



Great Lakes Ringette League

Meeting Minutes

Monday November 20, 2023 - 7:00 pm

ZOOM ONLY

ROLL CALL: (State your Association & Full Name)

Central Region (4) – Ajax/Pickering (Heather McMahon), Oshawa (Holly Davies), Sunderland (Becky Campbell),

Southern Region (7) – Barrie (James Van Lierop), Cambridge (Cathy Nie), Etobicoke (Erin Filey), Markham-Stouffville (Peter Kennedy), Mississauga (Carole), Paris (Jen Mayhew), Richmond Hill (Paul Collins),

Western Region (8) –Dorchester (Mike Reaume), Forest (Jenn Batty), Kitchener (Natalie Piggott), Mitchell (Tracy Nugent), St. Mary's (Peter Westelaken), Waterloo (Leah Chapman)

Northern Region (1) - Greater Sudbury (Troy McLaughlin)

Regrets: Mississauga (Roy Reedon), Richmond Hill (Adam Natsheh), Tom Anderson, Chatham (Eric Vandermeer)

Absent: Whitby (Elizabeth Gill), Burlington (Kevin Aubertin), Guelph (Freedom Warne), London (Melinda Suchard)

Attendance (From Zoom Participant List): Phil Singeris, Shannon Crinklaw, Chris Sharpe, Brian Kettles, Shae Stanbra (Western Rep), Andrea Law (Southern Region), Jim File (late)

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

- Holly Davies requested to add discussion around Exhibition Games
- Chris Sharpe request to follow up on Officials/Ref coverage.
- Motion to approve agenda– Mitchell.
- Seconded by Barrie
- No one opposed – Carried.

2) Approval of GLRL Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2023

- Motion to approve – Brian Kettles
- Seconded by Forest
- No one opposed - Carried.
- Note: need to change the August 28th header to say “Minutes” not Agenda when change from draft to final on website

3) 2023 – 2024 GLRL Executive Officers

- President - Chris Sharpe (Kitchener)

- Vice President - Brian Kettles (Kitchener)
- Secretary - Shannon Crinklaw (London)
- Treasurer - Tom Anderson (Ajax/Pickering)
- Past President - Phil Singeris (London)
- Central Region Rep - Holly Davies (Oshawa)
- Southern Region Rep - Roy Reedon (Mississauga)
- Western Region Rep - Shae Stanbra (Forest)
- Scheduler - Jim File (Richmond Hill)

4) Financial Report – as per Tom Anderson email

GLRL Cash Flow through NOV 20, 2023

			TOTAL SURPLUS
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - CURRENT BALANCE	\$	27,137.71	\$ 17,658.33
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - ASSOCIATION BOND FEES	\$	10,500.00	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - SURPLUS - AVAILABLE TO SPEND	\$	16,637.71	
<i>HELD IN TRUST - 21 ASSOCIATIONS x \$500</i>			
CHEQUING ACCOUNT - CURRENT BALANCE	\$	1,020.62	
STILL TO RECONCILE (DEPOSITS/EXPENSES)	\$	-	
CHEQUING ACCOUNT - AVAILABLE TO SPEND	\$	1,020.62	

- No money is owed to any parties at this time.
- Still working with RBC to allow for better e-transfer method including checks for accountability.

5) Discipline Committee

- Committee has been formed.
- Committee meeting was hosted by Jim where the rules, process and policy was reviewed with the committee members.
- Committee Members include Brian Kettles, Jim File, Nancy Holmes (Kitchener), Gord Henderson (Ajax), Sarah Ianni (Richmond Hill)
- 0 submissions to date
- Working on putting more structure around violation/fines that can be applied by the committee. Gord suggested creation of a matrix to differentiate the degree of severity. Example what constitutes a warning vs. suspension, etc.

