



**AA Ringette Calgary Foundation (2013)
AA Committee Meeting MINUTES
April 26, 2023**

Attendance:

Cheryl Barnabe	Becky Scheer	Aaron Grandberg	Michelle Byers	Heather Henning
Melody Rock	Amanda Roach	Dave Patton	Charitina Stelbaska	Greg Denham
Krista Kaiser	Cristina Mutiso	Carrie Hehr	Joanne Patton	Erika Liao
Stefanie Bichsel	Brad Tilford	Kristy Assaly	Brad Marlborough	Angela Rudnicki

- 1) **Call to Order:** 7:01pm
 - i. Land Acknowledgement was read
- 2) **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda made by Dave Patton, seconded by Aaron Grandberg. Motion carried.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2023 Committee Meeting:** Motion to approve minutes made by Heather Henning, seconded by Cristina Mutiso. Motion carried.

4) Reports

a) President (Cheryl B.)

- i. WCRCs
 - Congratulations to all three of our U14AA teams for their strong competitive play at WCRCs!
 - AB1 Team Alberta / U14AA Red -- Gold
 - AB3 U14AA White -- Silver
 - AB2 U14AA Blue -- Bronze
 - Congratulations also for the following achievements:
 - Payton Boyd, U14AA Red – All-Star Line
 - Jordan Niro, U14AA White – All-Star Line
 - Jaydee Patel, U14AA Red - Fastest Skater in the Skills Competition
- ii. CRCs
 - Congratulations to all our teams for their strong competitive play at CRCs!
 - U16AA:
 - Two of our U16AA teams advanced through provincials to compete at CRCs. Both teams earned spots into the Championship round and finished the week in the Top 5 in the country:
 - AB3 U16AA Core – 4th
 - AB5 U16AA Current – 5th



- Congratulations also for the following achievements:
 - Dani Falconer, U16AA Current – Winner, Hardest Shot Competition
 - Tasha Blackwell, U16AA Core – Winner, Skater Agility Competition
 - Catherine Griffiths, U16AA Current – Top 3, Fastest Skater Competition
 - Brooklynn Campbell, U16AA Core -Top 3, Shooting Accuracy Competition
- U19AA:
 - Both of our U19AA teams advanced through provincials to compete at CRCs. Excellent play earned them both a spot in the Championship round where they eventually met in the Bronze medal final – a hard situation where only one team would be bringing home a medal but an incredible feat to have both teams finish in the Top 4 of the country!
 - AB3 U19AA Fusion – Bronze
 - AB1 Team Alberta / U19AA Rise – 4th
 - Congratulations also for the following achievements:
 - U19AA Fusion – Agnes Jacks True Sport sportsmanship award
 - 1st Line All-Star: Regan Meier (Rise) – Offence
 - 1st Line All-Star: Kaylee Armstrong (Fusion) - Defence
 - 2nd Line All-Star: Mia Hemstreet (Fusion) – Offence
 - Ashley Anderson, U19AA Rise – Top 3, Shooting Accuracy Competition
- NRL:
 - Congratulations to the Calgary RATH for an outstanding performance at CRCs! Their excellent team play earned them a spot into the Championship round where they battled into the bronze medal final.
 - RATH – Bronze
 - Congratulations also to the RATH for the following achievements:
 - Agnes Jacks True Sport sportsmanship award
 - 2nd Line All-Star: Brea Beck – Goalie
 - NRL Rookie of the Year: Erin Ung
 - NRL Most Valuable Player: Kaitlyn Youldon
 - NRL Coaching Staff of the Year: Head Coach Barb Bautista, Assistant Coaches Nicole Prokop and Dallas Robbins, and trainer Jeffery Ung



iii. AA Board Update:

- Thank you to all the Committee for your work for the association this season. All your contributions are very much appreciated.
- Year End Surveys
 - Team reps are encouraged to ask teams to submit their survey responses
 - Note that there is a separate survey for U14AA teams as we are gathering specific info to better inform new families to our program
- Coach Applications
 - Applications are live on our website and will close May 31
 - Coach Selection Committee is almost finalized
 - Coach selections will be announced the first week of July
- Banners
 - We are aiming to have all our new banners installed at Winsport in time for the WRCs this fall
 - Any teams with banners that need to be installed, please connect with Cheryl

iv. Ringette Calgary Update

- Chinook Ringette League (CRL) is looking at the scheduling challenges this past season, such as the Session 3 / Playdowns format. There was discussion around the impact of exhibition games on scheduling and refs during the end of the season and whether these games should be low priority to alleviate the scheduling issues. Cheryl shared our concern that given the month or longer break between provincials and post-provincial championships for those advancing to WCRCs / CRCs, the exhibition games are actually very important.
- Ringette Calgary / CRL retreat on Apr 22 was productive and came away with some clarity on Ringette Calgary and CRL roles
- CRL originally intended to be a 1 year transition to become a stand-alone entity, however it was determined that a 5 year timeline would be more realistic. Also need to engage Zone 1 and Zone 2 representatives to join CRL as all three zones are participants.
- Also noted that Seven Chiefs will not renew the Ringette Calgary ice contract for next season. They are currently exploring other ice acquisition options.

v. RAB Update

- RAB's AGM is next weekend on May 6/7 in Red Deer; Cheryl B, Michelle B, and Becky S will attend as our AA reps.
- RAB announced recently that the Alberta Winter Games 2024 will be a U16A/B event only. AA players are not eligible to try out. Coaches please note: Any coaches who aspire to one day coach at the CWG level must have coached at the AWG level, so please watch for AWG coaching info.



