

Vice President & Director of Operations

Vice President: Sean Hogan

The 2019 - 2020 season was another year of opportunity, successes and challenges. SGRA had 312 registered athletes from the tri-municipal area and beyond, 22 teams from Active Start to Open, 155 coaches, trainers, Junior coaches and team staff, 24 referees, parents, volunteers, and fans! Teams at all ages and levels saw personal and team successes, both ON and OFF the ice, in fun, friendships, skill development, life skills development, and competition. SGRA congratulates each of you and your teams on those successes! We would like to congratulate 3 athletes from SGRA that participated in the Alberta Winter Games and won silver (Avery Kew, Kayla Hogan, and Paytyn Wood). We also had 2 coaches from our association on the coaching staff for the Alberta Winter Games team (Jacinda Rolph and Jason Stypula). Congratulations to all of you and big thanks for your great representation of SGRA.

Unfortunately, we were not able to finish the year with league championships, Provincials, Westerns or Nationals. But we are hopeful we will be able to have a full season of ringette this upcoming year.

The Sweetheart Tournament continues to be a highlight for our teams. While not without its bumps, hurdles and additional workload for volunteers, teams appreciated being able to compete in a home tournament in front of friends and family. Our tournament volunteers received numerous compliments on how well the tournament was run.

While not one of most exciting activities, keeping policies up to date is one of the primary responsibilities of any Board. The Board has now reviewed and updated all its policies. Watch for updates to the website prior to next season.

Ringette and youth sport continue to see challenges ahead: how to balance elevated expectations with the need to keep sport affordable for all; volunteer burnout; athlete retention into adolescence and adulthood (sport for life); the ability to provide options for every participation context; revenue generation; and the need for ice and other facilities to accommodate growth. This past year BGL introduced a parent liaison that be assigned for each game from each team. The report back from BGL was that there was an 80% compliance rate which should improve over the coming years.

The board has been working on possible options in regard to what next season will look like and we will be following Health Canada, Alberta Health, Ringette Canada and Ringette Alberta guidelines as we move closer to the start of the 2020 – 2021 season

Finally, a BIG thank you to all our members and volunteers within SGRA – kids, parents, team staff, Board members, sponsors, fans, etc. You ARE Spruce Grove Ringette Association! None of this is possible without your continued support and participation.

Past-President

Past President: Leanne Couves

Helped out and provided guidance when requested
Participated in planning sessions to draft an SGRA 3-year Strategic Plan



Administration (Secretary)

Director: Shelley MacCallum

Overall it has been a good year as secretary for the SGRA board. I booked the rooms for all the meetings, created the agendas and meeting minutes. I was able to attend every meeting this year along with a few executive committee meetings along the way.

Registration (Registrar)

Director: Lisa McIntyre

For the 2019-2020 Season, SGRA had **312 registered players**, resulting in 21 League Teams, as well as 1 Active Start team.

Number of Registrations / Number of Teams:

Active Start – 9 (1 Team)

Open – 20 (1 Team)

U10 – 82 (6 Teams)

U12 – 63 (5 Teams)

U14 – 60 (4 Teams)

U16 – 46 (3 Teams)

U19 – 32 (2 Teams)

Attempting to project registration numbers during a global pandemic has been extremely difficult. In mid-May 2020, a survey was sent out to the SGRA membership to gauge their thoughts and opinions on registering for the upcoming season. The results of the survey are as follows:

193 – Total Participants

174 – Plan on Registering

2 – Do not plan on Registering

17 – Are unsure if they are going to Register

The overall feel of those who responded to the survey was that they felt relatively safe having their child(ren) play in the upcoming season. If projections were based off the numbers that have said they plan on registering – teams for the 2020/2021 season would look like the following:

0 - Active Start Teams

2 - U10 Teams

2 or 3 - U12 Teams

3 or 4 - U14 Teams

2 - U16 Teams

1 - U19 Team (with 5-6 players having to be exported to other associations)

