

LACOMBE RINGETTE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Upper Lobby, Lacombe Arena
Tuesday, August 22, 2023



ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members: Lyle Granigan (Chair), Shelley Vickery, Sherri O'Muir, Nikki Plewis, Megan Bateman, Gwen Martin

Missing: Amanda Hatto, Carmen Wilson

Lyle Granigan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Sherri O'Muir moves that the agenda be accepted as presented. Shelley Vickery seconded the motion. All in favour. **Motion carried.**

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1. 2023-24 LRA Meeting Schedule (Nikki Plewis)

- All the meetings and rooms have been booked with the City of Lacombe for the 2023-24 season.
- We will keep the same format of the 3rd Wednesday of the month, starting at 7PM.

2.2. AFFILIATION POLICY (Sherri O'Muir)

- The Executive reviewed the policy in March 2023, and changes were incorporated into the procedure from that conversation.
- The updated policy seeks to clarify the PURPOSE of affiliation, to ensure coaches, parents and players understand its intended use:
 - Affiliation is NOT to be used to improve a team's competitiveness
 - Affiliation should NOT result in the benching of regular players of the team that an affiliate is playing on.

MOTION: Nikki Plewis moved to accept the updated Affiliation Policy to Lacombe Ringette's operation procedures. Lyle Granigan seconded the motion. **All in favour.**

ACTION: Lyle will pass on the updated Affiliation Policy to Coaching Director Shelley Leslie, for her to include in her coaches' meeting at the start of the season.

2.3. 2023 EVALUATIONS (Sherri O'Muir/Shelley Vickery)

2.3.1. Ringette Alberta supplied some changes that could benefit the evaluation process, this year and moving forward. The changes that could benefit Lacombe Ringette were identified as follows:

- **U10 Evaluation** – change from full ice to half ice for the game portion of evaluations. This makes sense as U10-1 and U10-2 only play half ice games, many of the players don't understand the rules of full-ice ringette, and will ensure better

visibility of ALL players (not just the strong players), to make for a more rounded game evaluation.

- **Remove marks for skating from game evaluations** – Skaters are already evaluated on their skating during the UAAs. By removing it from this from the game portion, evaluators will be able to focus better on the other aspects of game play.
- **U16 Evaluations** – when you have more teams (more than 1 team), have evaluations based on drills to form the teams (vs. UAA scores, as in previous years). Have the evaluators watch the drills, followed by a game after, to complete the U16 evaluation process.

***MOTION:** Sherri O’Muir moved to adopt the evaluation changes (as mentioned above), recommended by Ringette Alberta to the Evaluation Process for the 2023 season. Gwen Martin seconded the motion. All in favour.*

2.3.2. Board notification prior to release of teams – After some confusion in past years, conversation took place around earlier board involvement prior to the public release of teams. The purpose for the extra step would be:

- To help the board identify any players who might be misplaced (***PLEASE NOTE – this would not be permitted in an age division that their player would be in.***)
- To help the board members better support the Evaluation Coordinators and/or the Division Directors following the release of teams.

The board recognizes the work that goes into game evaluations and team creation and want to provide sufficient support to the volunteers involved in this process, including being as available as the coordinators/direction would like during the evaluation time.

***MOTION:** Gwen Martin moved to add a change to the Evaluation Procedures, requiring the LRA Board members to review the teams and coach selections prior to their release, in order to provide increased transparency and allow the board to better support the Evaluation Coordinators and Department Directors. Megan Bateman seconded the motion. All in favour.*

ACTION: Lyle Granigan will email the Evaluation Coordinators and Division Directors with the changes to the evaluation process AND the updated roll of the LRA Executive during the team selection period, so that everyone is on the same page at the start of the 2023-24 season.

2.4. PARENT/PLAYER CONDUCT FORMS (Shelley Vickery / Nikki Plewis)

- The LRA Board reviewed and discussed the wording in the Parent Code of Conduct and the Player Code of Conduct, following some complaints last season regarding game play vs. team commitment (attending practices regularly, focus during practices, etc.).
- The Board agreed that coaches have the ability to (within reason) cut back on playing time – especially during make-or-break games at League Championships, Medal Games at Tournaments, or Provincial Games for the following reasons (as mentioned in the Code of Conduct):

- I will try my hardest to attend all team practices, games and functions.
 - I will always show respect and support for my teammates. During games I will put the needs of my team ahead of my own needs.
- The Board will remind coaches of the proper flow for complaints that could arise during the season. Parent Liaison > Division Director > LRA Board
- The Board will encourage coaches to sit with their team (players and/or parents) and review each point on the Player and Parent Code on Conduct at the start of the year.
 - If reviewed together and signed together, it may help reduce these kinds of concerns.
- Much like Officials, the Board will be looking to reinforce respect/tolerance of coaching staff (as well as officials), recognizing that these individuals are volunteers and should be allowed to run their teams as they seem fit, as long as it respects Lacombe Ringette's values and procedures in place.

ACTION: Lyle will pass on the Boards suggestion to Coaching Director Shelley Leslie, for her to include in her coaches' meeting at the start of the season, with emphasis on the flow for complaints and to refer to the signed Codes of Conduct if needed.

