**GAARA General Meeting September 15, 2020 7pm**

**Virtual Zoom call**

Executive Attendees:

Gabrielle Rodrigue – President, Lisa Rausch – Vice President, , Vicki Martin – Registrar, Terri-Lynn Campbell – League Scheduler, Elysia Ford – Webmaster/Silverspoon Chair, Tanya Martin – Secretary, Dave Berthelot – Adult Development Coordinator/ERRA, Caryn McKee - Coaching Coordinator, , Brenda Clarke – Referee In Chief , Steve Welch – A Division Rep/ERRA, Stephanie Murray – BB/B Division Rep, Tracy Robillard – C/Dev Division Rep, Tracey McDonald- BB Division Stats, Michelle Chartrand – C Division Stats, Donna Carroll – Dev Division Stats.

Executive Regrets:

Katie Robinson – Treasurer, Sean Simmons – B Division Stats

Team Attendees:

A Division: Carleton University, Houlegans, Nepean, Nutri-Lawn Panthers, Ottawa Avalanche, Ottawa Blizzard, Ottawa Capitals, The Ice, Tux Express, West Ottawa A, Blue Ravens.

BB Division: Diablos, Dino-Mites, Gatineau, Ice Queens, Ottawa Blast, Ottawa Storm, Ringers, The Edge.

B Division: Devils, Hot Shots, Houle Stars, iFathom Mischief, Jaguars, Les Girls, L’il Devils, Metcalfe Falcons, West Carleton Tigers, Young Guns

C Division: Chaos, East End Ringers, Goulbourn Shooters, Hot Flashes, Ottawa Eclipse, SNAP, Vanier Rebels.

DEV Division: Blue Lightning, Goldiggers, Metcalfe Hornets, Orleans Eastenders, Ottawa Rookies

Teams Absent:

Rink Rats, West Ottawa BB, West Ottawa B, West Carleton 7, Blue Storm, Dragonettes

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm Confirmation of Quorum by Tanya and Gaby.

**Opening Remarks – Gaby**

Gaby welcomed everyone to GAARA’s second virtual general meeting. Reminder to vote in the chat and ask questions in the chat as it will be monitored by the executive. The purpose of the meeting was to have an open discussion and answer any questions regarding the Bubble league GAARA is planning to operate this fall.

**Approval of the Minutes- Gaby**

The minutes of the May 26, 2020 meeting were circulated by email. Gaby reviewed the minutes and called for any questions. Dave reviewed the action items from the minutes. Gaby reported Terri-Lynn and Tanya will be staying on for this year due to COVID. The remaining actions were completed.

**Motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2019 meeting as circulated by Gabrielle Rodrigue, seconded by Lisa Rausch. Motion carried.**

**President’s Report – Gaby**

**Fall Session – Bubble League**

Gaby reported that GAARA has been working with RO on having some type of ringette running in fall that meets all the local public health guidelines. Information on GAARA’s Fall Bubble league has been circulated to all team reps and posted on the GAARA website. Registration is on an individual basis, not a team registration so team reps are encouraged to forward information to anyone that would be interested. GAARA received a lot of questions regarding the price and Gaby reported that $100 is to cover RO fees and the $200 is the cost of ice which is higher due to the lower number of players allowed on the ice/bubble due to COVID. Dave provided the following breakdown of the costs:

- cost of ice $340 per hour plus $50 for referees = $385 per session

-Bubble maximum is 50 people, City has rule of maximum 25 people on the ice (including referees, minor officials) so $385 divided by 20 people works out to $19 per session

-GAARA hopes to have 10 sessions so $19 X 10 gives $190, GAARA rounded to $200

Have to have referees to ensure RO COVID rules and city rules are being followed. GAARA ice is mostly in the east end so a bubble in the west end is not possible.

GAARA recognizes the cost is high but it is due to the COVID restrictions.

The $100 RO fee is for the whole season. If a second session starts in January, this fee will cover that session so the cost will only be $200. If a player decides to wait and register in January, the $100 will have to be paid at this time so the fee would be $300.

There was a question regarding players that reside or work in Quebec. RO is only providing an exemption to players that live in Ontario but travel to Quebec for work. If a player lives in Quebec, they are ineligible to play in GAARA for these sessions unfortunately. GAARA did try to explain the situation to RO but nothing can be done. Every sport is in the same boat as it is a COVID restriction. And the reverse is true, Ontario residence can not go play ringette in Quebec.

