

LACOMBE RINGETTE ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Upper Lobby, Lacombe Arena
WEDNESDAY, February 21, 2024



ATTENDANCE:

In Attendance: Sherri O'Muir, Shelley Vickery (acting president), Nicole Plewis, Cheryl Talma, Megan Bateman, Carmen Wilson, Chelsea Friesen, Shelley Leslie, Amanda Hatto, Linda Forrester, Barb Taylor, Gwen Martin, Mark Rost

Shelley Vickery called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Megan Bateman moves that the meeting minutes from the January 2024 Executive Meeting be approved as presented. Amanda Hatto seconded that motion. All in favour. **Motion carried.**

2. NEW BUSINESS/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Cheryl Talma moves to accept the agenda for the February 21, 2023 Meeting as presented. Nikki Plewis seconded that motion. All in favour. **Motion carried.**

4. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

4.1. **PRESIDENT** – Lyle Granigan

- Benevity Account for one of our Lacombe ringette coaches was discussed.

ACTION: Lyle will email Carmen to help set up this account.

4.2. **VICE-PRESIDENT** – Shelley Vickery

- **U16B Provincials Update**

- Bank Account will be set up as a separate account, but still under the Lacombe Ringette banner. Will be easy to provide reimbursements and take payments that way.
- Volunteer spreadsheet has been reformatted to SignUp Genius, and many lots have been filled. We still need more volunteers, and will have Vicki share on our social media channels.

- **Year-End Banquet**

- We are going to do a dessert bar as a way to save money
- U16/U19 players will help hand out desserts.
- Start time will move up to 5:30pm, Dessert at 6pm, AGM to follow
- Will take numbers from teams regarding allergies and to get numbers. Because we are removing the dinner cost, there will be no cost for teams to attend.
- Will also save money on the LMC rental, as we won't need to use the kitchen.

ACTION: Lyle will send out an email to LRA families with the banquet details, award nominations, and open executive positions/descriptions before the AGM.

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4.3. SECRETARY – Nicole Plewis

- **Ice Costs Letter Update**

- Letter was discussed by the Blackfalds Recreation and Parks Board in January. They are bringing it to their February meeting, and from there we hope to hear if it will be going to Council for a new/lower ice cost for our association.

- **Budget Meeting Date/AGM Planning**

- Meeting Date set for April 4, 2024 at 7PM

ACTION: Nikki to ask Lyle to send a letter out to the Board Members to determine which spots will need to be filled at the AGM

ACTION: Nikki will create a presentation with positions, highlights from the 2023-24 season, budget, etc. for the AGM meeting. Will check with the LMC to see if there is a screen in the room that we have booked for this meeting.

4.4. REGISTRAR – Gwen Martin

- **Unpaid Players**

- There are a few families who have not paid for their 2023/24 season. Gwen will follow up with them in the coming days to arrange for payment.

- **2024/25 Registration Projections**

U6 - 12

U10 - 27

U12 - 32

U14 - 23

U16 - 19

U19 - 23

4.5. TREASURER – Carmen Wilson

- **Tournament Costs**

- As no Tournament Reps were in attendance, Carmen will send the spreadsheet to Brett Miller to review.

- **BGL Fees for Session 3/Championships**

- Reminder that teams pay ½ the cost of Championship fees
- We need to collect Session 3 fees from teams.

- **Current bank balances:**

- \$52,115 Chequing
- \$10,830 Casino
- TOTAL: \$62,945
- \$33,650 GICs

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4.6. ICE ALLOCATOR – Amanda Hatto

- Lots of changes to the website, including:
 - Level Up practices scheduled for U6, U10, U12s (mid March); U14/U16 the third week of March
 - U16Cs have giving the U19s their Blackfalds ice, so that U19 can have full ice practices before Provincials.
- March 21 will be the last ice of the season, which is one less week of ice.
- Looking at 2024/25 session, we will need to figure out ice needs, especially with the Curling Championships taking over the front ice in October 2025.

4.7. REFEREE ALLOCATOR – Sherri O’Muir

- **Clinic Fee Reimbursement**
 - LRA typically reimburses for Level 1 to Lacombe Ringette players who take that course.
 - Sting players were told to ask home association to reimburse their fees.
 - Sting doesn't have their own officials OR pay for any officials development
 - Lacombe and Red Deer schedule officials for Sting
 - Sting wouldn't reimburse their own players, because they can't afford that extra cost.

ACTION: Sherri will talk with Caralyn/Red Deer Ringette and will take a coordinated approach to these types of requests, moving forward. Zone 4 will determine how to reimburse new refs.

This could be a whole different model. Will see how other cities look at this and communicate how/if refs will be reimbursed, going forward.

4.8. CASINO/FUNDRAISER/SPONSORSHIP – Megan Bateman

- Talking with AGLC because we had to modify one of our raffles. Waiting to hear back from them.
- A 50/50 will be set up for the U16B Provincials (via rafflebox).
 - Will combine with the U12A Championships
 - Draw will take place at the Banquet/AGM on April 11 at 6PM.

