

Annual Report: Director of Coaching Development

Season: 2024 / 2025



Accomplishments:

2024/25 was a good year in terms of coaching recruitment for FYRA. We experienced growth in our membership and coaching staff, and once again experienced an overall excitement growing for the sport of ringette. Some specific accomplishments as Director of Coaching were:

1. Junior Coaching- With the help of Lauren McLeod, we had a huge response to our call for Junior Coaches and on-ice help. Players were able to help out teams from U7 and up and played a key part in our association's success. Great, positive feedback from participants, and a big thanks to Lauren for helping to recruit and assign Jr. Coaches!
2. Coach recruitment and retention – 50+ coaches, including more than 10 new coaches who answered the call and volunteered to help with our program this year.
3. Next level coaching – 6 coaches received their Competition Introduction training (compared to 3 last year), and 7 coaches received Community Sport Initiation training (compared to 18 last year)
4. 20 Female Coaches (last year: 15), including 8 female non-parent coaches with ringette playing experience.

Challenges:

Scheduling coaching clinics: Every year it is challenging to find an appropriate time to schedule coaching clinics. Before season starts, we don't know how many coaches we need, during the season, coaches have games/practices and lives. RNB still only has one person available for providing the clinics. It is also difficult for most people to dedicate an entire weekend to a coaching clinic (CI), and find a weekend that works for everyone.

After a previous bad experience at U10 in terms of player numbers per team, we decided to go with larger teams at the U10 and U12 divisions. While this meant that there were plenty of players for each game, there were fewer opportunities for players to play up. In the previous year, we thought that there would be enough numbers for three teams. In the end, we had to dissolve one team into the remaining two. But while 10 or 11 players is simply too small, 12-13 is just right. I recommend we do all we can to limit team sizes to 13 players next season, although we must recognize that this may not be possible due to other factors.

Team Drafts: I received several complaints about the make-up of teams at the beginning of this year. While in the end, I feel that our teams were well-distributed, I would recommend that we better communicate the draft process and grant requests to only those approved by a committee of the board for valid reasons. It is unfair for this to all fall to one person, and for one person to field issues that arise from coach's picks.

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Next year we should:

1. At the outset of next season, I would once again recommend that there be all-hands meeting for coaches. This was a good avenue to set expectations for the season and clearly communicate our policies, programming and goals as an association. The future Director of Coaching Development should work closely with the Director for Athletic Development and Director of Goalie Development to develop the agenda for this meeting and ensure that all coaches are in attendance.
2. Once again, I recommend that we continue to work with the Director of Athletic Development to have monthly development themes for coaches to incorporate into their practice plans. This season we saw a consistent level of development across teams within each division.
3. Work closely with Director of Operations to determine the best use of our additional ice-time. We have been fortunate enough to be granted some additional ice-time and since it does come with additional cost, we will want to ensure that it is being used as effectively as possible.
4. Work closely with the Director of Goalie Development to continue to find more goalie coach specific development opportunities.
5. Continue to incorporate junior coaches into the highest levels for which they are qualified.
6. Prepare for more growth!