



**AA Ringette Calgary Foundation (2013)
AA Committee Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2022**

In attendance via Zoom:

Melody Rock	Michael Liao	Adam McKnight	Becky Scheer
Liane Falconer	Carey Williams	Amanda Roach	Carrie Hehr
Cheryl Barnabe	Eva Hasell	Franzis Schwertner	Holly Popiel
Greg Denham	Jody Calvert	Jenny McConaghy	Kelly Cayer
Kim Ung	Leigh Sauer	Michelle Byers	Michelle Rolles
Rachel Vincze	Stephanie Dyck	Cristina Mutiso	Colin Dyck

- 1) **Call to Order** – 7:05 pm
- 2) **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve amended agenda made by Colin Dyck, seconded by Cristina Mutiso – approved.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes** from February 15, 2022 AA Committee Meeting – Motion to approve made by Michael Liao, seconded by Colin Dyck – approved.
- 4) **Reports:**
 - a) **President (Melody)**
 - Volunteers needed! Reminder if interested in a Board or Committee position for next season, this is a good time to be shadowing as gives an opportunity to learn from current volunteers.
 - ii. **Provincials**
 - Congratulations to all teams! U14AA – Team White-Gold and Team Blue-Bronze – both advancing to WCRCs. Team Red had hard fought tournament but not advancing to WCRCs. U16AA – Surge-Silver and Matrix-4th – both advancing to CRCs. Grit-7th but awarded CRC Host spot. U19AA – Compete-Gold and Raid-Silver – both advancing to CRCs. Best of luck to all teams!
 - Banner update – provincial championship banners from 2020 (2) and current season (2) to be hung in Winsport prior to CRCs.
 - iii. **Ringette Alberta updates**
 - Introduction to Pursuit of Excellence (IPOE) program:
 - On February 28 (March 4th was incorrectly stated during the meeting), RAB posted information re: IPOE program on RAB website, including Athlete and Coach applications, application schedule, and program schedule. Refer to RAB website for more details: <https://ringettealberta.com/excellence/>. Deadline to apply is March 25, 2022.
 - IPOE is part of RAB’s implementation of Ringette Canada’s Competition Review and Restructuring Report, which is a national plan to re-vamp the current system of competition offered to ensure quality sport experiences for ringette participants of all ages and in all stages of development. For more information, visit: <http://ltrd.ringette.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Competition-Review-and-Restructuring-Report.pdf>
 - Per RAB, Calgary AA along with all other associations will no longer be able to offer a U14AA program for the 2022/23 season. Instead, players of the U14 age will register in Classic ringette program with the quadrant associations (Bowview, SCRA, NW), and those who are interested can also apply for participation in RAB IPOE. IPOE runs as a supplemental program to the Classic program. Per RAB, no changes to current U16AA and U19AA programs for next season.



- Prior to the IPEO launch, Calgary AA had been seeking to engage with RAB but was not provided with much communication/information. Since the launch, Calgary AA continues to submit questions for clarification/consideration to RAB about the IPOE program. We have also been communicating the intention for the Calgary AA association to continue to operate through these program changes, including to apply as a Centre of Excellence (COE) which will operate the POE programs at the U16/U19 levels. RAB has indicated the next changes (U16/U19 levels) will likely happen in the 2023/24 or 2024/25 seasons.
- RAB has indicated they will provide more information about IPOE and future program changes at the upcoming AGM in Red Deer (weekend April 30/May 1). All members are encouraged to attend to provide input and learn how to get involved to influence the next steps of the restructuring process in AB. These changes will impact every player at the U16/U19 levels within the next 2-3 years. Other avenues to ask questions/provide input is to email David Myers at RAB directly or contact Calgary AA Board or Leigh Sauer (RAB Director-at-Large).
- An open forum was provided for members to ask questions and provide feedback re: IPOE. The following is a summary of points of discussion:
 - Members were upset about the negative depiction of AA programs in the RAB videos. Calgary AA association has much to be proud of the programs offered for both players and coach development. Many AA players have gone on to play high level ringette at Jr. & Sr. National levels, many of which return to coach in the association's programs to develop future players. Per Melody, Calgary AA association's success is not lost on RAB and they would like to figure out how to build on the association's success within the program restructuring.
 - There is sympathy expressed for the 2009 families who were involved in the U14AA program this year who will no longer be able to participate in a U14AA level program.
 - Re: IPOE, there continues to be numerous questions that go unanswered about the program by RAB. How can RAB expect people to sign up for a program without having questions answered, especially given the financial commitment? What are the metrics being used for acceptance into the program?
 - Much of the membership is upset with the timing of the program rollout the day after AA provincials, and the general lack of communication around the program (both at the association and individual levels). Given the lack of communication, should the registration dates be extended? What messaging, if any, should Calgary AA provide on their website/social media feeds to direct next season's U14s to the Classic/IPOE program registrations (vs. Calgary AA registration)?
 - The importance of members getting involved to provide IPOE feedback and input re: future program restructuring was re-iterated many times over. Rightly or wrongly, there is a perception from members that RAB asks for program input but ultimately does not take it into consideration when program changes are made (i.e., perceived lack of control for members to affect meaningful change during program restructuring process).
 - At the association level - all associations are still absorbing the U14 program changes and much of the discussion has centered around how it will impact operations next season (i.e., how to handle tiering, etc.). All presidents including Calgary AA continue to consult with one another.
 - Leigh clarified the RAB roles – RAB staff is involved in operations while RAB Board members are involved in policy/governance. Given this, RAB Board members may not have all the information related to the IPOE program rollout. Leigh happy to have conversations off-line to stay informed and to understand where people are coming from to bring feedback forward to RAB staff.
- AGM – As noted above – will occur weekend of April 30/May 1st. Details TBD on website once known.



