

Alberta Junior Rugby Association – Presidents Report 2025

Overview

The past year started with an alarming situation regarding the financial position of the association. It was determined that we were in a deficit position based on the results of the AGLC assessment of our gaming reports. That was rectified and we determined that we could continue to employ the current Rugby Manager.

It was also clarified that the AJRA only has jurisdiction over the Rugby Manager operating in northern Alberta.

A survey was sent to clubs to determine how they wanted to be supported by this association. The responses were few and only from the north.

Financial Position

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our Treasurer, we were able to rectify the gaming issues that put us in a deficit position. Our Treasurer is also in consultation with CRA regarding the filing of tax returns, which apparently have not been done for 20 years. We are currently operating with sufficient funds to continue to employ the Rugby Manager in the north. The funding for the Rugby Manager in the south is provided by Alberta Rugby, who oversees that position. We are organized and ready for a Casino which occurs in Edmonton on December 26th, which will allow us to continue to deliver introductory rugby.

Rookie Rugby

The delivery of Rookie Rugby has increased significantly from 2024 to 2025. The program reached 9046 participants in the south and 8916 participants in the north. In addition to providing sessions for schools and communities, the Rugby Manager provides training sessions for teachers and staff, in an effort to encourage further participation in the game.

A Resource Practice guide has been created to distribute to teachers which provides a five-day practice plan per grade on how to teach flag rugby. The guide falls within the Alberta PE curriculum.

The Government of Canada Summer Jobs applications were forwarded to all clubs in conjunction with a Youth Development Officer job template, to encourage clubs to apply for grant funding to hire YDO's within the clubs.

The Rookie Rugby Manager is available to train all Youth Development Officers in the delivery of Rookie Rugby and to connect them to the schools that the club deems as possible feeder schools.

Review of Survey Responses

A slide show has been created to share at the AJRA AGM that will reflect the responses that were received. Since the responses were few and only from Edmonton, the survey was sent out again in hopes of more responses.

Bylaw Review

A review of the AJRA Bylaws will occur in the new year to ensure that the bylaws are current and relevant to the current functions of this association.