

GAARA General Meeting - Nov 21, 2017

7PM - Jim Durrell Recreation Centre

Exec Present: Gabrielle Rodrigue (President), Cassandra Narducci (Vice President), Katie Robinson (Treasurer), Vicki Martin (Secretary), Maureen Carroll (Registrar), Terri-Lyn Campbell (Scheduler/Ice Contracts), Caryn McKee (Coaching Co-ordinator), Tracy Robillard (C/Dev Rep), Tessa Berthelot (Ref-in-Chief), Chanelle Toshev (Spoonspoon Chair), Steve Welch (Elite Development, ERRA), Dave Berthelot (Adult Development Coordinator, ERRA)

Exec Absent: Kelly Watters (A/B Rep) Elysia Ford (Webmaster), Erica Moxness (A Stats), Jean-Guy Rodrigue (BB Stats), Sean Simons (B Stats), Tanya Martin (C Stats), Melanie Cater (Dev Stats)

Teams Present:

A Division: ABI Sparx, Carleton University Ravens, Houlegans, Nutri-Lawn Panthers, Ottawa Avalanche, Ottawa Blizzard, Ottawa Capitals, The Edge, The Ice, Tux Express, uOttawa Gee Gees, West Ottawa

BB Division: Dilfo Heat, Dino-Mights, Escape Fire Protection, Gatineau, Ice Queens, Ottawa Storm, The Ringers

B Division: Hotshots, Houle Stars, iFathom Mischief, Jaguars, Les Girls, L'il Devils, Metcalfe Falcons, MissFits, Ottawa Blast, West Carleton 7, West Ottawa

C Division: Devils, Goulbourn Shoot-hers, Hot Flashes, Ottawa Eclipse, SNAP, Stealers, Vanier Rebels, West Carleton Tigers

Dev Division: Blue Lightning, East End Ringers, Goldiggers, Metcalfe Hornets, Orleans Eastenders, Ottawa Rookies, White Thunder

Teams Absent: Fuzion (had game scheduled)

Item	Discussion	Required Action
Review and approve minutes from Sept GM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes approvedAll actions completed	
President's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2017-2018 is a rule change year. There will be a clinic to go over the rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gaby will let teams know when the

	<p>changes held by GAARA soon, likely during the week of Dec 11. The location for the clinic is still TBD but will hopefully be either Walkley or another central location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person from every team must attend (typically the coach unless a team does not have one). Those who attend will get professional development points. • If a coach (or other person) has already attending a rule change clinic through kids' ringette or refereeing, they do not need to attend this clinic as they are already covered. • A reminder that gamesheets must be scanned and sent within 48 hours of the game occurring. This is especially necessary with new ORA ruling about unserved 4 minute penalties requiring game suspensions, statisticians need to know about any of these penalties ASAP. 	coaching clinic will occur.
Registrar's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All registration information has been submitted. • Any TRF changes for this year now need a rationale. • After Jan 8 no more changes can be made. Remember that things take time to go through, so something sent on the 8th won't go in on the 8th. 	
Treasurer's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our finances are mostly the same from year-over-year. One big change is there was no float from the ice account brought over this year. The ERRRA fees were also paid 2 times in one year, and the website and software didn't need to be paid in 2017. • GAARA is very close to breaking even, which keeps us from having to raise fees. We have a healthy cash balance that will help cover the cost of coaching changes, so there should be no increase to GAARA fees next year • The Ice account is very simple, ice pool money comes in then goes out to pay 	

	<p>the city, it maintains a smaller balance than the main account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Silverspoon tournament breaks even each year and its account carries a balance of around \$1500. • Katie will collect emails and send the bond refunds out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie to send out bond refunds to teams.
Ref-in-Chief's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some issues with officials have come up this year. • The main issue is only having 1 referee at a game, especially in C and Dev. This is happening mainly because we lost 14 officials in the region, which is a huge number that left a hole has been hard to fill. • Refs are leaving due to Issues with ref abuse. For example, in a recent Dev game with 2 younger referees, a report was filed about players not listening to the refs and refusing to go into the penalty box. • Some referees are refusing to ref certain divisions. • The referees are taking the feedback to call more penalties seriously but they face pushback when they call them. • For teams who don't have coaches on the bench, sometimes players are yelling at officials during the play. Any discussion with the referees need to happen during stoppage of plays. • Games in the Dev division will be getting additional referee evaluation from officials observing in the stands. • Because C and Dev get level 1 and 2 referees, they do get refs with less experienced. • Official complaints need to be more substantial and less emotional: they shouldn't be coming in 20 minutes after the game about 1 call. • There just was a level 1 clinic for new referees, these refs will get evaluated and receive further instruction on the ice during games. They do try to pair new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K

