



Great Lakes Ringette League

Meeting Agenda

Monday Jan 13, 2025 - 7:30 pm

ZOOM ONLY

ROLL CALL: (State your Association & Full Name)

Position/Association	Name	Present/Absent/Regrets
President	Chris Sharpe	Present
Vice President	Brian Kettles	Late - Present
Past President	Phil Singeris	Regrets
Scheduler	Jim File	Present
Treasurer	Ron McArthur	Present
Secretary	Shannon Crinklaw	Present
RIC	Emma Bragg Smith	Regrets
Director at Large 1	Holly Davies	Present
Director at Large 2	Adam Natsheh	Present
Director at Large 3	Roy Reedon	Present
Scheduler 1	Steve Baker	Present
Scheduler 2	Tara Armstrong	Regrets
Schedule 3	Rob Ellis	Present
Ajax/Pickering	Julia G	Present
Barrie	James Van Lierop Ashley Quenneville	Present
Burlington	Kate Diell	Present
Cambridge	Andrew Lively	Present
Chatham	Eric Vandermeer	Late - Present
Dorchester	Paula Foster	Present
Etobicoke	Erin Filey	Present
Forest	Rachel Orvis	Present
Guelph	Jared Pulleybank	Present
Hamilton	Tonya Birkin	Present
Kitchener	Jessica Ward	Absent
London	Melinda Suchard	Present
Markham-Stouffville	Peter Kennedy	Absent
Mississauga	Carolina DeBrum	Present
Mitchell	Carrie McKichan	Present
Oshawa	Stacey Wright	Present
Paris	Jen Gringerich	Present
Richmond Hill	Adam Natsheh	Present

St. Mary's	Peter Westelaken	Present
Sudbury	Danielle Joselin	Regrets
Sunderland	Karsen Lewis	Present
Waterloo	Courtney Proudfoot	Present
Whitby	Christine Senior	Present

1) Requests for items to be added to the agenda & approval of the agenda.

- Request to add Team Formation & Tryout Planning – Jared Pulleybank
- No further additions

2) Approval of GLRL Meeting Minutes of Oct 21, 2024

- Follow-up needed with RO on getting copies of insurance and if presidents are getting suspension emails.
- Motion to approve – Guelph
- Seconded by Forest
- No one opposed

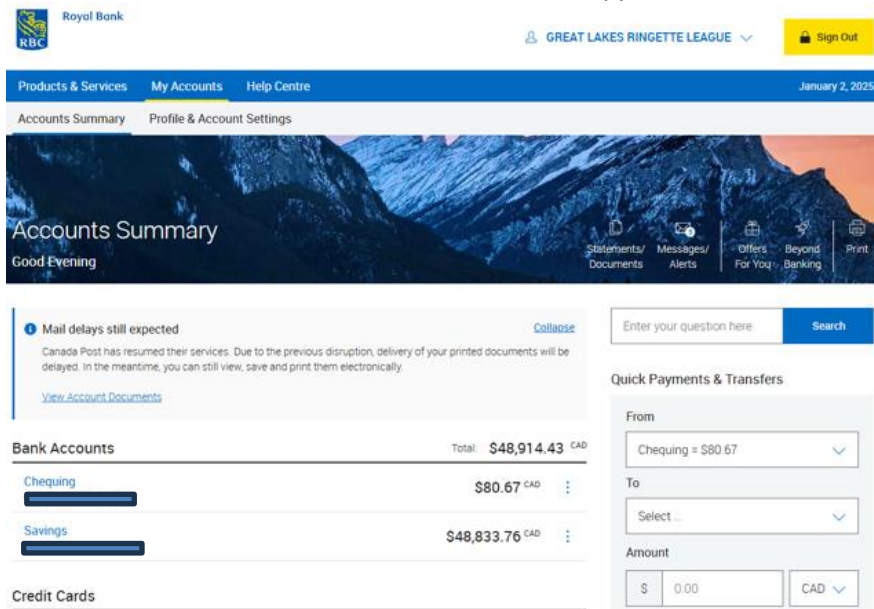
3) 2024 – 2025 GLRL Executive Officers

- President - Chris Sharpe
- Vice President - Brian Kettles
- Secretary - Shannon Crinklaw
- Treasurer - Ron McArthur
- Past President - Phil Singeris
- At Large Rep #1 - Holly Davies
- At Large Rep #2 -Adam Natsheh
- At Large Rep #3 - Roy Reeton
- GLRL Board Observers:
 - Scheduler - Jim File
 - Referee in Chief (RIC) -Emma Bragg-Smith – Absent
 - Referee Scheduler -Steve Baker: Western Region Area
 - Referee Scheduler -Rob Elis: Southern Region Area
 - Referee Scheduler -Tara Armstrong: Central Region Area

