



**AA Ringette Calgary Foundation (2013)
AA Committee Meeting MINUTES
March 22, 2023**

Attendance:

Cheryl Barnabe	Becky Scheer	Aaron Grandberg	Michelle Byers	Liane Falconer
Daxton Lesko	Wendy Anderson	Dave Patton	Kristine Denham	Carrie Hehr
Erika Liao	Paul Wilson	Charitina Stelbaska	Greg Denham	Brad Kane
Stefanie Bichsel	Annette Kolisnyk	Holly Popiel	Jenny McConaghy	Krista Kaiser
Kristy Assaly				

- 1) **Call to Order:** 7:02pm
 - i. Land Acknowledgement was read
- 2) **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda made by Carrie Hehr, seconded by Jenny McConaghy. Motion carried.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes from Jan 25, 2023 Committee Meeting:** Motion to approve minutes made by Jenny McConaghy, seconded by Erika Liao. Motion carried.

4) Reports

a) President (Cheryl B.)

- i. Provincials
 - Congratulations to all our teams for their strong competitive play in Provincials!
 - Special congratulations to the teams that were medalists in their divisions:
 - Team Alberta – U14AA Red, U19AA Rise
 - Silver Medal – U14AA Blue
 - Bronze Medal – U14AA White, U16AA Core, U19AA Fusion
 - Congratulations also to U16AA Current for qualifying for CRCs as AB5.
 - We also wish to acknowledge U16AA Pace and commend them on their efforts and successes this season. We know how very tough it is to have your season end at provincials and extend our support to you all. Congratulations on your strong play in a very tight provincial tournament.
- ii. Policy Review / Motion to Approve
 - We recently underwent a review of our policies to update them for clarity and to better align with inclusive language. Ringette Calgary has reviewed and approved our policies, and our final step is for our Committee to approve. Policies were shared with all prior to the meeting for review.
 - Motion to approve the updated AA Ringette Calgary policies, made by Carrie Hehr, seconded by Jenny McConaghy. Motion carried.
- iii. Scholarships / Awards now open



- Ringette Calgary’s “2015 WCRC Legacy Scholarship” is now open
 - RAB awards are also now open for nominations. Please consider nominating a coach or volunteer from your team. It would be fantastic to see some AA Ringette representation!
 - Question raised as to whether the winner of the Meghan Bomford scholarship has been announced. That award is administered by a private business. Cheryl will follow up for info.
- iv. Ringette Calgary Updates
- Dates to note:
 - casino on Aug 15, 16; stay tuned for a call for volunteers
 - AGM on May 31
 - WRC 2023
 - confirmed for Oct 29 - Nov 4
 - Jocelyn Beswick is attending meeting on our behalf tonight to discuss plans for how to promote ringette and other initiatives to coincide with the event
 - WCRC 2024
 - host bids have been submitted by BowView and Spruce Grove
 - If BV is awarded then they are open to working with us on the U14AA level.
 - Chinook Ringette League (CRL)
 - CRL will continue for another year as a sub-committee rather than become their own entity due to needing more time to develop
 - A CRL / Ringette Calgary retreat is planned for April 22 to discuss how they can better work together and also how to better align with BGL
- ii. RAB Updates
- Tiering Proposal - Cheryl met with a rep from the tiering committee to provide feedback directly. The board also submitted feedback on the proposal. It was noted that the board also saw collaboration with several other AA programs across the province to share their thoughts and what feedback they submitted.
 - RAB’s AGM will be on May 6/7 in Red Deer. There will be a Bylaw Amendment at the AGM to update their bylaws.
 - Nominations for the RAB board are due tomorrow. We have a few names going forward and please connect with Cheryl if any others to nominate.
- iii. AA Board Updates
- Season-end work is underway (ie. year end surveys)
 - Starting to begin the work of looking ahead to next season (ie. securing ice, preparing for coach selection process, etc)



- We are open to any ideas for promoting our AA tryouts to ensure strong recruitment. Connect with Cheryl if you have any ideas.

i. Past President: nothing to report

ii. Secretary: nothing to report

b) VP League (Heather H.)

