

LRA Board Meeting
October 19, 2022

Attendance: Rob Burton, Kurt Parks, Arne Gjerlaug, Kayleen Kelly, Trish Perverseff, Cara Parks, Kelly Dinsmore, Carmen Gfrerer, Tracy Larson, Rajesh Grover, Tosh Borland, PJ Lynch, Marne Nagy, Ian Bennett

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:29 pm

2. Approval of minutes

No errors or omissions were noted for the August meeting minutes.

PJ motioned to approve the August minutes. Seconded by Carmen. Carried

No errors or omissions were noted for the September meeting minutes.

Arne motioned to approve the September minutes. Seconded by Marne. Carried.

3. New Business to be added to agenda

Added item 9. Goalie Discount

4. Registration Numbers

Registration Director Report - Arne

To date, 205 registrants.

\$5000-6000 higher than projected. This includes adjustments for coach discounts, but not goalie discounts.

Discussion about if registrant targets had been previously set by the board. General consensus that there were likely % increase targets discussed previously.

5. Chinook League volunteers needed

Covered under RAB Meeting Update agenda item

6. Fundraising Update

a. Cash for Christmas Raffle / AGLC License Update

Fundraising Director Report - Kelly

Raffle license has been successfully approved for above \$20K. Rajesh (Director at Large) is helping with this initiative. Prizes will therefore be slightly higher this year, as the raffle has increased capacity. Payouts as follows: 1st \$5000, 2nd \$1500, 3rd

\$500. Raffle Tickets expected to be available by the end of Oct. and distributed to teams/families. Draw Dec. 8, 2022.

a. Arena Board sponsorships

Board Sponsorship Discussion - Cara

Renewal on board sponsorships and a new sponsor.

Renewed agreement with Radio station - advertising credit.

Cara and Kurt participated in meetings with Bruce Primo (representative with Lethbridge Lodging Association). LRA has used hotels within his management for our local tournaments to recommend to registrant teams, this includes a couple of hotels. Those hotels have provided sponsorship dollars the past.

The Lethbridge Lodging Association includes all hotels in town (except for two). For Bridge Battle Fall tournament - the association will support room blocking for registered teams, in enough hotels in town to ensure all teams have access to room. Bruce has proposed a three-year agreement between the LRA and the Lethbridge Lodging Association, to which their hotels are highlighted exclusively. For this, they are willing to provide \$15,000.00 for each year of the three-year agreement.

Looking for the board's consensus to proceed with drafting a contract for this agreement. Craig McMahon, an LRA member and practicing lawyer, can review prior to approval/signature.

Discussion about reasonable room pricing for this agreement. Concerns with perceptions about linking hotels with the tournament. Conflicts with other events prevalent/common? Kelly indicated that there usually aren't conflicts, though last year, the Bridge Battle Spring was hosted at the same time as the Brier. There may be a few others (e.g., volleyball provincials, etc.).

General consensus from the LRA Board to move forward.

Action: Cara to draft letter to Lethbridge Lodging association (to include some specifics - number of teams, number of rooms, etc.).

7. Goalie Camp Support – Kelly

Goalie Camp - Medicine Hat Discussion - Kelly

Two LRA goalies (Parnelle Jonker and Mallory Doan) attended a goalie camp clinic in Medicine Hat. Cost per goalie was \$175.00 + accommodation.

Discussion about compensation for these families/players, hosting a similar clinic within the LRA next year (LRA covers instructor costs - travel + accommodation, to reduce participant costs), inviting other interested associations (Medicine Hat) to participate, supporting goalie development, etc. Need to plan ahead - use the special ice allocation meeting in May 2023 to secure ice for this type of clinic.

8. Goalie Development Policy - Kurt

Player Development Director Report - Kurt

Associations are required to have a developed and active Goalie Development Policy. Kurt has reviewed various examples, including the Ringette Alberta Goalie policy. The LRA policy will align with the RAB policy.

Cara indicated that this was also discussed at the Chinook League meetings. We are required to have a policy in place as soon as possible. There are considerations about enforcement of the policy within teams.

Ian noted that the RAB goalie policy is currently under review by a sub-committee of the RAB Program Advisory Committee. It is anticipated that there will only be minor updates/changes to the RAB policy following this review. LRA should strongly consider including a statement that identified goalies can play as on ice players based on coach and player review/assessment/discussion. This will clarify that playing out is not based on goalie choice, rather a discussion by the coach with the goalie.

Board consensus that the proposed wording will be sent via email to LRA board members for review. The Goaltender Development Policy will be added to the Team Formation Section (9D) of the LRA Policy.

Kelly motioned for the LRA Policy to be updated to include LRA Goalie considerations, subject to review of final changes. Seconded by Kayleen. Carried

The proposed wording for the LRA's Goaltender Development Policy (sent via email to LRA Board members Oct. 19, 2022, 10:30 pm). With a request from Cara for board members to review the wording, with a request to reply to the email by Oct. 21, 2022 noon with your support for the wording.

