

2020-2021 Season - President's Report

Waterloo Ringette's goal this past unprecedented season was to keep our membership engaged, while providing developmental opportunities for our players and coaches.

We started our season planning in August 2020 with guidelines from Ringette Ontario that were being updated and amended regularly. As an Association our task was to get the players back on the ice and provide an alternate season for our players while following public health directives to ensure all participants safety.

Thanks to an amazing group of volunteers who did an incredible amount of work to coordinate programming for the Fall of 2020, we were able to provide distanced practices and ice times for all players ages U6 to U19. As restrictions eased and we moved further into Fall 2020 we were able to organize inter-squad games and some exhibition games at some age groups with our neighbouring association Kitchener.

As restrictions were ramped up again in late 2020 and into 2021 we had to return to our distance programming but our players were still ready to get back to the ice.

I cannot thank our volunteer coaches enough, many of whom were on the ice with multiple groups and who were tasked with planning and running practices in this environment. They provided instruction and opportunity for development under unbelievable circumstances.

A huge thank you as well to all our parents who ensured we as an Association were compliant with Covid safety precautions allowing Waterloo Ringette to run successful programming for our players.

Ringette Ontario continues to provide direction for next season. Pre-Season programming is in discussion at this time to get players back on the ice in late August 2021. Tryouts for Provincial teams that normally occur in the Spring will take place after September 1, 2021. Team formation at the Provincial and Regional level will move forward in the Fall along with the start of game play, while tournament planning will move forward for 2022.

This coming season brings some familiar challenges as well. 1) Season planning as we continue to ease restrictions, 2) Growing our sport — players, coaches and volunteers 3) Collaborating with neighbouring associations 3) Continue to invest in our volunteers with training and mentoring opportunities for their development and the development of our players and 4) increasing volunteer involvement of our parents.

I once again want to thank our amazing Board of Directors, volunteers, parents and players for making the best of this past unprecedented year.

I look forward the upcoming season and seeing everyone back at the arena!

Leah Chapman

President, Waterloo Ringette Association