6) Leagues Championships/Finals

- GLRL to discuss with their associations and reps to see if there is interest in a more formal ending to the league season such as a league finals or championship. This would not be a year-end event but would be more of a playoff style allowing for a league championship.
- This may add more importance to the league play since league play is not considered by RO for qualification.
- Holly agrees that this could be a great idea and there are concerns when older players know they haven't qualified that they don't want to play anymore and finish the games. This could fix the issue of older teams having a true end to the season vs. having season over because they didn't qualify for Provincials.
- Paul Collins concerned that with the league championship is you'll have the same stronger teams playing in playoffs that were strong in provincials. It may burden the top teams with more play, but some will want it to prepare for provincials and higher play. Suggested to format like hockey where teams who qualify for Provincials, don't play in league playoffs like hockey teams that qualify for OMHA playoffs, don't play in league playoffs.
- Andrea law suggested this be a year-by-year decision based on the # of teams. Suggested looking at hockey playdown format but may need to reduce the # of GLRL games. To do this, season would have to end at end of January.

- Some concerns with playdowns in hockey usually done during the week and Ringette does not usually play weekday ice. Also concern that playoffs will extend provincial season that may eat into regional planned ice.
- Becky suggested doing a year-end GLRL tournament where teams left over are tiered to play out. Chris is not sure there is ice and resources to run a full tournament.
- Take away: General support to do something as GLRL playdown/championship but not sure what this would look like.
- **Action Item: Bring idea to AGM for the group on formats that this could look like**

7) Incorporation

- Ringette Ontario hosted meeting regarding Incorporation with Sport Law
- Shift is happening to shift liability and incorporation provides some protection to associations.
- Incorporation would require work from the GLRL to get this done including updating bylaws.
- Southern Region working with Sport Law to get a template together for leagues.
- RO may be willing to pick up some cost for incorporating.
- **Motion put forward for GLRL membership to authorize GLRL executive to pursue incorporation of the league with proposed target to present incorporation documents for approval.**
 - **Approved by St. Mary's**
 - **Seconded by Forest**
 - **Approved by all – unanimous support.**
- GLRL to put \$2500 aside for projected cost to incorporate.
- GLRL does complete RO membership form every year with fee with the assumption that GLRL league was covered for liability as per previous conversations with RO. RO has since clarified that the RO membership form and fees are just to be a member but provides no coverage.
- RO has a town hall in December to outline some of the changes coming in terms of dissolution of regions.
- **Action Item: Bring Incorporation details and documents to be shared at the AGM.**

8) Director & Officer Insurance coverage

- After further review with RO, executives of RO, leagues, etc. do not have insurance and liability coverage.
- Usually, Directors and Officers have incorporation coverage but usually also have some sort of physical coverage
- RO does not cover League or Regions at this time.
- Chris Sharpe has called insurance companies to investigate getting this and insurance companies do not offer this to leagues.
- General liability coverage is offered. GLRL does not have general liability for league or physical insurance at this time.
- As most members of GLRL are also on association boards, they would be registered and covered by the general RO liability if registered.
- RO are looking into this but right now, executives could be carrying exposure right now.

9) Games not completed to date:

- **U14A** – James Van Lierop
 - 3 games missing scores – Cambridge and Sunderland
- **U14AA** – Kevin Aubertin
 - No games outstanding
- **U16A** – Liz Gill
 - No games outstanding

- **U16AA** – Natalie Piggott
 - One game to be re-scheduled
- **U19A** – Peter Westelaken
 - 2 games missing score - Sunderland
- **U19AA** – Kinga Cormier
 - 1 game to be re-scheduled – Ajax vs. Mississauga

10) Other Business:

- Shortage on Refs/Officials
 - No know shortages at this time
 - If there is a shortage, Chris Sharpe to be notified and Game Change Form can be used to lists this as a reason
- AA Provincials announced – Cambridge/Guelph/Kitchener area
- CRC Intents to proceed now open
 - Intents due December 3rd
 - AA cost \$1950, A costs \$1800
 - CRC cost is \$2750 but need to confirm when this is paid
- Exhibition Games – Holly requesting to know if other associations are using game sheet app for exhibition games.
 - Its good practice to have record that the game occurred especially because exhibition games can be used to serve suspensions.
 - Not all associations are using game sheets for exhibition games, and some are using paper sheets
 - Some associations leaving up to the coaches if they want to track the game and just ensure the game is in the team schedule.

11) Next Meeting – Monday Jan 15, 2023 – 7:00 via ZOOM

12) Motion to adjourn.

- Motion to approve – Dorchester.
- Seconded by Barrie
- No one opposed - Carried.