



March 28, 2022.

An Update from Ringette Ontario

Dear Ringette Ontario Members,

I want to provide our clubs, associations, teams, and leagues with an update from the Ringette Ontario (RO) Board on several important items.

First, I want to recognize the efforts of all our athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers for pulling together for another difficult season. The interruption, in December through January posed significant challenges as we weren't sure we could continue with provincial and regional championships this season. Thanks to tremendous efforts by our organizers and volunteers, those end of season activities have been quite successful!

Now, teams are preparing for the Canadian Championships in Calgary and Eastern Championships in Nova Scotia. Good luck to all coaches and athletes who will be representing RO!

We want to remind everyone that COVID-19 safety precautions are important to keep our players in the game. We strongly recommend masking for all ringette participants (athletes, coaches, officials etc.) while in shared spaces and participating in off-ice ringette activities. COVID-19 is still with us, and we must remain vigilant with our safety protocols. Our mandatory vaccination policy will remain in place until the end of the 2021/2022 season, June 30, 2022. The Board will revisit the policy prior to the opening of registration for the 2022/2023 season on July 1, 2022.

The Board has been busy on several key initiatives, highlights are provided below.

Season Plan – 2022/2023

We have started planning for the next season and are hopeful the year will allow for a standard schedule of games, tournaments, and various championships. Ontario Winter Games has been rescheduled to February 2023 so we will be running a high-performance (AAA) along with our Team Ontario program this coming season. Our intention is to provide a guideline document over the next couple of months so associations can develop their season plans during the spring and early summer. Inclusion and accessibility are essential considerations for everyone as we work to stabilize participation numbers and move towards growth. Meaningful competition is critical to ensure all athletes are challenged appropriately to allow for player development. We must support the implementation of the Long-Term Development Model (LTD) mandated by the province and a requirement for amateur sport across the country.

Ministry Funding for Sport Associations

Ringette Ontario as the Provincial Sport Organizations (PSO) has been advised that we will receive funding from the province to both support our local associations and the Quest for Gold program, which focusses on high-performance sport development (AAA). We are working out details regarding how those funding allocations will work. The RO team will be hosting conference calls with regions and associations to provide details and understand where funds are most needed.

Executive Director Search

We are progressing well in our search for a new Executive Director for Ringette Ontario. The position was posted for several weeks in the new year and gained a lot of attention. We are now moving into the interview stage and hope to announce a new ED leader by the end of April.

Strategic Planning

A major initiative for the Board this year is the revisiting our strategic plan, and we have partnered with MacPhie Consulting for support. Our current plan concludes this year and given the vast amount of change experienced over the past two seasons it is critical we develop a bold vision for RO and establish a plan to achieve our goals for the next 5 years. We will reach out to groups and individuals regarding participation in focus group and information gathering sessions. A membership-wide survey will be conducted later this spring ensuring all Members have an opportunity to provide input into this extremely important process. The new RO strategic plan will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in September 2022.

Finally, a thank you to all the volunteers across the province who are the lifeblood of our sport. We recognize the countless hours spent on and off the ice, planning, organizing, officiating, coaching, and developing this sport! We have faced continuous changes, which can be scary and challenging; but with you all, there is tremendous opportunity to develop the FASTEST GAME ON ICE!

Sarah Padfield, President
Ringette Ontario

... and the Ringette Ontario Board of Directors