Section 9

D. GOALTENDER DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The LRA goaltender development policy has been created to be in alignment with RAB policy as outlined in RAB Member Policy Requirements 27.4.4.

D.1.1 - At U 12 and up, players may register as full-time goalie.

D.2.1 - Should a declared full-time goalie wish to play as a player, the decision to approve the request will be at the discretion of the coaching group (includes U 12).

D.3 - Children's Ringette (U12 & down).

D.3.1 - There will be no full-time goalies at U 10.

D.3.2 - At U12 no individual will play goal more than 75% of the total games played by their team on or before December 31st and 75% after December 31st. A declared full-time goalie does not need to play out as a player when they are not playing as a goalie.

D.3.3 - At U 10, no individual will play goal more than 25% of the total games played by their team on or before December 31st and 25% after December 31st.

D.3.4 - Coaches are expected to track and comply with the LRA and RAB policy.

9. Goalie Discount

Goalie Discount Discussion - Cara

At this time, full time goalies U14 and up, registered with the LRA receive a \$300 discount at time of registration.

Discussion about providing U12 registered goalie discounts. U12 goalies, based on RAB policy, can only play 25% of the time as a goalie. Discounts should be prorated to reflect the 25% of goaltending time (e.g. based on U14 and up discount reduced by 25% for U12 and below, \$225)

Motion by Carmen that the LRA provide a \$225.00 discount to U12 level registered goalies. Seconded by Kayleen. Carried.

General consensus by the board to review the quantity and quality of current LRA Goalie gear for potential addition/replacement.

10. Player Development Discussion – Kelly / Kurt

General Discussion

Kelly: Changed to team selection processes. Now it is committee decision based, data driven, etc. Lots of positive feedback, some negative feedback.

PJ: A few years ago there was typically one team per level due to registration numbers. Now we are growing enough to have multiple players in each level. Which resulted in the evolution of committee selection, UAA and game play assessments to support team formation.

Kelly: Historically it fell on the Player Development Director. Changing it from a single person decision to a committee decision. With that, there is a need to update policy to include 3rd party evaluators used to evaluate players, outlining weighting UAA vs. game play (can be specific or a range of percentages), LRA board decisions/meeting minutes need to be uploaded and available to association members.

Consensus by board to have Kurt provide a summary on how this process was developed and executed for the 2022-2023 season's team selections (SEE BELOW).

Player Development / Team Formation 2022 /23 Season October Board Report

Team formation for this season was completed in compliance with LRA operating policy – Section 9. Players were evaluated via UAA on their second skate of the season as per RAB policy. In addition, game play evaluations were completed third party evaluators. Game play evaluations ranged from 1 to 3 assessments depending on age category and need.

For U 12 and U 14 - UAA assessments accounted for 30% of overall score with game play assessments accounting for 70%. For U 10 - UAA assessments accounted for 50% of overall score with game play assessments accounting for 50%. The Director of Player Development compiled all data. Scores for UAA assessments were combined with game play evaluations and players were ranked by total average score.

Once all scores were tabulated, the Team Selection committee met to determine team formation. Team Selection committee members were approved by the board prior to the start of the season as per LRA policy. The committee this year was comprised of Rob Burton, Sue Stevenson, Loretta Staley and director of Player Development, Kurt Parks. Wherever a committee member had a conflict (regarding their own child), they were recused of making decisions pertaining to that player.

As per LRA policy, if a team was identified as an 'A' team the coach(es) had the last three selections.

Recommendations for Next Year

- Parents and board members should be encouraged to read the team formation policy to ensure they understand the process prior to the start of conditioning camp.
- Need to find a way to distance the Director of Player Development from being perceived as the one making all the decisions.
- Ensure all parents are reminded that this is a volunteer board.
- Look for ways to improve communication with parents.
- Provide avenues for parents to provide feedback

11. Volunteer Policy Discussion

Volunteer Policy Development Discussion - Cara Haven't made much progress.

Opportunity to open it up for interested people - e.g. building a google sheet to sign up. Many of the software platforms tested/explored were limited, and there were difficulties with the platforms, etc.

A past LRA president indicated that a cheque needs to be collected from each family to be held by the LRA board. The cheque would be cashed if the family did not fulfill their volunteer requirements. Cara checked the LRA Policy and found the reference. Added reasoning to update this policy and the LRA policy to reflect proposed changes soon.

Concerns that there may not be enough volunteer opportunities for the amount of registrants. Maybe try to target U10 families. Maybe targeting the Spring Bridge Battle, Casino, Highway Clean up

General consensus that the Volunteer Policy Review Committee choose some priority volunteer opportunities, and focus on engagement with U10 families. Cara to send out an association wide email with information. Volunteer policy committee to include Kelly, Carmen, Tosh, and Marne. They will review and select priority opportunities for 2022. The collection of volunteer cheques from LRA families will be suspended for 2022-2023 season while volunteer policy is finalized.

Motion by Trish to remove managers and assistant coaches from association volunteer requirements for the LRA, as an expansion to Section 13.7 of the LRA Policy. Seconded by Tosh. Carried.