	<p>refs with more experienced officials, but due to scheduling this can't always happen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tessa is not the Ref-in-chief for referees who are at GAARA games. • Single games in arenas make it harder to get refs for a game. • Teams without coaches could have one person who takes on role of talking to the referees. There should never be a whole bunch of players talking to the ref at once. • The referees will miss some calls and teams need to move on. • New referees being told to call more unsportsmanlike conduct penalties. If things get out of hand, they have been told to call the game. • It was mentioned that the BB referees has been great this year, particularly about explaining the rule changes and calls players are unsure of. 	
Coaching Coordinator's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Jan 8, 2019 all coaches and assistant coaches will need CI training, CSI no longer accepted. • There is a mandatory Making Headway course that someone from each team need to have by Jan 21, 2018 (mandatory for any head coaches, recommended for assistant coaches). The course is online is currently free (until Dec 31), and only takes a couple of hours. You will receive 5 professional development points for taking the course. It is available through Ringette Canada's website. • CI: Competition Introduction coach, will soon be mandatory for U14 and above. It involves a two-day course, for any more information contact Dave Berthelot. • In 2014 a new rule was brought requiring CI-level coaches to get 20 professional development points in a 5 year period to stay valid. If you were certified before 2014, this point system will apply to you in 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caryn to send info about Making Headway, how to check coaching level/points

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of the CI course is usually covered by associations, GAARA may cover some/all of the cost, TBD. • CC number can be used to check how many points you have online, Caryn has access to this and can help. • In Jan 2019, ORA will likely check coaching credentials and and notify teams of removals. 	
Division Reps report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on shot clock testing for Dev: most teams voted against using a shot clock but were open to trying it. Cecause of the referee issues, this plan is being tabled for the time being. 	
Adult Development Coordinator's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder about the TRF Adjustment form for tournaments (available in the info package), Dave did 45 of these last year. • You can get up to 4 spares, to bring teams to 12 skaters (13 for 35+ teams) • The form should indicate all players who are not participating in a tournament, even if you aren't making a substitution for them. • Skaters can only sub for 2 tournaments (goalies unlimited), different rules for A provincials. • A level is under G&T, under their oversight. • Dave can look up ORA number for local players, though if you have it please list it. • You can call players from your division or the division below you. • Players can only play for one team per tournament (goalies may be allowed to make exceptions, this requires approval). • The Adult Invitational in Oshawa is open now. Composite teams are allowed to compete, though they require approval. 	
Scheduler's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The winter schedule should be released over the next couple of days, it covers from Jan-Feb 15 (beginning of playoffs). 	