4) Financial Report –Ron McArthur

- **Cash Status**

- Includes \$8000 from CORL donated to support the Gord Bell Scholarship when the region folded



- **Official Millage Reimbursement Status, proposal for additional fee and current stats**

- Purpose of centralizing the ref scheduling was to reduce # of cancellations, better quality of refs for the game and better coordination
- Estimated cost in May was \$24,650 requiring every team to put forward \$425 as team fees for ref (plus \$130/team GLRL costs)
- 50% fewer games have been cancelled
- Estimated ice time savings is estimated between \$5000-\$6000
- Savings in administration for re-scheduling of games
- Cost year to date is \$20,850 hours and the biggest driver of cost is high level refs travel costs
- In general, it's very difficult to cover U19AA games and a lot of work is being done to develop refs this year to close the gap
- In addition, GLRL streamlined the travel costs across regions which has created efficiencies and consistency
- New Expected cost for refs is \$33,000 which is a shortage of \$8,000 so GLRL will be requesting \$160/team in addition to cover the shortage
 - Motion to request each GLRL team to provide \$160 per team in GLRL by February 7th, 2025 to cover the shortage for the 2024-2025 season costs
 - Motion first – Jim File
 - Seconded by London
 - No one opposed
 - Invoices are being requested
- Request from Guelph to have GLRL review tiering the cost of refs for future. Associations with AA should be paying more if higher quality refs need to travel further.
 - When GLRL set up the system, it was set up for sharing cost as some associations have their own refs at home.
 - General reason for sharing cost was benefit of the sport and league across the board.
- Senior refs are aging and locating away from city centres requiring more travel. Original idea to have refs scheduled for a loop of games, but this is not working out as originally thought due to scheduling. GLRL does try to look at this in planning to reduce cost when possible.
- Will look at HUB weekends for U16AA/U19AA in the next year especially with AAA year. Will be considered for 2025-2026. – add to AGM Agenda on who can get ice time for weekends.
 - Burlington scheduled U14AA and U16AA games in middle of their tournament which

had refs already there and required no travel.

- Potential hosts – Oshawa/Whiby, Guelph from meeting Chat
- How do we develop higher level refs especially in Southern Region
- **Action Item** – Associations to email Chris Sharpe, Ron McArthur, Jim File and Emma Bragg-Smith if there are additional ideas they have about getting qualified refs used more efficiently.
- **Concussion HeadFirst**
 - Ontario based company associated with University of Waterloo
 - Chemical markers in the body can be detected in saliva if a concussion was sustained and testing can be done
 - This company is trying to establish test samples for their study
 - Looking to gather data in 2025-2026 at no cost to players
 - Ron would like to stay in contact HeadFirst and provide updates to GLRL on how they progress
 - Need to keep up to date with HeadFirst and involve Ringette Ontario
 - Andrew suggestion – add consent permission in the RO registration so people can be included in the study
 - **Motion requested: Ask Ron to keep in touch with HeadFirst and keep GLRL up to date and GLRL to reach out to Ringette Ontario.**
 - Motion first – Guelph
 - Seconded by Burlington
 - **No one opposed**

5) Discipline Committee – Jim File/Brian Kettles

- Committee made of same members as last season
- No new issues filed.

6) Scheduling Update – Jim File

- A lot less Game Change request this year
- Most Game changes are due to scheduling admin items and far less re-schedules being requested for team availability.

7) Officials Update – Rob Ellis for Emma

- Continue to work to get correct level officials to games without cancelling
- Key focus on developing referees
- Question from Burlington – are tournaments an opportunity to complete ref evaluations? Rob just completed a bunch of evaluations at Burlington and Waterloo evaluations this past weekend. Every tournament has development planning included.