i. REPORT

- Reminder to complete your Committee Role templates by end of Apr
- Year end surveys – preparing a parent survey and a player survey
- Team surveys - planning to survey the team managers to gather info about their actual schedules and activities to help compile an accurate idea of the full AA program experience, particularly for the U14AA teams. This will be helpful for teams to know how to budget going forward, and also to be better able to inform prospective participants of the true cost / commitment.

ii. Committee updates:

- Ice Allocator (Cristina / Annette)
 - Starting to secure/plan ice for fall tryouts, but need to know the dates and anticipated numbers. Suggestion that the dates will be the usual period, and we can plan for the typical numbers for now and adjust if needed. Also suggested the upcoming Intro to AA sessions will indicate potential interest in our fall tryouts.
 - Discussion around planning ice for UAAs next season. Coordinators confirmed it is still required to be the 1st or 2nd skate for U14's as per the current RAB policy. Question was raised if the UAA Coordinator role should be moved to the VP Operations portfolio since it is now part of our tryouts.
 - Intro to AA ice has been booked (May 1 and 3)
 - All remaining March ice has been allocated to teams still in action; any teams that want ice for April should buy on their own
 - Ice Acquisition Role – we are creating a new position which will focus on sourcing and securing ice contracts and bookings to alleviate this workload from the ice allocators; please contact VP League if interested
- Jr. Coach Program (Becky / Holly)
 - Will send out a season-end survey after WCRCs
 - If any committee roles have anything they want asked in the survey, please connect with Becky or Holly
- Goalie Development (Dave)
 - Looking ahead for goalie sessions in the next season
 - would like to have ice secured for an early session in September especially for the U14AAs, and then in Nov and Jan (before EGRT)
- Association Safety Lead (Cheryl)
 - SHRED info session video is now on website if anyone wants to review



- Equipment Manager (Kristine / Greg)
 - We have rings to give out to team reps today for those teams still in action, so please pick up before you leave (3 new rings for each team)
 - Equipment drop off - will schedule a date and provide more info
 - Jersey repairs – we would like to create a resource list of sewing contacts; please let Greg know if your team has a contact that they use; we will compile a list of resources for sending teams for getting repairs to jerseys, pants
 - Name Bars - What did each team do for sewing on name bars? Managers please email VP League with info on who did it for your team

- PAC / POE Committee (Chris / Sheri / Stephanie) – nothing to report
- Player Development (VACANT) - nothing to report
- Coach Administration (Carrie) – nothing to report
- Parent Administration (Holly) – nothing to report
- UAA Coordinator (Daxton / Paul) – nothing to report
- EGRT – nothing to report

c) VP Operations (Colin/Aaron)

i. Committee updates:

- Provincial Tournament (Kristy)
 - Aaron: HUGE thank you to Kristy and the provincials committee for all your work. There was a lot of logistics and planning done within a very short timeframe.

- Social Media (Brad K.)
 - Good steady growth and engagement, particularly on Instagram
 - Still offering team takeovers; lining up for WCRC and CRC takeovers
 - Thinking of strategies to continue engagement over the summer - videos from graduating U19AA players about why they like AA; player polls; please contact Brad with any ideas
 - Please send any general action photos to help with posts over the summer
 - looking for feedback and constructive suggestions
 - possibly adding TikTok and SnapChat next year

- Banquet Coordinator (Kristy / Brian / Stephanie / Angela / Michelle M.)
 - Planning is going well
 - RSVPs and payments are due from teams
 - Need a volunteer to help with the slideshows; please contact Kristy
 - Still finalizing volunteer roles that will be needed; will send sign up to teams soon

- Awards (Holly)
 - Nominations are now open for both
 - A few entries have come in already; deadline is Apr 16
 - Board decides on the Service award, Sauer family decides on the Jenna Sauer Spirit award

- AA Intro Spring Skate (Brad T.)
 - Ice booked for May 1 and 3



- Will recruit a couple U14AA players to skate with the groups to help keep pace, and a few U19AA players to run the drills
- Planning to promote heavily through our social media
- Session will include an info session with parents to provide overview of the program and be transparent about costs, expectations. Noted that the info from the year end surveys will be helpful to gather this info.