	<p>The A division schedule will probably be delayed to fix some home ice issues. There are gaps for most teams, no GAARA ice Kingston tournament weekend, and during GCRA weekend we didn't get as much ice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The playoffs earlier than previous years because not much ice was available in March due to Silverspoon, March Break, Easter, and the Invitational tournament. • Finals are the weekend after Easter, Apr 7, at Ray Friel, Sun afternoon/evening. • Dev does not have playoffs, the Dev schedule goes until the end of the year. • This year, Ice Contracts & Scheduler were merged into one role, but it's too big a job for one person with a steep learning curve. • Terri-Lyn was the primary contact for scheduling/ice contracts, Jean-Guy also did lots of work, and there were additional reviewers as well - all together 150+ hours of volunteer work. • The schedule is not perfect and it will never be perfect. • Ice application process overview: In April, we submit our application, telling the City of Ottawa how many members we have and how many live in or outside of Ottawa. We provide our preferred dates of the week and times and dates we don't want ice. We cannot request specific ice at a specific location. Every arena has a separate contract, plus 19 teams who have their own. • 27 teams in the two ice pools (full breakdown available in the information package). • 19 teams bring their own ice, they must provide 11 ice times by a specific date. In the future teams will need to bring more ice times to have more flexibility, and ice times that aren't used can be returned by the team. • This year, the city sent back our ice allocation June 23. The schedule then needed to be created by Aug 5. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the ice is put together manually into a spreadsheet. Our scheduling software is used to get initial scheduling done. This year, it took two weeks to sort out ice and get it into the software. • The software wasn't able to schedule everything using the "wish list" of parameters/restrictions, so manual adjustments were made to make it work. We hope to decrease the number of manual adjustments in future • A static home ice was given last year, we decided not do this for this year, but the issue is open for debate. It is easier to schedule with variable home ice times/locations. • Grouping games in similar divisions together makes it easier to get referees, since the same refs can ref multiple games. • The scheduling priorities are as follows: every team is scheduled for 18 regular season games (9 home, 9 away) + playoffs (except for Dev), with a balance of games between Fall and Winter sessions. • We have received constructive feedback about repeated matchups with the same team, which we believe may be a glitch in the software. The issue of large gaps between home games has also been raised. • Other comments have been about feelings of unfairness, with some teams getting scheduled for more games at 10PM, at certain arenas, or on certain days of the week. These are good to point out but hard to fix and our hope is that the software randomizes things somewhat. • We are open to on-going feedback about how the ice pools are managed. • There have been a few scheduling errors so far, when teams and refs showed up for a game that had no ice and two instances when home ice was brought by a team then not used for that 	
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	<p>team's home games.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our plans for next year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have non ice pool teams bring 13 hours of ice ○ Do the schedule in two blocks rather than as one whole ○ Try to address glitches in software ○ Get help from schedulers in other leagues to see if there are ways to improve ○ Streamline the ice pools • There was applause for Terri-Lyn and feedback that her presentation was excellent. • Having teams bringing their own ice makes scheduling more complex, but if it's flexible it's not too difficult. It is good to keep in mind what the scheduler needs when asking for ice, to make scheduling easier. • We aren't sure what it would look like for all teams to be in the ice pool or if that would be feasible given how the City of Ottawa allocates ice. • A larger ice pool lets us ask for a bigger block of ice and gives GAARA higher priority. However, there were two more teams in the ice pool this year, but not given more ice was given. We barely had enough ice, and when we asked for more ice we were offered mostly terrible times. • Teams need to submit tournaments in ASAP to make it easier to work the schedule around them, the dates released for most tournaments were released in June. • More research needs to be done to determine if it would be beneficial to add more teams to the pool, ice that they bring now won't necessarily go to GAARA if they join the pool. Switching to pool would need to be done before the end of the 2017-2018 season. • There have been on-going discussion about the two ice pools and teams with questions about that can stay after this 	
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	<p>meeting to discuss that if they want.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Trnka manages the Ottawa pool, which has 9 teams. Some of the teams open to moving to the other ice pool, while others are concerned about losing their central ice locations. • Background information: The reason for the two pools is that we used to need two, when Ottawa and Gloucester were different cities, but after amalgamation the two pools continued. While they used to apply for ice separately, with the changes made to the ice allocation process, it was decided the pools should apply together as 27 teams to get the most ice possible. 	
Silverspoon report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration for the tournament is open until Jan. • We have 15 teams currently registered, from A-Dev. • The tournament will be held the first weekend in March • There will call out for volunteers, teams that provide a certain number of volunteer hours will get their Silverspoon bond refunded (\$50). • We have been approved for a "Come Try Ringette" event, which ORA is providing funding for. It will probably be held Sat afternoon, we may need to get some equipment to be lent out, a call will be made if necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
New business/ Roundtable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main meeting was adjourned 8:33 • Some stayed to discuss the ice pools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a proposal to merge both pools to make the ice contracts process easier. • The Rookies worried about playing in east end if they left the Ottawa pool. • If the two pools remain split, it may still be good to apply together • We can't give teams in the Ottawa pool special treatment by promising them central locations 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is some worry about competition over the same locations if the ice pool teams don't apply together.• Because the ice allocation changes don't let us pick locations, it's hard to let ice pools teams have preferences.• We could ask for a preference from pool teams for east or west ice locations and do our best to accommodate.• We need to talk to City of Ottawa about growing the pool and what is needed for us to be allocated more ice in the future.	
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