saskatchewan, from August 14 – 20. The Founder's Cup is being hosted in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, from August 14 – 20. The Minto Cup is being held in Alberta from August 21 – 28. The President's Cup, held August 27 – September 2, 2023, has yet to choose a site. The Mann Cup is being held in British Columbia.

## **Alberta Summer Games**

Due to Covid 19, there has not been a Alberta Summer Games since 2018. The event is taking place in Okotoks, Alberta, from July 20-23. At the first planning meeting of the season, it should be determined if this tournament is invitational, applied to, and who the RIC will be. The selections for the Alberta Summer Games should be chosen before May to allow adequate time to organize this event. I believe this tournament would be a great opportunity to utilize the 3 official mechanics at this tournament to allow for further development of officials. This would increase player safety and fair play for the teams.

## **Mentoring**

This was an area I feel I performed poorly in my role as VP of Development. Due to the necessity to officiate on floor, I was not able to attend facilities to develop other officials, as I would have liked. For the 2023 season I would like to try and approach select senior officials to assist in developing Minor Officials, specifically the U13, U15, and U17.

I look forward to the 2023 season and all it may bring. Best of luck.

Yours in Lacrosse,

Julian Grbich  
Vice President of Development



## **CALL/ALRA**

3310 50 Ave, T4N 3X9  
Red Deer, AB  
(587) 876-6743  
cole.rdr@gmail.com

January 27th - 28th, 2023

Mr. Cole Smith  
CALL RIC  
**CALL 2022 RIC Season Report**

# 2022 CALL Season RIC Report

## **Report Outline**

- Season Summary
- Assigning
  - Summary
  - Continued Schedule for 2023
- Official Development
  - Referee Development Funding
  - Development Program
- Growth & Recruitment
  - 2022/23 Recruitment Program
- 2023 Plans of Interest

## ● **CALL Season Summary**

During our 2022 Season, CALL had 44 officials registered within the ALRA. With 18 officials receiving their Entry/level 1. In the past, we have been short many officials in our mid-group, thus having fewer officials for advancement. Within CALL, over the past few years, we decided to revamp our development program to aid our mid-level officials' growth and development while aspiring to retain a more significant number of officials. For the first time in a while, we had many mid-officials who were able to return, and while we may have had fewer officials than in previous years, the stoppage of lacrosse also lessened our team numbers in the region. Secondly, CALL had three officials begin their RMLL careers this year, which we haven't had in years past. We also expect there to be two more officials joining the RMLL. In addition, we have received news of two other communities that may be coming to CALL over the next couple of years.

## ● **Assigning**

- Julian Grbich and myself (Cole Smith) were the main assignors within CALL. Julian did a fantastic job this year. With scheduling conflicts and assigning multiple tournaments and season games simultaneously, he established himself as our MVP.
- In the past, many tournaments and season games occurred simultaneously on select weekends, combined with the number of officials within Central Alberta. The schedule was simply too overwhelming. With that, we decided to introduce a new schedule for 2019 and have used this format ever since. After discussion with the board, we have concluded that during tournament weekends, CALL's Season will be on weekdays; only younger ages on tournament weekends and the tournament will have control over their weekend. Thus, eliminating the staggering number of games our officials have had to endure, and assignors have had to assign in the past.

## ● **Official Development**

- **Referee Development Funding:** We kept a similar budget for our CARDP (Central Alberta Referee Development Program) this year and the upcoming year. Typically having an annual Budget of **\$8000.00** to spread out over the season, with our main focus being on our newer officials and expanding our count (number of officials) outside of Red Deer. This budget was agreed to at the start of the season and was broken down to see the payments for each community as the season progressed.
- **New Development Program Part I:** With many communities commenting about mileage and the cost to train and transport new officials from one of our outlying communities, it became a hot topic last year. To battle this, I decided to introduce a large budget. With this, I can pull our newer officials from our outlying communities and pay their mileage under CARDP. With the payment of transportation being handled, we ( meaning Julian and I) decided to use our Eye Opener tournament as our primary training source for them. These officials would be given multiple back-to-back games this weekend to help save costs and improve their rule and game knowledge.
- **New Development Program Part II:** Over the years, we have lost many mid-officials to College & University. I had to think of a retention plan and a new form of skill development for our more experienced and up-and-coming officials. With that, I decided to introduce Raymond's Provincial tournament format into our playoffs. Pulling money aside from our CARDP budget, I could pay for two RIC/Supervisors. Julian, Nathan Hamilton and I hand-selected (through trial and error) six officials that would work our U11 and six that would work our U13. Our playoffs being hosted in one community for the weekend created the perfect conditions for the idea. With our budget, we cover mileage, per-diem and RIC fees, giving anywhere from 4-6 games per official and a wealth of constructive

