



President's Report for MDRA AGM – May 31, 2021

The Metcalfe & District Ringette Association (MDRA) had an interesting year for the 2020-21 ringette season. Given COVID restrictions, this was an unusual year with a number of shutdowns and restrictions that did not allow for regular play. That being said, the players made the most of it and enjoyed what time they were given on the ice.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the success of this season. Given the unprecedented season we experienced, the executive members put in a lot of time devising scenarios and being ready to pivot when necessary. We welcomed a number of new volunteers as coaches on the ice as well as our COVID pod leaders. Thank you to all of our volunteers for their time given to the association, without them the association would not be able to operate

Registration

MDRA's registration numbers were lower than in past seasons primarily due to COVID restrictions and no game play being offered. We were also unable to offer the bunnies program which reduced our overall registration numbers.

Player Development

Despite the restrictions and the inability to offer clinics as has been seen in other years, players were still able to develop in different ways. Pod coaches were very receptive to working together on the ice which allowed for many more full ice practices than players would have been used to in the past. During our shutdown, players were also given the opportunity to participate in the virtual "1000 rep challenge". This was well received by all those who attended. We hope to be able to offer some more traditional programming and clinics in the coming season.

MDRA Executive

The MDRA executive welcomed some new people to the executive this season and continues to try and maintain a balance of new and experienced executive members. The executive continues to encourage volunteers from the younger age divisions.

MDRA purchased jerseys for all players, squeeze whistles for coaches and shooter tutors for when goalies were not available. This was all made possible by a grant from Jumpstart.

The main focus for the executive during this past season was developing plans to offer programming given the restrictions in place and preparing plans for other possible scenarios.

The executive also spent time reviewing how we govern and the policies we have in place. Ringette Ontario (RO) offered several webinars on Good Governance, Risk Management, Financial Management, Conflict and Complaint Management as well as Bylaws & Incorporation. These webinars were attended by a number of executive members and the recordings were made available to the entire executive. Ringette Ontario will be releasing a Club Playbook with templates for bylaws, incorporation, policies, budgets and more. This will be integral in the executive aligning with Ringette Ontario and strengthening the way we govern. The first step will be introducing new bylaws that are in line with the requirements for incorporation.

Moving forward, the executive will also be looking to grow the sport, grow the association (especially in the younger age groups), and continue to provide development opportunities to both our players and coaches.

Next Season

How the next season begins and unfolds is still uncertain at this time. The executive will continue to look at options and provide programming under whatever restrictions may still be in place due to COVID and whatever directives we receive from our governing bodies.

Jenn Thompson
MDRA President