



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

POSITION REPORTING FOR:  Tournament Directors	REPORT DATE:  Friday, March 1, 2024
PERSON REPORTING:  Tiffany Zender	WILL YOU BE ATTENDING IN PERSON?:  Yes

- Overall, the **2024** Sweetheart Tournament was a success! Very positive vibes from most everyone we dealt with. All the teams seemed to really enjoy the tournament and the activities we provided for them.
- People were extremely positive about the tournament; many commented that it was very well organized and would be applying to return next year. People also enjoyed their swag bags in particular the strappy Ringette keychains and heart glasses. Heart and Hustle awards (Waterbottle and \$10 coupon from United Cycle, Protein bar and coupons from Popeye's, Ringette socks for older girls and jersey keychains for younger girls) were also well received.
- The Sportsmanship award was really well received. We will do this again next year.
- **76** teams from Alberta, BC and Saskatchewan participated with **1080** athletes and their families coming through the TLC, Stu Barnes, Grant Fuhr and Glenn Hall arenas
- Vendor, Pressed YYC said the weekend was very successful again.
- We don't know the cash count yet, **\$16,943.91** on square for Plinko, Croc charms, Raffle and silent auction.
- We don't know the count yet for cash for sucker trees and Croc charms.
- **\$53,550.00** in team registration fees received.
- **\$23,700.00** received in sponsorship.
- Not including the cash counts, we brought in \$16,962.16 more than last year.
- We aren't sure what the ice costs or ref costs were. The rest of the expenses for tournament were **\$ 23,044.15**
  - Expense spreadsheet attached.
  - We still have to pay kidsport once we figure out what we are owing them from the lotto board. It's usually around \$900, I believe.
- No one has picked up the 2nd prize \$100 cheque for the social media challenge.

- The early 3pm start for set up the Thursday before the tournament was much better. We were able to get our committee members home at a decent time so they could be rested for the weekend.
- Online game sheets seemed to work pretty well. Some out of province teams had a little difficulty figuring out our online system, but they seemed to catch on quickly. Thank you to Leeam and Gracie for taking the lead on those questions.
- The medals we used (donut shaped) were great. Everyone seemed to really like them again this year.
- We will use provincials rules going forward for our medal game minor officials. Most people in our association are not comfortable running the clock and scoreboard for higher level divisions. We really have to think of a way to get qualified people to work these shifts. Any suggestions would be helpful. We can table this for another meeting or just email us at [Tournament@sprucegroveringette.com](mailto:Tournament@sprucegroveringette.com).
- We only had to fine one volunteer for a no show. The tournament has invoiced the team (with the help of the manager). The \$150 fine will be coming out of that parent's seed money and going to SGRA.
- The volunteer shift at the end of the tournament to have 4 people help with moving SGRA out of the Tri-Leisure and organizing the lock up while things were put away was brilliant. It helped so much.
- We had a bit of an issue with volunteer shifts for our Committee members. When we first sent our committee the volunteer sign up, there were **63** shifts and only **32** Committee members. We had originally told them they would have to work **two, 4 hour shifts**. When told this they were understandably very upset. During a discussion with Aaron on the subject, a suggestion was made to entice committee members to take on the extra shifts: the idea was to offer **\$25/2hour shift**. This small gesture was enough to make the committee members feel heard and understood. Michelle Thoben (iVolunteer coordinator), Rae-Lynn, and myself worked very hard to lean out the volunteer positions, and we were able to whittle it down to 43 shifts. That meant that there would be 11 extra shifts for a max payout of \$550. This was within our budget, and in fact allowed us to raise even more money as our Plinko game and Croc Charm sales alone brought in more than this. During the off season we will look to discuss with the board what kind of parameters should be worked within when making these financial decisions and when we should look to form a sub committee.
- During our post tournament meeting with the Tri-Leisure, we discussed...
  - They can now only allow us to enter the building 30 minutes prior to the first game.
    - Friday - Opens at 5:30am so this is not an issue.
    - Saturday - Opens at 6:30am so this works for a 7am start
    - Sunday - same as Saturday
    - Monday - Opens at 8am so they ask that we schedule our first games at 8:30am.
  - They will not switch the rinks on us again as that led to a lot of confusion.
  - We had a team from Regina using an air horn. No one could figure out who was doing it, but it was obvious that they were with a specific team. We will put this in our Activities package and Coach's package for next year.

- They would like us to be clear with our teams' families that there are no dogs allowed inside the Tri-Leisure. I guess they had a few people trying to sneak their dogs into the games.
- We are actively looking for 2 more Tournament Coordinators to help us out with the 2025 Tournament. The purpose of these coordinators would be to learn so they can take over for us for the 2026 tournament. This would not be a board position, just a step above a committee volunteer. Please start talking to people and have anyone interested contact us at [Tournament@sprucegroveringette.com](mailto:Tournament@sprucegroveringette.com)
- Some ideas for next year...
  - Our Tournament committee was amazing this year. They put in 14 hours of meetings, 4+ tournament volunteer hours, and countless hours on their own time. Also they raised around \$24,000.00 in sponsorship money. It is really underestimated what our committee puts into our association. We would like to see our committee members compensated in some way for their efforts. Perhaps not requiring committee members to work a bingo shift or something like that. We would love to hear your suggestions at the next meeting. *We will table this for the next meeting.*
  - For parent volunteer shifts, we are discussing changing it to *"each player must be represented by one volunteer shift. This excludes head coaches, managers, and Tournament Committee members"* This may help us to obtain more volunteers.
  - The addition of a volunteer shift in the team lounge would be helpful. This person could ensure that everything is clean and make sure there aren't any people outside of ringette coming in to use the space. We didn't have a problem with anything this year, but it might not be a bad idea for the future.
  - We suggest that sucker trees are no longer used at Glenn Hall and Stu/Grant moving forward. There isn't a lot of action at these locations. It is a hassle getting the money from there everyday, and it would eliminate more volunteer shifts.
  - TeamSnap Tournaments will no longer be used for updating scores during the tournament. RAMP has everything we need and it's also a lot less work for us to not have to do data entry.
  - It has been suggested that the board gives permission to someone on the tournament Activities Committee to post directly to SGRA social media. Heather did a great job, but the tournament is a lot. It would be much better for everyone if someone from Activities could go on and schedule all of the posts for the tournament. This of course is a board decision. *We will table this for the next meeting.*
  - We suggest considering moving away from using **Sport Accommodations** for hotel bookings next year. As we received complaints during the tournament, some of which concerned safety. As much as the \$3,000.00 kick back is nice, we would hate to see anything happen to one of the visiting teams because Team Sport Accommodations chose a seedy hotel. Of course this would be a board decision. *We will table this for the next meeting.*