

# Lower Ontario Ringette League



## Annual General Meeting

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 @ 7:00pm  
via Teams Conference

1. Welcome & Call to Order – **Shelley Handley**
2. Roll Call – **Shelley Handley**
3. Establish a vote count and verification of – **Shelley Handley**  
  
*Bylaw 3.8 - 50% quorum*  
*Bylaw 3.13 – 1 vote per member*
4. Motion to approve agenda – **Shelley Handley**
5. Motion to approve minutes for AGM 2024 -**Shelley Handley**
6. 2025-26 Draft Budget – **Bethany Van Der Kooy**
7. 2025 Elections – **James Van Lierop**
  1. VICE PRESIDENT – James Van Lierop (willing to stand)
  2. TREASURER – Bethany Vanderkooy (willing to stand)
  3. DIRECTOR - COMPETITIONS – Michelle Linton (willing to stand)
  4. DIRECTOR - SCHEDULING – Chris Ouellette (willing to stand)
  5. DIRECTOR - ADULT DIVISION – Janet in't Veldt (willing to stand)
  6. DIRECTOR – COMMUNICATIONS – 1 year term - open
8. New Business - see new policies on the next page - **Shelley Handley**
9. Adjournment – **Shelley Handley**

## NEW BUSINESS

### LORL Team Fees:

- FUN2: \$150 (\$100 for teams starting in January)
- FUN3 to U19: \$200
- Adult teams: \$30

### Communication

- We are looking at purchasing BASECAMP for ourselves to keep communication flowing

### Year End Tournament

- We are still looking for applications to host the year-end tournament. These are due June 1st. See the requirements here: [LORL 2025-2026 Year End Event Package](#)

### Division Convenors

- We will be asking for Division Convenors at our first general meeting in September. If you are interested or know somebody who would be good for this job, please reach out to Scott Walker at [divisions@lorl.ca](mailto:divisions@lorl.ca).

### Team Formation:

- There is no longer the requirement to wait for September to run U12 evaluations. These can be completed in August. All teams must be submitted to LORL by Sept. 15 so the schedule can be made. Please close registration and schedule ice with this date in mind if sorts need to be completed.

### Officials:

- It is LORL's goal to be using Arbiter to schedule refs. This will be a major improvement allowing for greater visibility regarding referee availability, travel costs, referee development etc.

## ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO RULES

1. **Championship Tournament:** change terminology to year-end tournament as this is not a championship tournament as multiple gold medals are given in each age division - it is a seeded tournament.
2. **Year-End Tournament** – any team can join if they pay tournament fees and have paid appropriate RO fees and are a registered team with RO or an association – this includes, but is not limited to, FUN2 teams that have not played in league, tournament teams at any age group that have played in at least 2 tournaments, or teams formed from “house league”. These teams will be seeded in the appropriate groupings at the year-end tournament based on available statistics, or evaluation by LORL members and associations.
3. **League Champions:** Will be recognized at the year-end tournament or other venue (depending on age group) and will be awarded with a league banner or something similar. More details to come on this.
4. **League Play:**
  - a. U16 and up will have a schedule made for the entire season - no reseeding. This will happen at the year-end tournament. If the number of teams allows division based on geography it will occur, if not, all teams will play each other.
  - b. For U14 and lower, LORL will be divided by geography (3 areas or 2 areas based on number of teams - 12A may be the exception) with reseeding in December.
5. **Team Formation:** In associations that have multiple teams at the **same age and level**, teams **MUST** be **balanced**. If teams do not appear to be balanced, LORL will request evidence of the process followed (evaluation sheets, results of exhibition games etc.) If the proper process is not followed,

associations can be fined and teams may not be able to participate in the year-end event. LORL may also request that players be redistributed to make the teams more balanced. Teams can be tiered for U12 and up - but must be identified as such (U12A, U12B and U12C as an example).

6. **Blackout Dates:** Blackout dates are for tournaments only or other events at your home arena. Blackout dates will not be accepted for either end of March break or Family day weekend. This is what substitution requests are for.
7. **Males in Ringette:** This continues to be a big topic in our sport. Ringette Canada, and as a result, Ringette Ontario are not addressing issues or providing leadership to leagues or associations on how to work through the complexities of the issue.

LORL is proposing the following:

***Creation of a Diversity Committee***

- a. This committee would be situated under LORL including at least one (1) member from the LORL leadership
- b. The committee members would be approved by the board and represent different perspectives in the gender spectrum
- c. The committee would deal with all complaints regarding gender issues
- d. The committee would address, provide ideas and solutions to address gender issues

***Mixed and Female only Leagues***

- a. LORL will work towards creating a mixed league and a female only league starting as early as FUN 3. We believe if we establish separate leagues at the younger ages and move up through the years, the idea of mixed Ringette will grow and allow for better competition. It will also encourage girls to join as Ringette will offer both female only and mixed ringette giving girls more choice.
- b. Currently the rule is 50% of all players on the ice must be female. We will be changing this to 51% of all players (including the goalie) must be female, regardless if teams are playing in the mixed or female only leagues. This will apply to all teams FUN 3 and up.

***8. Overaged Players:***

- a. Overage players MUST be approved by LORL. LORL will then send all requests to RO for final approval.
- b. Overage players may only be from one age group older and female - exceptions will only be made for very rare circumstances.