Gaby reported at this point GAARA has no idea what the winter session will look like. RO is hoping we will be able to go back to normal ringette. GAARA is in constant communication with RO and will provide any information as soon as it is available. Most likely scenario is a bubble league again. The $100 RO fee would carry over to the winter session so the cost would be lower for players that played in the fall session. There was a question about if there would be a reimbursement of the fee if we end up in isolation again. Dave reported the $100 is non-refundable but if the City/RO shuts things down, those fees would be refunded.

Dave stressed that GAARA is doing it’s best to provide some sort of ringette this fall and he hopes players will give it a chance.

Caryn reported that coaching clinics are going to be virtual but there are no dates or other information at this point.

Vicki reminded everyone the deadline to register is September 20th, 2020, and reminded everyone that payment is required to be officially registered.

Terri-Lynn reported the ice being used for the fall sessions is GAARA ice pool ice so the rinks and times should be familiar to players. GAARA decided not to use Bernard Grandmaitre due to the small dressing rooms not being conducive to social distancing requirements. First ice time is October 18th, 2020.

Question on if a person said they were going to play in the bubble but then changed their mind. Vicki requested that they contact her ASAP as we are basing our bubble numbers on the people that indicated they wanted to play.

Question on if GAARA would sanction an event for new players to ringette in the October to December timeframe. Dave reported that these types of events are not sanctioned across the province right now so GAARA can not operate anything like this in the fall. Sylvie asked if “Ringette For Life” ran six sessions of power skating for new players would GAARA sanction the event. Dave reported that due to strict COVID rules, GAARA would run into insurance issues so unfortunately GAARA cannot sanctioned events like this for this season. The City has a rule that every time there is a GAARA event on the ice, GAARA must have an exec member staffing the door with a City employee so this type of event would also put a strain on volunteers so GAARA would not be able to sanctioned the event. Sylvie is just trying to keep the individuals from the Come Try at the Silverspoon involved and GAARA appreciates that unfortunately with the COVID restrictions it is not possible at this time. GAARA will look at doing something in the Winter session if the rules allow for some event at this point in time.

Question on if GAARA would like team reps to follow up with individuals that have not registered. Tanya and Vicki replied that please send out a reminder email with the details as we don’t want anyone to miss the opportunity to play if they are interested.

Question on how jerseys will work in the bubble league. Gaby replied that everyone should bring a black and a white jersey. One team will be white and one will be black and it will run like a scrimmage.

A few questions on logistics of the bubble league: do bench staff pay their own fees, will they be randomly assigned to a team, will there be minor officials, do jersey numbers need to be on game sheets. Gaby reported there will be no game sheets. There are no penalties, ref will award penalty shots. GAARA recommends using a shot clock. Basically the league will operate like a shinny session. GAARA confirming with RO on bench staff fees. Bench staff will have to pay fees for insurance and will have to pay their own fees. Bench staff have to follow social distance and mask rules so they are not in a bubble. GAARA will not be assigning bench staff but will require each bubble squad to have a squad leader. The squad leader will be tracking who is at the games and making sure the COVID screenings are done. Quebec residents can not coach as they can not register in Ontario. Gaby will send out an email with the new city guidelines to all the team reps. Currently guidelines allow for the use of change rooms. Masks must be worn to the dressing room and up to the point you put on your helmet to go on the ice. GAARA will be using the RAMP team app and the health adaptation form will be there. It has to be filled out before every game and shown to staff at the rink. GAARA will still list individuals that are available to run the clock on the website and in the Facebook group. Minor officials are required to wear masks. Once the bubble league is formed, team reps will no longer be required to communicate on behalf of GAARA. GAARA will operate at 4 on 4 right now but will keep track of the changing COVID restrictions and will communicate if the change will be made to 5 on 5. GAARA will do its best to accommodate individuals that want to play together but the bubble numbers will factor in to this ability. At this point there are enough goalies interested in playing in the league, they have not all registered yet. If anyone would like to be a squad leader, please let Gaby know.

GAARA requests that team reps take the information from this session and pass it on to their teams. If there are any further questions, please reach out to their division reps, Vicki or Gaby.

**Meeting adjourn 7:47pm**

**ACTION ITEMS**

* Team Reps are to pre-register by June 20, 2020