feedback to further their careers within the ALRA. All officials were required to work three-person shifts cycling in and out while those who did not ref sat with the supervisor. The reason for this was to help create a referee community and bond within CALL. This was met with overwhelmingly positive feedback and will continue into our next year.

## ● **Growth & Recruitment**

- **2023 Recruitment Program:** With our main goal this year being to recruit many more officials, especially from outside of Red Deer, in our smaller communities, we saw the challenge over the years. With an average of 8-15 new officials per year and 50% typically coming from Red Deer. I suggested we implement a payment plan for officials from our smaller communities. Having multiple associations anywhere from 45min - 1.5hr away creates a large amount of mileage for these little towns. This has been an ongoing concern, with some communities receiving a bill worth thousands. At the beginning of the 2019 season, the board and I introduced a new payment plan. The idea is that these small communities offer to cover the cost of the official's course and entry gear should they ref five or more games. The concept and hope are that at least one of these players/officials will enjoy it enough to continue officiating for more than one season, thus paying off their side of the bill within their first 2-3 games they ref. With the community investing in their officials, we hope to create a sense of bonding with the ALRA in these small towns and to produce a positive budget within said associations while expanding the ALRA name and family. This has seen a significant improvement over the past few years, with an overwhelming number of our new officials coming from outside of Red Deer. With 2023 on the way, I plan to make this payment plan stronger and more effective to help CALL diminish our mileage and also to aid us in growing our numbers to pre-pandemic.

## ● **2023 Plans of Interest**

- Pursuing and creating a more flexible schedule for both tournaments and season games. Thus helping to alleviate some of the stress on the assignors.
- Follow the guidance & advice of the United States Field Lacrosse Development Program to create a more inclusive form of skill & rule knowledge amongst our aspiring officials.
- Continue with our retention plan of officials while pursuing new and effective solutions and beta ideas.
- Further expand on our Growth & Recruitment Plan for 2023.
- Educating Nathan Hamilton of the responsibilities and duties of an RIC.

I want to thank all of my colleagues for helping to guide the ALRA within Central Alberta and for helping to educate me on mistakes and successes that occurred this year. I look forward to another successful season in 2023 and continuing to improve this great sport we all know and Love.

Yours in Lacrosse,

**Cole Smith**

Referee In Chief, CALL

## **Calgary Region Update 2022 Season**

### **Minor Regular Season Summary**

- 134 Officials registered from the Calgary Region
- 17 of 134 did not officiate any games
- 718 Regular Season and Playoff Games
- All new officials completed an on floor training session with mentors/ shadows
- 66 (33 games) mentorships/supervisions during regular season games- 10 Officiating Coaches who participated in these supervisions
- David Thalheimer principle RIC and primary assignor for U12- U16 B
- Logan Parsons Secondary RIC and primary assignor for U8- U10
- David Thalheimer has resigned position effective October 15, 2022

### **Referee Abuse**

- Significant concern with Official's abuse during the 2022 season (Seems to have increased compared to past seasons)
- Associations need to take a serious look at addressing this, such as providing more education, more substantial consequences for official abuse and supporting officials in adjudicating penalties/infractions pertaining to officials' abuse. This inaction has a direct consequence on official retention, willingness to give back and the overall lacrosse culture/environment

### **Canada Day Tournament**

- 56 Officials on the Tournaments Officiating Staff
- 9 of 56 officials from outside of the Calgary Region
- Other than a few officials, most officials worked four games or less daily. This was a success in comparison to past tournaments as officials were not overworked in a short period of time.
- 10 Officiating Coaches/ Floor Supervisors
- Playoff assignments were based on performance
- All games overseen in shifts by Officiating Coaches and RIC's
- Carmen Massel and David Thalheimer Tournament RICS
- David Thalheimer primary assignor for U14 B, U14 A, U16 Girls, U16 C, U16 B and U16 A
- Logan Parsons primary assignor for U10, U12 C, U12 B, U12 A, U14 Girls and U14 C
- Officials received assignments 15 days in advance of the tournament