- vi. 2023/24 Championship Dates
 - WRC 2023: Oct 29 - Nov 4, 2023
 - Hosted in Calgary

 - WCRC 2024: Mar 27-30, 2024
 - Hosted in Calgary by Bow View; volunteer recruiting will begin soon
 - We will be assisting them with coordinating the U14AA division

 - CRC 2024: Apr 7-13, 2024
 - Hosted in Dieppe, New Brunswick

Past President: nothing to report

Secretary: nothing to report

b) VP League (Heather H.)

- i. Currently working on RFPs for U14 dryland providers, and player development sessions (nutrition, mental training) for next fall

- ii. Committee updates:
 - Ice Allocator (Cristina / Annette)
 - Booked ice for the Intro AA skate
 - Booked ice for the fall tryouts based on previous numbers as a guide
 - Ring It On – ice confirmed with Great Plains that we want the same as last year
 - Working on securing ice for the fall to support what we receive from Ringette Calgary ice pool
 - Cristina, Annette and Heather will be our reps for calling in to the Calgary City ice booking session for fall ice group purchasing on May 5th
 - Exploring an ice contract with Lake Bonavista
 - Please contact Cristina or Annette if you have any other connections or contacts for possible ice contracts
 - Questions raised around why AA doesn't have regular ice schedules for teams, why teams are required to fundraise so much to purchase their own extra ice, and why AA registration fees don't cover all the ice we need like at other associations.
Discussion on challenges of AA ice scheduling and contacts:
 - Since we are an entity of Ringette Calgary, they support us in securing ice. They have ice contracts, of which we receive an allocation for practices, and they pool ice from all the associations to assign league game schedules.
 - We let them know our desired ice budget, although due to increased ice costs this year we received less practice ice than usual for the same budget.
 - We assign teams to practice ice that we receive from the Ringette Calgary ice pool. We often do get some regular times/locations but they are split among the teams. Then teams will decide if they want to purchase any extra ice that suits their specific needs and schedules.



- We are exploring our own ice contracts to assist with equalizing ice for our teams, however it is difficult for us to establish regular ongoing ice contracts since our teams have individualized schedules (ie. social events, dryland nights) and often several teams are away at tournaments leaving us with a lot of unusable ice that we need to try to sell to associations.
- It was also noted that registration fees at other associations don't cover their full costs either. Other associations must fundraise to cover their full costs (casino, pub nights, raffles, sponsors, tournaments, etc).
- Equipment Manager (Kristine / Greg)
 - Equipment drop off scheduled for May 4th; info was sent to teams
 - Sewing Contacts – reminder to let us know if your team has a sewing contact that they use; we will compile a list of resources for sending teams for sewing name bars or getting repairs to jerseys, pants
 - Will be purchasing supplies for the medical bags for next season soon
 - Please let Greg know when the Coach meeting will be in August so the medical bags and other supplies are distributed at that time.
- PAC / POE Committee (Chris / Sheri / Stephanie) – nothing to report
 - Update: All PAC activities have been put on hold by RAB as there is limited capacity at RAB to support our work at the moment with all of the staffing changes there.
- Association Safety Lead (Cheryl) – nothing to report
- Coach Administration (Carrie) – nothing to report
- Parent Administration (Holly) – not in attendance, no report
- UAA Coordinator (Daxton / Paul) – not in attendance, no report
- Jr. Coach Program (Becky / Holly) – nothing to report
- Goalie Development (Dave) – nothing to report
- Player Development (VACANT) - nothing to report
- EGRT – nothing to report

c) **VP Operations (Colin/Aaron)**

i. Committee updates:

- Banquet Coordinator (Kristy / Brian / Stephanie / Angela / Michelle M.)
 - Banquet is tomorrow night
 - Everything is set, with just a few décor projects to finish up
 - All volunteer spots full
- Awards (Holly)
 - Nominations are closed and awards have been determined
 - Will be announced at banquet tomorrow night
- AA Intro Spring Skate (Brad T.)
 - Sessions are set for May 1 and 3 next week
 - 47 players have registered which basically gives us 2 full ice times; only one goalie signed up which may be a concern to watch for this fall and ensure we promote goalie recruitment for tryouts
 - 4 skaters from U14AA are recruited to help as well as several U19AA to run the ice sessions