The SGRA Executive have decided (for the 2020/2021 Season) to waive the “late registration fee” for any registrations received after June 30th, 2020. Removing this late fee will allow those families who are unsure about registering the chance to register with no penalty. Registration will be open until September 15th, or three days prior to evaluations (whichever comes first). SGRA has also decided to extend the number of payments in the payment plan option from 3 payments to 4 payments, which should help relieve the

financial burden for families. The new payment plan dates will be 1) ¼ at time of Registration 2) ¼ on July 15 3) ¼ on August 15 4) ¼ on September 15. Each player must be paid in full by September 15th, unless alternate arrangements have been received and approved by the Registrar and Treasurer.

For those who are needing financial assistance, the following programs are available to help:

Jump Start for Kids

<https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/>

KidSport

<http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/alberta/parkland/>

Ice Acquisition & Allocation

Director: Fenna Poelzer

- Attended user group meetings at the Tri-Leisure Centre and Town of Stony Plain. The City of Spruce Grove did not have an in-person user group meeting, as allocation was conducted via email
- Attended Stony Plain Community Plan meeting regarding future development including the arena, surrounding area, and access
- Gained one additional ice slot in Stony Plain for the 2019-20 season, for a total of 36.75 hours for youth per week. One adult slot adds another 1.25 hours
- Coordinated with SPMHA to pick up ice from them on short notice on a few occasions
- Youth Breakdown includes:
 - Mondays – 4 hours
 - Tuesdays – 2 hours
 - Wednesdays – 4 hours
 - Thursdays – 1 hour
 - Saturdays – 13 hours
 - Sundays – 12 .75 hours
 - No additional outdoor ice slots were contracted as in previous years these slots were only used sporadically due to weather fluctuations and early thaw.
- Secured ice at 5 arenas for the Sweetheart Tournament
- Maintained regular school gym use for off-ice development (facilitated by the Director of Player Assessment and Development)
- Tracked practices, games and tournaments to ensure ice equity amongst all teams
- Hosted AA provincials for U14, U16 and U19. These events are organized by Ringette Alberta and our costs are reimbursed.
- Hosted U10 S3 windup games. We were reimbursed by BGL for the extra ice that we provided.
- Regional ice allocation meetings planned for April have been deferred so there will be no change to allocation methods by the facilities for the 2020-2021 season
- Teams that for whom provincials and/or year-end tournaments were cancelled were reimbursed by Ringette Alberta for ice costs
- Contracts for the 2020-2021 will have conditions added relating to Covid-related cancellations; the wording is not yet finalized

Player Development & Assessment

Director: Karie Nothof

Power skating sessions were challenging to set up to support U10 teams as they did not share an ice time this season. It is recommended for the 2020 – 2021 season that U10 groups share ice to encourage better scheduling of power skating sessions.

The Balance of SGRA was granted \$150.00 in Development funds for their team to be submitted to the Director for approval.

A goalie session was held to support U10/12 teams. Coaches/Goalie Coaches were encouraged to attend with 1 or 2 goalies from their teams. A second goalie Session was held mid-season. This was a last minute set up, due to ice availability so attendance was lower.

There was less Dryland availability this season. One complaint was issued from the City of Spruce Grove, which was addressed with the Head Coach of the team. Securing more dryland opportunities for the 2020 - 2021 season is recommended during the Director of Ice Allocation user group meeting.

Assessment Review

A revised Evaluation Guide was approved by the SGRA Board for the 2020 - 2021 season.

The evaluation process for AA required approximately 40 hours of volunteer time to implement in August. For the balance of the Association, the process required approximately 50 hours of volunteer time to implement in September.

The UAA Coordinator position continued this season to support Evaluations. It is being recommended that UAA assessment take place before the scrimmage portion of the evaluations for the U10 – U14 groups in the 2020 – 2021 season. This will also assist to assess whether AA is viable for the U14 division.