### **Assigning**

- U8-U10 assignments always released 2 weeks in advance

- A number of parents of officials became involved in some assigning concerns/ questions. Officials should contact the assignor directly with parent support ONLY
- Significant challenges with officials not inputting dark days in Arbiter
- Many officials did not respond to games within 48 hours, and there were a significant number of declines that could have been avoided had officials inputted dark days
- An email was always sent out to officials before the start of assigning to let them know the deadline for availability
- Challenges with officials not being able to travel to rural centers, which is understandable
- A significant number of single games in rural centers

### **Tournaments**

- Some difficulties receiving some of the tournament schedules prior to the 2 weeks in advance deadline
- Caused officials' schedules to be delayed
- Suggest tournaments submit schedules earlier in advance. We only require the level, start time and location of the games. Teams can always be added later.

### **2023 Suggestions**

- Initiatives to further address Official's abuse
- Official's game fee rate increases
- Increase lower-level games fees to entice more senior officials to work the games but at the same time ensure there is appropriate compensation for higher-level games to account for the difficulty/ speed/ talent etc. (higher level/ difficulty/ age = higher wage)
- Encouragement for officials to progress in certification levels by offering an incentive (higher game fee) based on the level of certification
  - Done in other sports:
    - Such as Volleyball and higher-level Hockey
- Official's travel/ mileage increases to be comparable to other sports officiating standards
- Officials should be allowed to set travel limits in Arbiter (feature to be enabled)
- Officials should default to being unavailable and need to provide available times to work
- An assigning schedule created to indicate when availability needs to be up to date for a date range
- Arbiter training videos created to highlight all relevant features in Arbiter
- Fines for declines, turnback's and not responding to game assignments in 48 hours
  - Mirror the RMLL structure for minor lacrosse
- Require tournaments to submit their schedules further in advance Increase from the minimum two weeks to 3-4 weeks
  - (location, start time and level required only- team names can be submitted later) to ensure adequate game coverage and the ability to bring in officials from other centers, if needed, with as much notice as possible.

## **2022 Greater Edmonton Lacrosse Council (GELC) Season Assigning Report**

### **Season Summary**

The 2022 lacrosse season was the first return to a real season since the onset of COVID-19. The season saw many successes, specifically no game cancellations in Edmonton due to official or assigning errors for 690 league games, however it also challenged each association to overcome unique problems. The Edmonton Area had a total of 114 officials this season, with only 108 officials actually reffing games this year, 86 officials reffing 10 or more games, and 50 officials reffing 20 or more games. For those that stepped up to make this season possible the association and team clubs thank you.

I am grateful to have worked alongside Kevin Kohut, VP Member Services and GELC Minor Assignor; Jon Bennett, VP Finance and GELC Minor Assignor; and Terry Rocchio, GELC RIC. These members' countless volunteer time and on-going commitment to the sport is unmatched. I appreciate the support that was provided for myself and the membership.

I would like to thank the GELC Board for their efforts to make this season a success in Edmonton. Notably, Donna Hagstrom, GELC Executive Director; Anna-Lise Hobday, GELC Executive Director; Tim Stewart, GELC President; and Renee Couturier, GELC VP Finance. A close partnership with the LGB's is essential for scheduling, ensuring game coverage, development and managing issues throughout the season, and in GELC our plan will continue to be improving our relationship and collectively finding ways to support the development of lacrosse.

### **Assigning**

As mentioned, the Edmonton area was fortunate to have a large number of refs in to fill the 690 league games that occurred. Noted previously, less than half of our officials filled the majority of the games in Edmonton. This was caused by several reasons, officials quitting because of abuse, schedule conflicts with team commitments, and two full clinics of Level 1 officials this season.