- iv. Ringette Calgary updates
 - Melody attended RC Board meeting last week. RC has allocated some money for Calgary provincial champion teams to attend WCRs and CRCs
 - Re: Chinook League - discussions re: restructuring the league committee to allow for more input/representation from all participating associations (Z1, Z2, Z3) continues. If any interest in participating in Z3 sub-committee for 2022/23 season, please contact Melody.
 - There will be a slight league fee increase for both Chinook League and RC so in total fees will increase by about \$5 in 2022/23 season (from \$57 to \$62).
 - v. AA Policy update
 - Melody has informed RC that Calgary AA policy updates will be submitted for review shortly. Goal is to have RC approve the updates at their April meeting.
- b) VP League (Adam McKnight)
- i. General League updates – no updates
 - ii. Committee updates:
 - Ice Allocator (Cristina) – iceallocator@aaringettecalgary.ca
 - Cristina wanted to thank coaches/managers for their support and understanding during her first year in the position, and to Jeff Ung who put in place an excellent system for trying to ensure fairness in ice allocation between teams. Cristina has a meeting with RC 3rd week of April to examine and better understand how RC allocates ice to Calgary AA. She is looking for feedback from coaches (positive or negative) as to current ice allocation system in advance of this meeting.
 - Equipment Manager (Greg/Kristine) - greg.denham@intl.cnocltld.com
 - Given first year in role, Greg/Kristine looking for constructive feedback from coaches/managers re: equipment and distribution to help improve process for next season.
 - Planning for a mid-April date for equipment drop-off at the RC office – date TBD (jerseys, rings, medical bags, etc.).
 - Re: shot clocks, Michele Wheeler (Co-chair CRCs) has requested to use Calgary AA shot clocks during CRCs. Greg to liaise with managers to collect/deliver to her ahead of CRCs.
 - Discussion re: rings. In past years, teams were provided with a set of rings at the start of season, received another batch mid-season, and returned any leftover rings to/from EM. This season, Michele W. has indicated that CRCs will donate leftover rings to Calgary AA. The hope is to hold off purchasing any additional rings until these received and inventory can be reviewed. If any teams need rings prior to end of season, reach out to Greg/Kristine.
 - EM (Greg/Kristine) and VP Finance (Michelle B) to liaise re: budget for any required equipment purchases (i.e., rings, medical bag supplies, etc.).
 - Association Safety Lead (Cheryl) – no updates
 - Jr. Coach Program (Caley/Becky) – no updates
 - Coach Administration (Carrie) – no updates
 - Parent Administration (Holly) – no updates
 - Player Development (Heather) – no updates
 - Goalie Development (Carrie/Kelly) – no updates
 - Centre of Excellence Rep (Melody for Mike D) – see President report section



c) VP Operations (Colin)

i. General Operations updates - no updates

ii. Committee updates:

- Registrar (Amanda) – no updates
- Communications Coordinator-Webmaster/Social Media (Michael L/Brad) –
 - Phishing attempts on AA email accounts continue but all users educated to not click links to allow access. Consistent volume of attacks on website but country of origin has changed.
 - Please remember to send provincial, CRC and WCRCs highlights and photos to Michael L. to post on website.
 - Another reminder that team photo reps need to start loading photos onto team Flickr account. Goal is to get 30-40 photos per team loaded onto the account for use in year-end photo presentation at AA Banquet.
- Teamwear & Logo Coordinator (Jenny) – All Team AB gear has been ordered. Not many requests to use AA logos for additional gear.
- AA Team Photos (Angie) – no updates
- AA Tournament Coordinator (Wendy) – no updates
- Banquet Coordinator (Kelly) – Thank you to the teams who have already RSVP'd for the banquet (April 28th). Currently numbers at 235 but still waiting on numbers for two teams (Grit & Team Blue). Final pricing will be based on final guaranteed numbers for food. There will be a sign up for a few volunteer positions still needed (i.e., check-in, selling drink tickets) but less volunteers required than in past years. Another reminder to load team photos onto the Flickr account. Used for the photo presentation at banquet, but also fun for players to look at photos from past seasons.

