

RAMOA Report for Rugby Alberta 2023 AGM

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RAMOA Membership Update

	2022	2023	1 st Year in 2023
Total Registrations	84	86	19
ERURS	31	29	8
CRURS	53	57	11

Of the 86 members in 2023 some highlights are:

- 2 CMO only registrations
- 19 1st year registrations for 22% of membership in 2023
- With new members we lost 17 members from 2022 (~20% reduction)
- 2019 total was ~103 members

We have done a great job the last two seasons getting course participants to register and officiate. The issue is we still have a large turnover and are still 16% down from 2019

Game numbers

	2022	2023
High School	327	348
High School 7s		26
Junior Club	423	200
Junior Club 7s		252
University	43	32
Club 10s	57	
Senior Club	250	298
Total	1100	1156

A few comments on the game volumes:

- These don't include several of the tournaments:
 - Edmonton HS Tournaments
 - Calgary HS Tournaments
 - ARC 15s
 - Westerns
 - OctoberFest
- 5 Match Officials accounted for 142 7's matches or ~52%
- 10 Match Officials accounted for 344 15's matches or ~40%

Concerns from 2023 Season

- RAMOA is still down in numbers and covering all matches has been difficult.
 - Calgary has the advantage of so many games being played at the CRU.
 - Edmonton has the issue when there are upwards of 4 matches at different locations at same time that should have 3 match officials each.
 - Edmonton had over 250 junior matches that were coach led – no referee could be provided.
- Issues with Referee abuse
 - 2023 had both good and bad stretches when it came to referee abuse.
 - There was 1 lost official due to this in 2023 that I'm aware of
 - There could have been 3-4 more.
 - Several instances were reported and investigated.
 - Seems to be happening more at Jr Club and HS matches.
- Game Cancellations/Forfeits/Defaults
 - There seemed to be high number of these occurrences in 2023.
 - Believe there was also attempts to move AC/AWP matches
 - Often with very late notice to the match officials.
 - Still discussing numbers with ERU around this for the 2023 season
- Lack of Coach Of Match Official training
 - Rugby Canada trialed a new format for a Canadian version of the CMO course in Sept 2023
 - This new workshop has been approved to be delivered in 2024

Relationships

In 2023 RAMOA continued to engage our partners at several levels

- CRU Relationship has strengthened from where it was a couple of years ago.
 - Invoices addressed, confirmed and paid relatively quickly currently
- ERU Relationship is struggling.
 - We have a program director we deal with but emails to other board members have not been responded to
 - They were late paying bill for 2022
 - For the 2023 season as of November 26th we are still addressing game numbers.
- Rugby Alberta Relationship is still strengthening.
 - Communication about tournaments and games went well in 2023
 - Some work to do to build better process for game changes that we trialed in the HS season
 - RA has approached us about wanting to provide more support.
 - New RAMOA board will follow-up in December with Executive Director

Closing Thoughts

2023 was a busy season with game numbers approaching those of 2019. We are still down match officials in the province and need to continue to look for means to grow those numbers. It has been mentioned at the Rugby Alberta AGM several times but essentially Match Officials come from the wider Rugby Community. This means like in past years if clubs know of individuals that would be good candidates for becoming Match Officials please let us know. Although not RAMOA's first choice If we look at the Junior programs in the province we might need to consider clubs finding individuals for courses and officiating a larger number of the junior games. Not ideal but we believe having so many 'coach led' games should be looked at by Rugby Alberta going forward.

Scheduling in 2024 we believe is also an area that needs to be addressed going forward. As mentioned earlier, Calgary's use of the CRU helps elevate some stress on match official availability but as we have seen in 2023 at times running 4-5 fields all day does stretch the officials quite a bit. In the Edmonton case, with only ~ 30 officials, having multiple games, at multiple fields that should be resourced with teams of 3 officials it was difficult to fill every slot. This is made more difficult if all the kickoffs are at the same time. For example, 4 AC games at 4 fields all kicking off at 4pm is 12 officials out of the local pool of ~30. During any given week due to family, injury, vacation or work commitments often upwards of 1/3 of our officials might not be available.

Growing rugby in Alberta is going to take us all to pull more in one direction and in 2024 there are likely several areas in our game where all of use Unions, Clubs and Match Official Societies can get better. We look forward to working with everyone in the Province to help strengthen the game we all love going forward.