8) RO Board status concerning:

- Concerns with Status of RO board. President resigned plus other
 - Concerns around stability of the sport
- Current list of RO board: <https://ringetteontario.com/content/governance>
- I would like to propose RO consider temporarily inviting sanctioned leagues to the board
- Comments made:
 - It's really important for us to do anything to keep RO stable
 - General agreement around giving support to RO
 - Some encouragement to not just be temporary and include leagues permanently
 - Seems to be a major communication problem between the Board and paid staff
 - Seems to also have instability in retaining paid staff for RO
 - RO committees also are collapsing because they don't have enough members to exist
- **Motion put forward by Guelph for GLRL to create a letter to RO to propose inviting sanctioned leagues to board**

- Motion first – Guelph
- Seconded by Mitchell
- No one opposed

9) Games not completed to date on web site:

- **Richmond Hill challenges with strike, appear to be all rescheduled.**
- **U14A** – James Van Lierop
 - 2 Games moved to March 31
 - Game 141100 Burlington at Sunderland – working on re-schedule
 - Game 141102 Etobicoke at Richmond Hill
- **U14AA** – Eric Vandermeer
 - No games outstanding
- **U16A** – Courtney Proudfoot
 - 1 Games moved to March 30 – **date should be moved to March 31**
 - Game 241606 Etobicoke at Sunderland
- **U16AA** – Roy Reeton
 - No games outstanding
- **U19A** – Peter Westelaken
 - 1 Games moved to March 31
 - Game 2419208 Paris at Sunderland
- **U19AA** – Jim File
 - No games outstanding

Other Business:

- Tests were done in Kitchener, Mississauga and Ajax to add a flood between period 2 and 3 for U16AA and U19AA. Mixed feedback received across the group. No significant positive feedback was provided so no changes for next season to add a flood.
 - **General Feedback:**
 - Fresh ice helped with the flow of the game
 - Ajax didn't like it at all, and it affected game momentum
 - Refs thought this was great
 - Tournaments would also not be doing the flood so inconsistent between tournaments and league games
 - Some issues with getting Zamboni scheduled to get on the ice
 - Overall testing didn't require more than 1.5 hours
 - Does affect referee payment which would increase and put other games at risk
 - Brian recommendation is that this could be done by associations but should not be made mandatory and would need full collaboration between associations and refs
 - **GLRL will not move forward with this next season.**

Brian Kettle report:

General Feedback was positive, but some definitely did not like it, particularly Ajax. Ajax felt it interrupted their momentum.

Positive feedback included.

Helped maintain the speed and flow of the game by removing the snow. I heard specifically from the city of Kitchener, they were surprised that we don't regularly flood, they see it as a safety hazard that we don't. Safer by filling in, removing some ruts (particularly at 19AA)

Having extra coaching time in the room, rest change to maybe have a quick energy snack definitely came down to prospective. Some teams liked it, others saw no value.

My understanding is that the majority if not all games ended within 1hr 30min. but could easily go long if any Zamboni delays, injuries etc.

Cons

Logistics.

Coronation with the cities is key to ensure there is no extra delay waiting for the Zamboni in facilities with multi ice pads.

Possible referee schedule concerns if refs need extra time at 1 game before heading to another game.

Cost, additional payment for ref's extra time? Additional ice costs for those associations who book 1h30min ice or back-to-back AA games in a 3hr block.

It would not apply in tournaments initially so players we flip between having the flood and not, depending on League game or Tournament.

- A, AA, OPEN and UNIVERSITY RANKING charts for provincials: https://ringetteont-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/savannah_ringetteontario_com/EeA563Okd39Alyf0zLAA78cBjzc53O9OsArogm9wQhqO4w?rttime=eaTb7wk03Ug
 - U19AA is completed and rankings released
 - A ranking still to be completed in multiple tournaments – associations will not know until after Paris tournament is complete
- Team formation and tryout information for 2025-2026 (request to add by Guelph)
 - Western Region is still running team formation as per previous season
 - Southern met with RO before Christmas
 - Central meeting was cancelled and re-scheduled for Jan 14th
 - RO guidelines were released Nov 21, 2024, that need to be followed.
 - With dissolving Southern and Central, how do boundaries work. RO Bylaws stated that boundaries will only change with approval of the board of directors.
 - Releases are RO forms and will still need people to facilitate the use of them.
 - Request from Scheduler to ensure U19AA/U19A teams are formed in Spring and not in Fall as it would affect the GLRL schedule – Request send email to Association Presidents to remind them of the impact and need to have Spring tryouts for 2025-2026

10) Next Meeting – February 24, 2025 – 7:00 via ZOOM

11) Motion to adjourn.

- **Motion first – Forest**
- **Seconded by Guelph**
- **No one opposed**