Assigning on the best of days was a concern. Throughout the season in Edmonton we accounted for at one time over half of the declines recorded in Arbiter for the 2022 season. There were hundreds of declined, turned back and games that simply did not get accepted. This became extremely difficult to manage and led to a fine structure being shared in Edmonton at the start of June. The fine structure got mixed reviews, and came under the most criticism by those who accounted for some of the highest rates of declined and turned back games. The fine structure followed that of the previously implemented RMLL one, however, was never imposed on the payments at the end of season. Moving forward I recognize that games need to be filled and we risk losing some members to this rule, however at the same time the association risks losing willing assignors who spend countless hours ensuring that the association, and clubs do not have

canceled games and incur unnecessary costs due to a lack of commitment. I am pleased to have engaged in conversations around the fine structure with members of the Executive in hopes of finding a fair solution that clearly defines expectations for committing to games once accepted.

### **Tournaments**

Edmonton hosted 4 major minor events, the St. Albert Tournament which had 126 games; the Sherwood Park Tournament which had 112 games; the Beaumont Tournament which had 16 games; and the Tyke Wrap-Up Event which had 32 games. In addition to a successful season of no cancellations, these events were fortunate to also experience no cancellations. No cancellations came at a cost for some of the events, having to bring in officials from out of town for the St. Albert and Sherwood Park Tournaments. Having to utilize officials outside of Edmonton was largely caused by scheduling overlap between league play on weekends and RMLL games. Many officials involved in tournaments were overworked, accepting extra games to support the event. Many officials worked a mix of league, RMLL and tournament events which led to a lot of travel and travel expenses. I would suggest that if tournaments want to be able to have early confirmation of officials that Assignors should be submitted a schedule template up to 4 weeks prior, this does not need to include teams, only levels, times and locations, so that assignments can be sent out at the same time that those for league and other events are. Additionally, tournaments work with the LGB's and RMLL to schedule events.

### **Development**

There was a combined total of 85 mentorships and evaluation completed in Edmonton over the 2022 Season through 10 approved mentors. Outside of this mentorship team, we continue to encourage experienced officials to provide advice to new officials especially when games are back to back. This does not include the time that the Tournament RIC's spent during events working with officials and providing support. Edmonton also was able to run two on floor training sessions for new officials at the start of season. This meant that every new official had some sort of on-floor experience before stepping on floor, and those who were unable to attend were forced to have an on-floor mentorship before being allowed to be assigned games. One of the things that a few of our senior officials were willing to do was take a new official on floor and allow them to shadow a Bantam game where they matched floor positioning, transitions and saw calls from an on floor perspective.

### **Referee Abuse**

Through incidents I was directly involved in and incidents I heard about referee abuse and conduct from participants at all levels is a growing concern. While I do not have the exact discipline numbers from the GELC, compared to previous seasons, I would say that the severity of these incidents feels like it is increasing. We continue to lose officials year over year due to abuse and something needs to be done. I find the statement made by one of our Executive members, that we put our newest officials with our newest players, coaches and parents,

expecting a good result. This year in Edmonton we hope to change this through scheduling efforts, and have looked at a variety of options to engage senior officials in younger divisions.

### **Referee Discipline**

In Edmonton we had several instances when referee conduct was in question, assignments, on floor and off floor. These were handled at first instance through adjustment of assignments, intervention from the Executive, and increased evaluations. I will continue to be a strong advocate of professional conduct from our membership and adjusting assignments based on performance, regardless of past experience. With this I would add that it is important to have this communication with the GELC board, so that we together can identify issues within the sport, however, continuing to deal with official discipline matters within the association and not making others privy to this information.

### **Edmonton Masters Lacrosse League**

I began assigning the Edmonton Masters Lacrosse League after its first Sunday of introductory games. We had a total of 4 officials step on the floor for the 22 games the league played during their season. The league has expressed an ask for consistency when it comes to officials, largely due to the specific rules they have. These rules, however, make it difficult to find officials willing to ref. If I continue to assign this league, I hope to work with them to find officials who can support them regularly so that there can be a positive experience on both ends.

### **Final Thoughts**

The season experienced a number of successes and a number of challenges to overcome. I think this was a fantastic learning experience for myself and others involved and there have been a number of successful conversations after the season in preparation for this upcoming one. Through my continued involvement I hope to improve on this season's numbers for development and take on new ways of communicating with our members and assigning to avoid issues regularly faced in assigning. I would like to see better retention rates than we have experienced in the past and I think through development, proper mentorship and an emphasis on support for our members we will achieve this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Lafreniere". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Cameron Lafreniere**  
**Minor Assignor, Greater Edmonton Lacrosse Council**  
**Alberta Lacrosse Referee's Association**

## RMLL RIC Report

In the first traditional season since 2019, returning to “normalcy” was a challenging, but successful endeavour for our officials.