The Evaluation Coordinator position was added in the 2019 - 2020 season and is being recommended to continue for the 2020 – 2021 season. This position assists to have more focus on the evaluation process and supports more consistency with team formation and oversight.

Coaching Development & Assessment

Director: Michelle Viney

The season went very well with the coaches. As a coaching director, I had minimal issues that were brought to my attention.

After reviewing the coach review reports, it was under the impression that the U10 Step 1's had a great experience with half ice. The coaches adapted to the change well and seemed to do a great job in creating fun and developing skills. The parents overall were very happy with the coaches. Step 2 and 3 also had a great season and the reviews by the parents were also great.

U12-U19 also had a great year with their teams. Any teams that had issues seem to be able to deal with them internally within their team and their director, with little help or guidance needed by the association. Coaching certification went well with very little changes to TRF's. We only had a few assistants who had to be removed from TRF's due to incomplete certification.

The junior coach clinic went over really well at the beginning of the year. We had approx. 12 junior coaches out with 12 volunteer players for an hour of 1 on 1 instruction. This helped the girls determine if junior coaching was of interest to them. I would like to see this continue in the future.



I was asked by a couple coaches, to visit their practices to oversee and observe, and to provide feedback. I encourage this to be implemented further this year, as I think it would be a great tool for newer coaches.

My recommendation for this coming year is more direction and guidance for the newer coaches at the younger levels. I feel an introduction to coaching lead by more experienced coaches in a classroom setting, would help them gain some knowledge and confidence without taking up ice time.

Overall it was a great year that was unfortunately cut short for almost every team because of COVID.

Director of Officials & Referee Scheduler

Director: Sherry Stypula & Lindsay Andrews

The 2019/20 Season, although shortened, ran smoothly from an Officials/Scheduler perspective. SGRA hired two new officials this season along with the return of two senior officials come back from years off. This helped out due to the four former officials that did not return this season due to other obligations and interests. In total we have twenty-four officials registered with SGRA in our Arbiter System.

With new game format implementations from RAB at the U10-1 level our officials stepped up and learned the new half ice play rules and are ready to start the next season.

Our annual Sweetheart Tournament reported successful with limited official complaints and concerns. We had several applications for the tournament and with help from NARA for the higher levels we were able to get the schedule completed with all games covered with adequate level officials.

Even with short notice, we had the U12 Championship ready to go with scheduled officials but due to the Covid-19 it was cancelled last minute.

Ninety percent of our officials received a yearly evaluation, with four officials "leveling up". Overall a successful year, moving forward we are always looking to improve in all areas including and not limited to scheduling, official feedback and mentoring.

U10 Active Start & Step 1

Director: Dana Cyrenne

This year involved a lot of change to the Active Start and Step 1 programs, with the introduction of half-ice (Step 1) and cross ice (Active Start) play, as well as other adjustments to the season such as ice time adjustments and decreased team sizes.

Our Active Start program showed decreased registration and struggled with the logistics of game play and practice development. Registration was reopened for the second session to create a 2-session program, which was successful in gaining a few more players and resulting in an improved experience for all involved. A decision was made by the Board to continue with registrations options for fall/winter as single sessions or both sessions together.

Our Step 1 program experienced significant changes in the move from full ice to half ice play. Struggles related to inconsistency amongst associations posed an issue during game play. We were fortunate to have flexible and creative coaching staff on both teams which provided for positive experiences for the athletes. General feedback related to half ice play was primarily positive.

Challenges were related to inconsistencies at league games such as reffing (often absent), and score keeping guidelines.