2.5. ICE ALLOCATOR – Amanda Hatto

- We are co-hosting the U12B Championships with Red Deer and the managers from both teams are taking on the planning.
 - BGL sent a note to ice schedulers telling us if someone didn't step up, that division would be cancelled.
 - Ice was bartered from hockey to make it work.
 - Planning is running smoothly.
 - Sherri has the schedule and will coordinate with Red Deer for officials.
- Levels ups will be the next thing that she's working on. Info will be sent out once it's all set.

2.6. ICE COST COMMITTEE (Nikki Plewis, Shelley Vickery, Sherri O'Muir, Amanda Hatto)

- The Committee met in early August to discuss ice costs with the Town of Blackfalds.
- We have many Town of Blackfalds and Lacombe County players (tax payers of the MultiPlex), and have built a case to provide the Blackfalds Recreation Board, requesting a local rate for our association.
- Nikki is drafting a letter, and will send it to the Executive to review (prior to it going to the Blackfalds Rec Board/Council).

2.7. U10 GOALIE REQUEST (Shelley Vickery)

- A request came in of a U10 player to register/play as a full time goalie.

- Ringette Alberta states that players are not permitted to be full-time goalies until U14, but recognizing the importance of goalies (and the family involved), the Board will encourage the player/coach to let her play goalie as much as possible during practices.
- For games, they will be restricted to 50%.
- As there is no full-time goalie rate for U10, the board will offer the family an early bird rate.

ACTION: Shelley will communicate the Board's conversation to the U10 family.

2.8. UPCOMING CHANGES TO REFEREE PROGRAM (Sherri O'Muir)

2.8.1. INCREASED REF FEES

BGL has increased its price per game for referees. In the past, Lacombe Ringette has followed suit.

MOTION: Shelley Vickery moved to increase pay for Lacombe Ringette Association referees, as per the changes proposed by the BGL. Megan Bateman seconded. ***All in favour.***

2.8.2. NEW REFEREE PROGRAM

- Ringette Alberta is launching the First Strips program. This would allow new refs (U14) to start officiating earlier for U10-2 games (previously refed by coaches).
- This will allow the growth of skills with younger refs, and would get their Level 1 certification quicker (U16).
- The one concern is that the refs in the First Strips program need to have a supervising official (which is challenging, as many of these individuals would be officiating other games).

ACTION: Sherri is talking with a former official (Bill Cade) about this program, and will bring it up to a future Zone 4 meeting, as this is a Zone 4 issue.

2.9 WAM GAME (Shelly/Lyle)

- Aiming to host a WAM Game in Lacombe this season, with a tentative date of January 27.

ACTION: Lyle will contact WAM with the date and possible times.

2.10 RED DEER EVALUATIONS (Lyle Granigan)

- The Red Deer Ringette Association has reached out to Lacombe to see if we are interested in sending members to assist with their evaluations.
- Want to ensure the people going have experience/knowledge of the evaluation process

ACTION: Lyle will email coaches (past and present) and see if any of them are interested in assisting with Red Deer's upcoming evaluations.

2.11 ZONE 4 COMBINED U19 TEAM (Lyle Granigan)

- A request from the Red Deer Ringette Association has come in, to consider creating a combined Zone 4 U19 team (possibly expanding into U16, if successful).
 - This would help create more competitive teams at the U19 level (A), as there would be a larger pool of players to choose from.
- Would need to be very clear guidelines and many conversations before this could be considered.
 - Ice times, and expectations for Red Deer families to attend out of town practices.
 - More conversations with Lacombe parents must happen to see if there is any interest.
- In the meantime, suggest that an associations welcome A-level players to attend tryouts in either community to field a U19 A team.

2.12 OPEN B DISCUSSION (Lyle Granigan)

- LRA has been approached by two former players about adding an Open B division.
- They have been requested to talk with Dallas Smith, who has established an independent Open C team, as we don't want to compete with the hard work she has to get that set up and successful.
- Will wait to hear back from these players after that conversation

3. ROUNDTABLE REPORTS

3.1 Sherri O'Muir – Ref Allocator

- New refs should be required to officiate a certain number of games BEFORE they are reimbursed for their course.
- Non-Zone 4 players (Central AB Sting) taking the course will not get their fees reimbursed, as they are not part of the organization.
 - Red Deer agrees with this statement.
- Sherri will help Sting with assigning refs, to ensure that there are enough refs for all games.

3.2 Gwen Martin – Registrar

- KidSport/Jump Start refunds, and how those are processed.
- The board agreed that it might be easier to refund these via cheque (instead of trying to issue a credit).

3.3 Shelley Vickery – Vice President

- 64 players are signed up for the upcoming Mini Camps.
- Connor Winslow will run these with some Junior Coaches.
- Cost is \$10/skate

3.4 Lyle Granigan – President

- Rocky Mountain House is setting up a ringette association this year, with the help of a former LRA family.

- Question from Lyle to Gwen about getting the new contact list
 - Gwen will send this to Lyle and Nikki

4. ADJOURNMENT

4.1. Lyle Granigan adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 13, 2023, 7:00PM, Lacombe Arena

LYLE GRANIGAN, PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER
(please indicate position and print name)