### **Season Accomplishments**

The RMLL continues to maintain an overall high level of officiating competency. This was highlighted at the national level by RMLL officials refereeing on-floor for the 12U, 14U, Founders, & Presidents Gold Medal games. We have had two additional RMLL officials hired to the NLL (one who attended the Minto Cup), the pinnacle of the sport.

### **Season Overview**

With some officials not returning to the RMLL or lacrosse officiating as a whole after the pandemic, quite a few officials were promoted to the RMLL and its higher divisions. This was also the case with the implementation of the 3-official mechanic at the leagues with National Championships (Jr A, Tier I, and Sr B). Jr A utilized the 3-official mechanic throughout the season, including all playoffs and Minto Cup. Jr B Tier I only had 3-official system in the regular season due to budget and referee availability during July and August. The Founders Cup also used a 2-official system. Sr B mirrored Tier I in that the 3-official system was only used in the regular season, for budgetary and referee availability purposes. The Presidents Cup started with 2-official system, but moved to 3-official for the semi-finals and finals.

### **Season Setbacks**

The relocation of Lloydminster to Hillmond, Sk and Cranbrook’s home games were difficult to schedule referees. Both of these centres will require local officials to continue to host home games, especially for short-notice playoffs. I will propose that teams can only host playoff games if they have officials who live within 50 km of their home arena. I will endeavour to communicate and develop a recruitment strategy with the LGB RIC of Wheatland to assist

promoting officials to the RMLL for next year. Additionally, an RMLL clinic in Cranbrook, or having Cranbrook officials travel to Alberta to certify will be a necessity. I have began the preliminary steps to have a clinic for Junior level officials in Cranbrook with the BCLOA.

Scheduling with arena availability continues to be a struggle. With multiple teams requiring weekend games to accommodate travel, it would be ideal if games within 100 km travel (round trip) could be played on more weeknights (Monday-Thursday). The downside to this would mean fewer potentially practice days for teams, the upside would be lower referee travel fees. This is a decision the teams would need to consider.

Even if more weekday games are not possible, planning to only have one game per day in Wheatland, coordinatation to share facilities, or scheduling to allow for officials to officiate one game, then travel to another game in the region on the same day.

Refining the mileage and expense process is top of the list for the season improvements.

### **Growth and Recruitment**

With the success of LC utilizing the 3-official system and moving towards it for major national championships, the RMLL would best support the continued excellence of officials at national championships by using the 3-official system for all playoffs and provincials. This will require more officials be moved into the RMLL and be available during July & August. Having a normal season where officials gained experience in real game situations is crucial to promoting more officials to the RMLL. Existing officials also have improved over the course of a typical season.

### **Looking to the Future/Upcoming Season Goals**

Staffing 50% of all regular season games in the leagues with national championships, and 100% of playoffs/provincials with the 3-officials system is a goal. Continuing to have Alberta officials in medal games and having more hires to the NLL is a goal for the season.

I am happy to share that I'll be getting married in 2023. The wedding ceremony will be July 1, 2023. Due to my circle of friends, many of them are lacrosse officials, and will be in attendance. I would ask the RMLL to continue to limit the amount of games at the Jr A, Sr B, and Tier I level in Alberta. This might be a good weekend for out of province travel.

Thank you to everyone for their support in making the 2022 season an enjoyable experience.

David  
RMLL RIC

## SALA Year end report 2022

This season was a difficult one both for myself and the assignor Tyrel White due to the lack of experienced officials. We had to move games to a few locations mostly in Tabor and Lethbridge just to fill and assign the game slots as most of the officials are from the Lethbridge area. Both Tyrel and myself worked many weekends to make the schedule work as we have lots of games and few refs to fill them. Our biggest challenges were with the Lethbridge and Med Hat tournaments as they had many game slots to fill, with 2 big tournaments and the organizers not realizing how few refs are available to officiate them. We did make it work and very few problems with that end of the tournaments.

We were able to work with our new refs that signed up and get them supervised, but we really do need a lot more people to sign up and want to officiate, our numbers seem to be dropping in every area. Med Hat is the problem area right now with only 3 or 4 officials, so holding games there is a big challenge, as we have to travel everyone in, and this is one thing we have been talking with the members of SALA about.