5. DIRECTOR REPORTS

5.1. COACHING DIRECTOR - Shelley Leslie

- No report

5.2. EQUIPMENT DIRECTOR - Brett Miller

- Not in attendance

5.3. ZONE 4 DIRECTORS - Amanda Hatto/Jeff Rohrer

- Met with Zone 4 and Sting

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- U10 1s and U10 2s and U6 will have their Final Jamboree on March 10 in Blackfalds.
 - U6s will get to play a real game that day

5.4. ZONE 5 DIRECTORS – Cheryl Talma\Lori Unger

- **Exhibition Games**
 - Any exhibition games taking place between Session 2 and Session 3/Provincials must be given to the BGL so they can give game sheet codes and track game stats.
- **Game Sheet Completion**
 - Is much better.
 - Remember to add the Spectator Liaison to the Minor Officials area.
- **Fan Misconduct**
 - There has been an increase in fan misconduct reports across the board.
 - Spectator Liaisons need to play a more active role
 - There will be ZERO-TOLERANCE of abuse towards officials.
 - Reports need to be submitted sooner than later.
- **BGL AGM**
 - Date set for May 11
 - Cheryl brought forward the idea of rotating U12 Championships throughout the association, so it doesn't land repeatedly on one association.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1. TOURNAMENT REP – Brett Miller/Lori Unger/Jeremy Olthof

- No one attended.
- The Executive discussed the need for a better structure to help make our tournaments a success.
 - Sanctioning MUST occur for both tournaments as soon as teams are filled. Having this responsibility go to the board will help oversee that process.
 - Tournament reps MUST come from older and younger groups, to help spread out the load.
 - Book the Ringette Store/vendors as SOON as the dates are known.

6.2. APPAREL REP

- Apparel for provincials
 - Link is live and ready for orders.
 - Will be shared on the Ringette Alberta website/Provincials information area, so teams can order as soon as they know whether they are in.
- A link for 12A teams is also ready, but needs to be fixed as there is a mistake on the sweat pants. Will fix this week.
- Reds will be donating a portion of the apparel costs back to our association from ALL orders.

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6.3. SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE - Bev Smith/Barb Taylor

- No update

6.4. MARKETING REP - Chelsea Friesen

- **Come Try Ringette**
 - Will take place during the weekend of the U16B Provincials.
 - Will share with schools, so they can send home with students/to parents.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. Survey Results (Shelley Vickery)

- Most people want to stay in Lacombe. The top concern about forming a Zone 4 team was practice locations/time, and coaching staff.
 - 42 Responses came in
 - 54.8% from U16
 - 45.2% from U19
 - Planning to play for LRA in 2024/45
 - Yes - 38
 - Maybe - 1
 - No - 3 (1 U16, 1 U19, 1 U19(3rd year))
 - Interest in a Zone 4 A team
 - Yes - 8
 - Maybe - 16
 - No - 14
 - Would you be open to players moving up or down an age group to help make viable teams
 - Yes - 20
 - Maybe - 10
 - No - 11
- Instead of a Zone 4 "A" team, maybe we need to look at creating a Flex program for players who want to play at a less-competitive/less-time required format.

ACTION: Shelley Leslie is going to look into the logistics of creating a Flex Ringette program, so we can gauge if this is a solution going forward.

7.2. Evaluation Feedback for 2024/25 (Linda Forrester)

- Linda is part of a tiering committee with Ringette Alberta, which includes teams from the South. Their goal is to find ways of leveling out the tiering imbalance between the North and South.
- Melissa Stephenson/Linda Forrester have come up with the following suggestions to help with next year's evaluations.

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- Get earlier ice times, so that evaluations can be completed earlier. This would also help teams who want to apply for the Turkey Ring Tournament.
- Do we need one or two UAAs?
- Consider allowing coaches to have an opinion on bubble kids, as they have likely coached many of these kids and would know if they would/wouldn't fit on the team.
- For U10s - take into consideration the years of experience a player has (especially if they will be moving up to U12 the following year).

7.3. Vulnerable Sector Checks (VSC) Recertification (Shelley Leslie)

- Reapplied for our VSC Waiver renewal (for the LRA) and one aspect was a question about the 'updated' Screening Policy.
 - Shelley noticed it's from 2018 - and it has some old ideas
 - Would like to make some edits to it and present it to the board for any feedback, then we can present it at the AGM for approval.
- All Coaches have to have their VSC updated every 3 years (as we passed in September), and uploaded into RAMP. All other aspects of the policy can remain pretty much the same.
- To update this policy, we will need to bring it to the AGM and notify our LRA members 3 weeks beforehand, indicating the recommended policy changes.

8. ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1.** Shelley Vickery adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.