- Thank you to our ice, website, social media and registration volunteers for your help with this event!
- Provincial Tournament (Kristy)
 - Still waiting on kick back funds from three hotels (approx \$1200)
- Social Media (Brad K.)
 - Aaron: thank you to Brad K for his work on our social media this season and doing a great job to increase our profile
- Website Development (Brad M.)
 - Aaron: thank you to Mike L for his work this season and over the years on our website and supporting the transition to the new website.
 - Aaron: thank you to Brad M for his work on transitioning to our new website and the work to maintain
 - Lots of work in the next few weeks to transfer this year into the Past Seasons section and set up new clean pages for next season's teams (website, Flickr, etc)
- Teamwear & Logo (Jenny / Erika)
 - Erika proposing that we get ahead of the order delays in the fall and pre-order some items this summer for next season. Pants in particular take a long time so pre-ordering to arrive in summer is recommended by the Ringette Store; bags are also recommended; need to check in with Jenny on how the pre-ordering and payment for that order has been done in the past
 - Discussion around whether U14s should buy red and blue pants since they are wearing out the borrowed blue pants too quickly by wearing them at practices instead of just the occasional game when needed. Season-end surveys so far indicate that apparel costs are not unreasonable so this info suggests we could move to them buying blue pants. Alternatively we could have a jersey / blue pants parent that keeps them to prevent over use.
 - Erika to investigate and bring info back for board; AA has funds to front the order
- Tournament Coordinator (Wendy / Kristy)
 - Discussion on possibly not sending teams to Saskatoon next season and asking for 2 spots in Regina instead, or possibly run a local "Hub" weekend instead
 - Kristy to connect with Wendy to learn more about the role
- Registrar (Amanda)
 - Tryout Registration: proposing our tryout registration will open June 1 to June 30 for \$100 early bird; July 1-Aug 15 for \$175 regular; Aug 16-24 for \$350 late
 - Need to be sure we can manage any late registrations in terms of numbers and planning the tryout rosters / ice needs; 90% register in early bird period so we have time to adjust for buffer space if needed
 - Aug 28 tryouts begin; the Aug 24 cut off date gives us time to prepare
 - **Motion to approve the Tryout Registration package dates and fees as proposed, made by Dave Patton, seconded by Cristina M. Motion carried.**
 - Season Registration: proposing to keep our registration fees at \$1200 per player upon being drafted to a team for the 2023/24 season



- Question was raised to clarify what the registration fees actually cover since AA also pulls funds from teams during the season, which was a new approach for some families.
 - VP Finance explained that the registration fees generally cover the costs of early season ice and first-half tournaments.
 - There are other costs over and above what is covered by the initial registration fees (ie. more ice, ref fees, coach courses, equipment and other items).
 - AA is generally invoiced for \$16K per team in ice; if teams want more than that they can secure it as they see fit.
 - Ice costs and ref costs are pulled from teams twice per year (halfway and year end); other costs are trued up at the end of the season and pulled from team accounts or refunded back
 - Recommendation to update the sample team budgets, especially for U14
- Need to be transparent that the registration fees don't cover the entire AA program costs; the fees are not the all-in cost; team fundraising / cash calls typically cover at least another \$1000-\$2000 per player for ice, social, dryland, team wear, etc depending on each team's schedule
- It was noted that this information was presented in our budget at each meeting and regular updates were sent to team treasurers. It was also shared at the start of the season at the Manager / Treasurer meeting, although we recognize that meeting is overwhelming with info.
- We will need to also outline that the Jersey deposit that previously was returned to team budgets will now be a Jersey fund to be saved for replacement costs.
- Discussion around whether we should charge higher registration fees upfront rather than pull money from teams during the year. Group agreed that spreading costs across the year is more manageable for families rather than setting fees too high in September which is already a heavy month for school and other activity fees.
- **Motion to set Registration Fees at \$1200 per player for the 2023/24 season, made by Amanda Roach, seconded by Cristina Mutiso. Motion carried.**
 - RAMP has the option to accept EFT; giving our registrations this option could significantly reduce our credit card fees; Amanda to look into it
- Manager Mentor (Jenny) – not in attendance, no report
- Team Photos (Angie / Angela) – nothing to report
- RIO Tournament Committee (Paul B. / Kevin) – not in attendance, no report

d) VP Finance (Michelle B)

i. Financial update

- Almost ready to close our books and true up the team accounts
 - Ice not completely reconciled yet as awaiting some final info
 - Ref fees still not received yet either
 - Still waiting on approx \$3K from RAB for provincials ice; will follow up with Carolyn
 - Please remind your teams that you have 2 weeks to submit any final receipts before we close the books and issue any funds back to teams



- We're OK to close the provincials bank accounts; any funds still to come in can be directed to our usual AA account
- RATH has asked about a donation from AA; we don't have any record of doing this in the past other than covering some ice costs; Michelle will connect with them for more info

ii. Committee updates:

- Casino (Jody / Liane)
 - Proceeds expected in May
- Sponsorship Coordinator (Chantelle) - not in attendance, no report
- Fundraising Coordinator (VACANT) – nothing to report

e) **RATH Rep** – not in attendance, no report

f) **RAB Rep** – not in attendance, no report

5) **New Business / Other**

6) **Next Meeting Date:** This was the last Committee meeting for the 2022/23 season. The meeting dates for next season will be determined this summer.

7) **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Aaron Grandberg, seconded by Michelle Byers. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

