



Coaching Report for MDRA AGM – May 31, 2021

Season Summary

The 2020/2021 season was quite different for coaching due to COVID-19 and the restrictions that were put in place by Ottawa Public Health (OPH) and Ringette Ontario (RO). Due to the inability to form teams this year there were no head coach selections. In September 2020 pods were formed within the various divisions. Individuals who had expressed an interest in coaching were asked to help coach the pods and “lead coaches” were chosen. All coaches worked together in the respective age groups. Due to the restrictions put in place by OPH, coaches were only able to be part of one bubble and could not cross bubbles. Many coaches and on-ice volunteers were needed this season due to the fact that there were more pods than the number of teams formed in a normal season. Additional female coaches were especially needed due to the requirement that a female coach had to be present at all ice times and coaches were unable to cross bubbles.

In February 2021 bubbles were reorganized based on registrations at the time and “lead coaches” were chosen for the new bubbles and in some divisions for the new pods that had been formed.

The focus for coaches shifted for this season from working with an organized team to developing the skills of individual players within the formed pods or bubbles. This included trying to keep players engaged with limited game play throughout the season. Ice times were much different where players had to try and remain socially distanced on the ice which limited the types of skills and drills that could be run during a session. Some game play was incorporated into drills with scrimmages when allowed depending on the restrictions in place at that time. This was a season where being able to adapt easily as a coach was imperative.

MDRA had 98 volunteers supporting the various pods and bubbles throughout the 2020/2021 season on and off the ice.

I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU on behalf of MDRA to all of the volunteers for helping the players get back on the ice this season for the fall and/or winter sessions. This was not a season we were all accustomed to and had to face some new challenges with the COVID restrictions and not knowing what each day would bring. Without all of the volunteers helping both on and off the ice this season would not have been possible. The MDRA players are fortunate to have so many people help during such uncertain times. It truly is appreciated!

MDRA welcomed new coaches into the association this season and a number of MDRA coaches advanced their qualifications with the completion of CI training.

Ringette Ontario offered a number of CSI and CI coaching clinics throughout the season and continues to do so into June and July 2021. This will allow anyone who would like to coach to obtain or advance their qualifications prior to the start of the next season.

Ringette Ontario Mandated Changes for 2021/2022 Season

- Managers are not permitted on the bench during sanctioned events for any U19 and under level team.

It is recommended that all teams have a registered Manager on their TRF as the Team Manager is a central figure in creating the flow of communication – not only within the team (players, parents, and coaches), but between the team and all support systems such as the membership club, Leagues, Tournaments and other teams, coaches, and officials. By taking on the operational aspects of the team, the manager enables the coach to focus on player development and on-ice instruction to provide the players with rewarding ringette experiences.

- Female Coaches

A minimum of one member of the Team Staff of U19 or younger teams must be a fully qualified female Head Coach and/or Assistant Coach, age eighteen (18) or older, who present for all team activities.

- U14AA Certification – Only Head Coach

Only the Head Coach of a U14AA team must be Competition Introduction (CI) Certified. The Assistant Coaches at this level are strongly encouraged to request an evaluation but are not prioritized and will not be removed if they do not earn certification by January 31st deadline.

- Junior Coach Role and On-Ice Assistant Role Junior Coach and On-Ice Assistant qualifications must be fully completed prior to commencing their role with a registered team and/or association.

Per Ringette Ontario: Please note that these changes are in alignment with Ringette Canada and National Coach Certification Program who govern coach standards in the sport of Ringette

Goals for the 2021/2022 Season

- continue to increase the overall number of qualified coaches within the association;
- continue to increase the number of female coaches at all levels - especially given the requirement that a fully qualified female coach must be at all team activities this can't fall to one person only and additional qualified female coaches will be needed;
- commence a "mentor program" with older players where they can assist with the younger age levels as on-ice and off-ice volunteers to learn some skills as a coach and encourage more older players to take on the role of Junior Coach; and
- provide support and resource materials to coaches within the association throughout the season.

Looking forward to a return to the ice in September!

Kerry Biggs
Coaching Director