U10 Step 2 and Step 3

Director: Shawn Getz

In summarizing this 2019-2020 season I will not report on team records or what division they ended up in rather I would prefer to report on some key indicators with focuses on Growth, Maturation, and Development. Surround yourself with a great support staff. I felts that our coaches did a fantastic job putting their assistant coaches, junior coaches and managers together on each team. Each one of them came to us with a plan on how they would accomplish and achieve these indicators. In turn the team managers did an amazing job of running each of their teams to give the athletes the best opportunity to be successful on and off the ice. Lastly the parents for all the volunteer hours whether it was fundraising, tournaments or sweetheart committee, I could go on and on. I also wanted to say how great it was to come out to a games and hear encouragement and positivity directed at the athletes. It was my privilege to watch the kids grow, mature and develop throughout the year in height and on the ice. In closing I can say it was my privilege to be part of the U10 Step 2-3 divisions and on a successful year that all the teams had this year. Hope to see you all back next year!

U12

Director: Shelley Schmidt

The association was pleased to be able to field 5 teams at the U12 level for the 2019-20 season; one U12A, two U12B, and two U12C teams. At various points in the season all of our teams experienced great success on and off the ice. A big shout out to the excellent coaching staff/team managers, and the highly committed parent groups on every one of the teams. It was a pleasure to work with you all this season.

Upon reflection, it would be helpful for the 2020-21 Season that a coaches/managers/director meeting be held in mid-November leading up to the BGL repooling meeting. This meeting would ensure that the most accurate information is forwarded to BGL in advance of any midseason team movement.

Thank you to the U12B-2 team, who undertook the responsibility of hosting the new format U12 Black Gold League Championships for their pool. Day 1 of the Championships was underway, when unfortunately the remainder of the tournament as well as all of the Championship competitions league wide were cancelled in accordance with the Ringette Alberta COVID 19 Response Plan. In that regard sadly the season came to an abrupt end for everyone as was the case for so many of our SGRA athletes.

Once again, thank you to all coaching staff, team managers, and parents. You are instrumental in developing our young athletes' love for this awesome sport.

U14

Director: Brian Pedlar

The 2019-2020 saw SGRA host 4 teams this season. U14 was represented in the following levels: AA, A, B and C. Each team consisted of 14-15 players per team indicating continued interest within the game of ringette and our association.

All four teams competed at their respected levels and certainly faced challenges and successes throughout the season as all teams do. Our AA team did battle throughout the season and ended with a record of 3-8-3 in the BGL. Unfortunately, they did not finish as well as they had hoped for at Provincials hosted by SGRA. The A team finished 1st overall in the BGL with a season record of 13-1-2. The B team finished 4th In their division with a BGL season record of 8-5-3. Both the A & B teams qualified for provincials. Unfortunately due to Covid-19, neither team was able to compete in their respective Provincial championships. This was undoubtedly extremely disappointing to both of these teams. The C team



finished with an overall season record of 4-9-3 in the BGL. They started the season strong however did not end as they had hoped and did not qualify for Provincials.

Overall, it was a successful season with only a few incidences brought to my attention throughout the year

U16

Director: Aaron Bomke

The 2019-2020 saw SGRA host 3 teams this season at the U16 level. U16 was represented in the following levels: AA, A, and B. Each team consisted of 14-16 players per team indicating continued interest within the game of ringette and our association.

All three teams competed at their respected levels and certainly faced challenges and successes throughout the season as all teams do.

Our AA team battled throughout the season and ended up finishing 3rd in session 2 and second in Playoffs in the BGL. Their record for the year was 8-5-1.

The A team finished 2nd overall in the BGL with a season record of 12-4-0 and the second highest goals for in their division scoring 122. They did not finish as strong as hoped in playoffs but had a blast while there.

The B team finished 2nd in their division with a BGL season record of 9-6-1. Impressively, they had the second-best goals against in their division.

Goal for 20/21 season is to thoroughly review goaltending distribution by team.

Overall, it was a successful season and any incidences brought to my attention throughout the year were dealt with to the best of my ability.