d) VP Finance (Michelle B)

i. Financial updates

- Financial slide shown and reviewed (note – figures are estimates only).
- Ice costs to April 1, 2022 have now been updated in team expenses.
- Calgary AA was under budget on a few budget items (i.e., purchasing of seasonal equipment, shot clock purchase, jersey replacement, player/goalie development, lower than expected credit card fees) and was over budget for revenues on certain items (i.e., RIO, GIC for casino/equipment reserves), which has resulted in some surplus revenues. Given this, each team will be allocated an additional \$2K towards covering season expenses (i.e., ice costs). This is in addition to the previous approx. \$5K that was allocated earlier in the season.
- AA also looking at a one-time subsidization of year end banquet ticket costs for 1 player and 1 parent and 4 bench staff per team, which translates to \$1440/team for the 3-U14AA and 3-U16AA teams, and \$1620 for the 2-U19AA teams. After some discussion, it was determined that RATH players only (not parents) should also be eligible for banquet ticket subsidization given that most are AA alumni. Subsidization of banquet tickets is not currently accounted for in budget so the following motion was made:
Motion for Calgary AA to subsidize year-end banquet costs up to the amount of \$1440/team (for U14AA and U16AA teams) and \$1620/team (for U19AA teams & Rath Athletes) made by Michelle Byers and seconded by Colin Dyck – approved/passed.
- It is important to recognize that some reserves are still needed for future years (i.e., evaluation ice purchasing, equipment replacement for shot clocks, etc.) so not all reserves will be exhausted at this time.

ii. Committee updates:

- Casino (Melissa) – no updates
- Sponsorship Coordinator (Mike R) – no updates
- Fundraising Coordinator (Mike R/Catriona/Scott) – no updates



5) **New Business/Other**

- i. CRC updates (Kim Ung: ungjk@telus.net)
 - CRCs is fast approaching! There was recent social media activity to highlight NRL teams and lots of new information is now on website. Complete game schedule to be posted soon. Visit CRC website: <https://calgarycrc2022.ca/>. Looking forward to seeing everyone there! Good luck and have fun!
 - Re: volunteers, thanks to everyone who has already signed up on Sign-Up Genius. Kim U. to be liaising with Managers to ensure team volunteer commitments have been filled. Still looking for volunteers to help with half day shifts to drive officials to/from venues – rental vehicle provided (grandparents or retired individuals would be great for this role). Currently no sign-up available for minor officials for Friday/Saturday playoff games as looking for experienced volunteers for these games. Contact Kim with interest for either of these positions. Many U12 quadrant teams have reportedly not received information re: volunteers - Kim to follow up directly with U12 managers and/or quadrant association presidents re: same.
 - Re: 50/50 raffle – now live! Please forward link and consider buying your ticket now! When first draw pot reaches \$20K, a second 50/50 to be started. <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/rca>
 - Re: tickets, team “Early Bird” order for spectator passes due March 21. Sales for day passes beginning March 22 on Showpass. Visit: <https://www.showpass.com/> and search “Canadian Ringette Championships”
- ii. RAB Cup & RAB Challenge
 - Concern expressed that U16 2007 age group has been excluded from both RAB Cup & RAB Challenge this year. RAB Challenge schedule for April 8-10 which conflicts with CRCs. RAMP registration not available for 2007s for RAB Cup. Sentiment expressed that to exclude an entire birth year from higher level development camps is counter to what RAB high performance camps are supposed to deliver. Also, conflict with CRCs is a missed opportunity to promote/develop interest in higher level ringette. Calgary AA/Leigh Sauer to bring feedback forward to RAB and members also encouraged to contact RAB directly and/or attend upcoming RAB AGM.
- iii. AA Awards
 - Nominations for AA Service Award and Jenna Sauer Spirit in Coaching award to be opened shortly (mid-March) and will close mid-April to allow for time to review nominations. Budget item already in place for costs associated with awards (engraving, flowers, etc.). Holly P/Karen Murray to work with Michael L. to get information posted to website/social media sites and to link the AA awards email to Karen M. Email also be sent out to team mangers with awards information.

6) **Next Meeting Date** – Tuesday, April 26th @ 7:00 pm

7) **Adjournment** – 8:57 pm

