

# Ice Manager Report for the 2020-2021 Season.

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This was my fifth year as the ice manager for the Waterloo Ringette Association (WRA).

This past season, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WRA formed 10 youth cohorts, based on ages ranging from U6 to U19, and 4 adult cohorts.

My primary responsibility as ice manager was to ensure that WRA's allocation of ice suited the needs of these cohorts and was distributed in a balanced and timely manner.

Working with the City of Waterloo, ice was secured, and the season officially started for our youth cohorts, ages U8-U19, on September 12. To start, cohorts practiced based on Stage 2 of Ringette Ontario's Return to Ringette policy, which allowed socially distanced skating and drills.

At the end of September, WRA progressed into Ringette Ontario's Stage 3, which allowed for modified game play and practice drills that simulate game scenarios. It was during Stage 3 that our U6 and adult cohorts returned to the ice. As such, the quantity of ice secured from the City matched the increased needs of the association.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, scrimmages were added to the schedule for our youth cohorts. Referees and timekeepers were added, making these scrimmages feel more official and competitive. Most of our youth cohorts were able to play 4 scrimmages before November 23<sup>rd</sup>, when the Provincial Government moved the Waterloo Region into the 'RED Zone', which limited indoor activities to a maximum of 10 people. After significant deliberation, WRA's Board of Directors decided to put our season on hold and all scheduled ice was cancelled and returned to the City. Ontario would ultimately move into a province-wide lockdown until mid-February 2021.

In February 2021, on-ice programming was allowed to resume, with 10 players allowed on the ice at a time. Sufficient ice was secured to run a 4-week program of skating and socially distanced drills. The conclusion of this 4-week program would mark the end of the 2020-2021 season for WRA.

As we look forward to the summer and next season, I will continue to monitor COVID restrictions with summer programming and tryouts in mind. When there is an opportunity for WRA to safely offer programming, I will work with the City to secure a suitable ice allocation.

After five years of managing the ice scheduling needs for WRA, I believe it is time for a new volunteer with a fresh perspective to assume the ice manager role. I will be happy to train my successor and will do my best to ensure a seamless transition.