- Website Development (Brad M.) – nothing to report
- Teamwear & Logo (Jenny / Erika) – nothing to report
- Manager Mentor (Jenny) – nothing to report
- Registrar (Amanda) – nothing to report
- Team Photos (Angie / Angela) – nothing to report
- Tournament Coordinator (Wendy / Kristy) – nothing to report
- RIO Tournament Committee (Paul B. / Kevin) – nothing to report

d) VP Finance (Michelle B)

i. Financial update

- Team budget updates have been sent out; Michelle provided a review of the spreadsheet
 - A few more coach certifications may still come in, and ref costs still to be finalized
 - Otherwise the numbers are fairly close to finalized
 - Will likely spend some funds on jersey repairs this year
 - If casino funds come in before end of April then a portion of those funds will also be allocated to further offset some costs this season
 - If there are still any outstanding expenses, please submit to Michelle ASAP
 - Reminder that each team treasurer must provide their team budgets and final statements to Michelle for transparency and also to help gain a greater understanding of the true costs of the AA program for participants

ii. Committee updates:

- Casino (Jody / Liane)
 - Funds are determined by AGLC after each quarter and then dispersed evenly across all the groups who operated a casino in that fiscal quarter.
 - We anticipate around the usual \$55-65K range but we won't know until the end of the quarter and then another month or two for the funds to be distributed
 - Huge thank you again to all our casino volunteers!
- Sponsorship Coordinator (Chantelle)
 - If you have any ideas for sponsors, please connect with Chantelle
- Fundraising Coordinator (VACANT) – nothing to report

e) RATH Rep – nothing to report

f) RAB Rep (Daxton/Leigh)

- Current focus of work at RAB is on the policy updates that were referred to in the recent email from RAB, and also working on the new strategic plan
- Cheryl: Acknowledged that Daxton and Leigh will both finish their terms on the RAB Board at the upcoming AGM, and extended a hearty thank you to both on behalf of Calgary AA Ringette.



5) **New Business / Other**

- i. Question raised around the # of teams for U14AA next season and if there is an indication of whether there will be sufficient players coming up to fill those teams.
 - It was explained that we are bound by policy to form 3 teams at U14AA. We can ask for more teams or even more athletes per team but with current registration numbers it is unlikely it would be approved by Ringette Calgary board. We don't want to drop to fewer teams at U14AA since that reduces the player base that goes on to feed our older age groups, and also it would be very difficult to get approval from the Ringette Calgary subassociation presidents to increase back to 3 teams again without substantial growth in the sport.
 - It was also noted that this same concern was presented last year and there was pressure from within our association and across the other associations to drop the number of U14AA teams and/or players due to a perceived lack of depth and slightly lower tryout registrant numbers. Given the incredible success of our U14AA teams this season, this assumption seems unfounded, and in fact the RAB tiering policy proposal suggested we should increase the number of teams for the purpose of competitive equity.
 - It was also noted that the level of play observed in the U14A and U12A divisions this season has been impressive.
 - As with every season, we will need to ensure we encourage recruitment and promote our Intro to AA sessions and our Tryout registration to ensure a strong turnout. Anyone with ideas for recruitment (ie. road signs, banners, etc), please contact Cheryl.
 - As per policy, the approved numbers can be adjusted if necessary. For example, if there are lower registration numbers across the city then we may be required by the Ringette Calgary board to adjust like what was imposed last year.

- ii. Discussion on the accessibility of AA Ringette
 - General points were raised that the costs and time commitments associated with AA Ringette are likely a barrier for some families. Is there support available for players who don't have the financial ability? A lot of the costs can be reduced through fundraising, but that also requires a huge time commitment.
 - Ideas discussed around creating a fund to provide financial assistance for eligible players (ie. CRC proceeds?, option to donate at time of registration?)
 - Noted that other associations also offer alternative options to help cover registration fees such as KidSport, JumpStart or Bingo Vouchers.
 - Also noted that the use of shared hotel rooms are another possibility to reduce travel costs (ie. share the cost with another family, or shared player rooms covered by team funds) depending on the individual team's policy on sharing rooms.
 - It was also noted that the high costs and commitments are not unique to only AA Ringette. It is the reality of any high performance youth sport whether it is hockey, swimming, dance, etc. This is why it is important to be very open and transparent with new families who are considering trying out for U14AA so they know what is expected.

6) **Next Meeting Date:** Wed April 26, 2023 at Flames Community Arenas meeting room at 7pm

7) **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Brad Kane, seconded by Charitina Stelbaska. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