12. Tournament Update – Kelly

Director of Tournaments Report - Kelly

50 teams registered. 3 more than last year. 14A is only the one with a 3 team pool. Two levels have been increased to 6 team pools (U16 and U10 Step 3). BC, Sask and Alberta teams have been contacted to entice another U14A team to register. LRA Tournament Reps from every team have been selected. Tournament responsibilities have been distributed, with each Rep being responsible for their assignment/selection.

Game schedule is being reviewed and developed. Variations of schedule - taking into account multiple player families, and the increased U16 6 team pool, and U10 Step 3 6 team pool.

There have been many communications to secure teams, feedback about hotel rooms not being available, teams dropping out.

Option for a meat raffle (pig).

Ian: RAB Program Advisory Committee's subcommittee to discuss tournaments, availability of registration, etc. Cara will chat with Ian - to provide some input. Ringette Alberta didn't offer much support to encourage registration in our tournament.

Spring Bridge Battle Tournament open for registration. Closes Nov. 4, 2022.

Discussion about lessons learned about registration and RAMP coordination, including registration for multiple tournaments within the province at the same time, etc.

14. Quick Updates (if any)

a. RAB Meeting Update

RAB Report - Cara

- *RAB president, VP and VP admin have all resigned. Gayle Allison acting pres, admin is available till end of month.*
- *Advance retreat deadline - 20 coaches did not attend mandatory meetings, sorting out rescheduling. All coaches need to be aware of rescheduling deadlines.*
- *How to track respect in sport course for all coaches, may provide a form on website to input by coach.*
- *League fee invoicing - google form, how many players means \$25/player fee.*
- *Chinook league - lot of chaos.*
- *U12 Regionals update. U12A March 10-12, 2023, looking for hosts for B and C. We don't have ice available to host.*
- *Lots of teams looking for U12 Goalie policy.*
- *The tournament filling struggles across the province. League has indicated they will approve a second black out weekend to support the filling of our tournament.*
- *Found U19 Division coordinator, social media director for chinook.*

b. Coaching Director

Coaching Director Report - Ian

18 certifications. 20-25 coaches have completed online during coach's week, at no cost.

c. Tournament

See above - Tournament agenda item

d. Officials

Director of Officials Report - Tracy

62 officiating spots have been scheduled to date.

NOTE: *Awaiting officials for U10 Step 1 and 2 games on Oct. 22, 2022 (2 games each), and an Official to travel to Medicine Hat for U16B games on Sunday (2 games) Oct. 23, 2022. Kurt is also looking for officials for an exhibition game in Vulcan for U12A for Oct. 23, 2022.*

Current budget balance \$1188.00 from original seed money of \$2,000.00

Arrangements have been made for additional funds from LRA Treasurer for another \$2,000.00 to continue to cover league game officiating fees and clinic fees.

Planning for Tournament budget is underway with Treasurer and Jessica Ursel current estimation is \$8500.00-\$9000.00. Last year, ~\$7400.00 was spent on Bridge Battle officiating fees and officials room snacks.

Level 1 Clinic is a go. Scheduled for Oct. 23, 2022 at ATB Tournament Room for 3 hrs of classroom instruction and on ice time for one hour. Booking for 12:00-5:30. From LRA we have 7 participants. Participants have been contacted to prepare and register for the clinic. There have been ongoing issues with the Ringette Canada website for registration and payment, as well as access to resource material. The website issue was potentially resolved late today - participants from LRA will be updated. Cost for the clinic is \$150.00/participant. Medicine Hat participants will join.

Ian: Three U of L students expressed interest in Level 1 clinic. Ian to forward contact information.

16 LRA Officials confirmed for Nov. 18-20, 2022.

4 Out of town officials confirmed for Nov. 18-20, 2022.

6-7 new Level 1 officials that can potentially officiate for the tournament.

26-27 officials (includes 3 evaluators). Last year we had 22, with 2 evaluators.

Additional out of town officials may still reach out based on various communications sent out. Need to aim for 7-8 out of town officials to compensate for local officials that may have team/coaching conflicts.

Awaiting game schedule to begin working through officiating scheduling. Will be working with Jessica.

e. IT Updates

Director of IT Report - Rob

Keeping paper game sheets for tournaments. Nov. 26, 2022 transfer to google drive for Board positions, etc. (emails, storage function). Information will be sent out on how to move information to google.

f. Player Development

Director of Player Development Report - Kurt

Covered under Player Development and Goalie Development agenda items.

g. Ice Schedule

Ice Allocation Director Report - Gord

Deferred. Gord was absent from the meeting.

h. Promotions

Director of Promotions Report - Carmen

Discussion on how to funnel information about team activities to Carmen. Cara to send info. to managers to contact Carmen with social media post ideas. Rob can update banner on RAMP (newsfeed) with the recent U12A Tournament Silver Medal.

15. Call to Adjourn

Kurt motioned to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Seconded by Rajesh. Carried.