All in all the 2022 season was a success and we have very few games cancelled, so we were able to run a complete regular season and playoffs as well as 2 successful tournaments. Our SALA AGM will be held on February 3, 2023 where Tyrel White will take over from me as SALA RIC. We have unfortunately had our President Sean Yaemen recently leave the SALA board and the Vice President also step down due to health reasons so this upcoming AGM will be an important one.

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone that I have worked with over the years that I have been RIC. You have made my time very enjoyable and fun to be a part of. I wish the best to everyone in this upcoming season and hope to see you all on the floor!

Yours in Lacrosse,

Brent Woods



# Wheatland 2022 Season Summary

January 21, 2023

To: ALRA Executive

## 2022 Wheatland Season Summary

During the 2022 Box Lacrosse season, the Wheatland had 27 active referees. Unfortunately most of the officials attended the online clinics; everyone is looking forward to moving the clinics back to an in person format in the future. Thankfully, it was great to see the enthusiasm of the new referees when they officiated their first games.

Assigning all referees to games this year was challenging as due to the pandemic. LGB team registration down from previous years, specifically in the lower age groups across the Wheatland. With less teams and long distances to travel, 3 festival weekends were planned for the 8U and 10U groups. This led to limited opportunities for the younger officials to gain experience.

Year End Tournament for the 12U, 14U & 16U was held in Sedgewick (Flagstaff) and the 8U and 10U were held in Cold Lake. Enough officials were able to be assigned and all games were successfully managed.

Finally, Provincials were held in Cold Lake in 2022 and the Wheatland was fortunate to utilize several of the local referees. This provided valuable feedback for the selected referees for their progression to becoming better officials.

## 2022 Challenges

Recruitment was very effective and while 27 officials seemed to be a good pool of referees to draw upon, there were only 6 referees above Level 2. Being that the Wheatland is so expansive in area and the limited number of experienced referees, assigning the 16U & 14U was challenging and at times, had to rely on importing referees from the GELC. Experience for the younger referees was limited to 10U, 12U & 14U. As previously mentioned, getting all of our younger officials games to gain experience was difficult as there were limited number of teams and therefore a limited

number of games. Some referees were able to pick up games to officiate while in attending tournaments outside their LGB and others made specific trips into other LGB's specifically to gain more experience, which was encouraging to see.

Additionally, with the SALA crossover weekend the first week of May, the Wheatland 16U were fortunate enough to take 3 referees to Taber to assist in the officiating of the games; without them, this crossover weekend may not have been able to proceed.

Finally, other challenges were with the coaching of some of the 16U teams; it seemed that they emphasized the roughness of the sport and their teams used a degree of intimidation during game play. This made officiating these games rather challenging and for the year end tournament, the officiating of the Gold Medal game went with a 3 man system to ensure the officials could manage the game effectively.

## Assigning

The assigning duties fell to Carmen Zayac and Dustin Todd for the 2022 season. Carmen concentrated on assignments in the south (Lloydminster, Vermilion & Flagstaff) and Dustin in the north (Bonnyville & Cold Lake). This worked effectively although Dustin's distance from Cold Lake and Bonnyville made it difficult for him to get a feel for the referee's on floor effectiveness.

## Officials Development

With the majority of the officials in Wheatland being Entry or Level 1, an initiative was made to have additional pre-season, on-floor time to the referee pool for additional training. Supported by Kevin Kohut with the ALRA and some local U15 teams, two on-floor, game speed referee sessions were performed; one in Cold Lake on April 11 and the second in Vermilion on April 12. A 1 hour on-floor discussion of positioning and protocol preceded a 1 hour scrimmage where a senior referee shadowed a younger official to reinforce the previously discussed positioning and protocol. Referees that were not on the floor watched the game from the time box with another senior referee pointing out relevant positioning and other game play observations.

## 2023 Recruitment and Development Plan

Recruitment for the upcoming season will be following a similar path from previous seasons, relying heavily on the younger players for the 10U. A Wheatland initiative will be put forward to try to get all 2<sup>nd</sup> year 14U and all 16U players to attend the referee clinic. Firstly this is to increase the number of officials to draw upon and secondly, to increase the players knowledge of the game. While the Wheatland is still working on a proposal to the ALRA as to how to conduct this initiative (not realistic to have +45 Entry level officials in the Wheatland), it is encouraging that we may have lots of younger officials to work with.