18+ (Open)

Director: Jacinda Rolph

Open ringette had a fun season and we are waiting to see what happens with flex ringette as well as next season. If flex is a no go we are open to discussing a possibility of having a second open team if needed

Stats

Director: Desiree Janzen

This year ran smoothly in terms of getting game sheets to teams and keeping the manager's cupboard stocked with extra sheets. Completed game sheets were collected from the Manager's lock up at Stu Barnes as well as via email. There was, however, some difficulty with collecting ALL of the games sheets as some teams either didn't hand them in or did so at their leisure which made it very difficult to track statistics in a timely manner. Completed Tournament game sheet submission was also requested at the beginning of the year. Some teams submitted them and others didn't.

SGRA tracks both penalty minutes and infraction type as well use of Affiliate Players. There were no instances this year where accrued penalty minutes resulted in a coach receiving a game suspension.

My recommendation for next year is to ensure games sheets are submitted to SGRA when games are reported to BGL including tournament game sheets. This is extremely important in the first session before the re-pooling meeting so that SGRA is prepared for movement of teams if needed. I would also recommend that each manager electronically submit their game sheet to SGRA, making sure the game

sheet is LEGIBLE and CLEAR. Paper copies are also helpful but could be left in Managers lockup at Stu Barnes.

BGL Rep

Coordinator: Krista Wood

From a league game perspective, a successful (albeit shortened) season.

There were few suspensions or fines issued throughout the league. A friendly reminder to utilize the lines of communication if you have questions or concerns from a league level.

Black Gold increased its membership this year to include Z2 u19AA and Calgary U19AA thus making u19AA a provincial pool.

Significant changes to the u12 year end tournament were implemented this year under direction from RAB and in conjunction with Southern Alberta's league. The early end to the season didn't allow us to determine how that would have played out but it appeared to be running smoothly.

The season was cut short at many age levels due to Covid19 and the upcoming season may end up looking different than past seasons. More will be determined and communicated by Ringette Canada and RAB in the coming months.

Sponsorship

Coordinator: Krystie Watson

An updated SGRA Corporate Sponsorship Plan has been developed and discussed with the Board (August 2019). The Plan aims to clearly articulate the revenue the SGRA needs to collect via corporate sponsorships and grants and how this money will be used to support the SGRA on an ongoing basis. This Corporate Sponsorship Plan will be rolled into the overall "Spruce Grove Ringette Association Strategic Plan 2022-2022".

Sweetheart Tournament

Coordinator: Korrin Lenderbeck & Jessie Krefting

- 69 teams plus 2 playdowns teams from as far west as Kelowna, BC and as far east as Regina and Saskatoon and close to 975 athletes and their families came through the TLC, Stu Barnes and Glenn Hall arenas
- Vendors included: Real Hip (Vancouver), Sweet Elements (Spruce Grove), Dani and Madi (Spruce Grove) and Damaged Timbers (Spruce Grove). All reported having great sales.
- Revenue generated from the tournament (still waiting on a few items): \$77,217.04
 - Registration \$36,375
 - Sponsors and advertising \$18,301
 - Raffle table and silent auction \$22,541.04
- Expenses total: \$45,493.02.
 - Ice \$21,321.96
 - Referees \$8,685.29
 - Player gifts and medals \$7,841.41
 - Programs \$840.00
 - Rooms and misc \$6,804.36
- We had 52 silent auction items donated and 15 raffle baskets.



- People were extremely positive about the tournament; many commented that it was very well organized and would be applying to return next year. People especially liked the heart-shaped medals. Cash prizes awarded to the Open division this year \$250 - 1st and \$150 - 2nd
- People also enjoyed their swag bags in particular the toiletry bags and scrunchies. Random Player awards were also well received.
- We had very few issues or hiccups and are grateful for our Committee Reps for all of their help!

Special Event

Coordinator: Allyson Zelisko

2019 Galaxyland event was a success overall

1377 people attended the event

The general feedback from the event attendees was positive

Possible changes to come to 'Special Event' for 2020/2021 season due to COVID-19. SGRA is waiting on a response from WEM about the Special Event and if the event does not happen if we can get our \$1000 deposit returned or carried forward into 2021. SGRA board is also working on other options for fundraising initiatives for the season.