Wheatland will also continue to work with the ALRA (Kevin Kohut pending availability) regarding the pre-season, on-floor sessions. This work along with the following scrimmage gives the Entry and Level 1 referees additional confidence when thrust into their first games.

For the upcoming 2023 season, the assigning will be split north and south again although the assigner for the north will likely be from one of the north communities.

Regards,

Rod Pettigrew

Wheatland RIC

## Field Lacrosse Referee-in-Chief Report

Much like last season, the Field Lacrosse season in Alberta indicated the program is almost back in its infancy again.

Early on in the season, the hope was to have all of the games scheduled in one day, however it became clear this model wouldn't be sustainable with the number of teams in each age group participating. As a result of the change to games happening Sunday to the first set of Field Days, there were a limited number of officials being available that day, so I had to make the call to only schedule officials in the higher age group.

The second set of Field Days went much better, however we still had some referees working more games than they should because of shortages. Despite this, all games were covered, including the set of Under-10 games that didn't have officials in the first set of Field Days.

The third set of Field Days were well covered, however one thing that stood out this weekend were the number of fouls and suspensions. In one game, there were two expulsions, and we opted to work a three-man system in hopes of bringing the game under control. There were also select issues elsewhere (such as a Timekeeper being thrown out of a game), is pretty uncharacteristic of Field Days in Alberta. We also had an injured official on Day 2 of these Field Days, which led to some last-minute schedule changes to accommodate.

The referees were not aware of the fourth set of Field Days until I heard through word of mouth that the games were even happening. After reaching out to Alberta Field Lacrosse, it was made apparent that we were never notified of the games, even looking back at the original schedules we were sent. With assistance from anyone that was available, we tried to fill scheduling holes where we could. Similar to the first weekend, we made the decision to cover the higher age groups first and foremost, and work our way down where we could. At the same time, we borrowed coaches to assist, and an official who had not worked games in awhile came back to work some games, which was a huge help.

Unfortunately, I had very little involvement with the women's program this season. I did try to locate umpires wherever I could, but in spite of reaching out to everyone I had used in games dating back at least five years, next to no one was available any of the weekends. I know Leslie Hawke has stepped forward to lead Alberta Field Lacrosse, so I would very much like to assist where I can on moving this program forward. I also feel that getting one or more people certified as clinicians in Alberta would be a huge help, as there has been a requirement, every year, to fly someone in from out of province for clinician purposes.

The overall story of the season was the same, a need for more officials. Having all Field Days in Red Deer proved helpful, but in subsequent seasons we will need to communicate better with the AFLA Executive to ensure no one is left out of the loop. The online clinic format worked relatively well, but we really need to look at ways to increase the number of officials. One thought that came to mind was possibly get a representative from each team to assist with refereeing where possible (similar to what

was done in Calgary in the early 2000's with the Roughnecks beginning play). These ideas will need to be discussed in more detail as we get closer to next season.

## Year End Report 2023 - Privacy Officer

The following information pertains to the 2022 lacrosse season and this role of the Privacy Officer.

Various officials had to complete a criminal record check through the ALRA approved software, Sterling Backcheck. All officials turning 18 years old prior to and during the season had to complete these checks. Sending record checks was much easier this season in part thanks to Kevin Kohut for providing me with a list of all officials who completed clinics. As previous record checks expired, various individuals had to update their record checks.

We did not have any officials who required to have conversations due to security purposes. There continued to be some officials who officiated lacrosse without completing their record checks. There was one official who attempted to state he was not informed he had to complete a record check or the process. This individual alleged there was a result of a lack of communication. When asked how communications can be improved there was no response from the person.

It was a significant challenge when officials provided multiple email accounts because several invitations had to be sent and it was unknown which account the official reliably utilizes. Moving forward I strongly suggest officials are only able to provide 1 email they use most frequently.

During clinics in the 2023 season, clinicians should ensure information regarding criminal record checks are necessary. Moving forward there is a need to ensure ALL required officials have completed their record checks before they step on the floor for a game. I recommend promoting another individual to assume the Privacy Officer role for the 2023 season as well.

Yours in Lacrosse,

Julian Grbich  
Privacy Officer