

Waterloo Minor Ringette Association
Vice-President Report, 2021-2022

In late November 2021, I began communicating with Tom Armbruster at [Unique Embroidery Promotions & Awards/Artals Engraving](#) to order medals and labels for the 2022 Waterloo Winterfest Tournament. I ordered 125 silver medals and 125 gold medals to offset the medals remaining from previous years that are kept in the WRA storage area at RIM Park. Although I had initially ordered labels to accompany these medals, I was able to cancel them once we learned that Winterfest had to be canceled as a result of COVID-19. Bobbi-Jo Schweitzer (Treasurer) assisted by providing cheques to pay for the items. Next season, labels will need to be ordered with the appropriate year on them. Old medals can be used, as well, although labels need to be removed from some of them. In the future, the process of ordering medals and labels should begin no later than November 15th, so approximately 2 months prior to Winterfest.

In late December, I received numerous emails from frustrated ringette families (both from the WRA and KRA) regarding orders they had placed with Syco Life, the Waterloo Ringette Association's preferred merchandise and clothing provider for the 2021-2022 season. They reported unreasonably delivery timelines, poor workmanship on products, and a lack of communication coming from the company. In response, I drafted and sent an email to the owner and manager of Syco Life to convey the frustrations and requests of his clients associated with the WRA. He responded with his own perspective on the situation and reported that he would do his best to get the orders completed and ready prompt. I did not hear back from him for the remainder of the ringette season.

At a board meeting in early 2022, I proposed the idea of posting the responsibilities associated with each board position on the website so that they are accessible to the public. This endeavour didn't get very far at the time, but, given the opportunity, I would like to continue working on it. Mark DeLaFrenier (Past-President) and Bobbi-Jo Schweitzer (Treasurer) provided invaluable insights and suggestions on this initiative.

As tryouts approached for the 2022-2023 season, I partially took on the responsibilities of the Director of Minor Officials by communicating with individuals who had previously worked as timekeepers and shot clock operators to arrange for those positions to be filled for tryout scrimmages and games. This incorporated emailing an updated spreadsheet to timekeepers' parents with the times, dates, and locations for the ice times requiring timekeepers and shot clock operators, as well as arranging payment for the individuals through Bobbi-Jo Schweitzer (Treasurer) and Leah Chapman (President). In the end, we scheduled these two roles for a total of 7 ice times at the U19AA, U16A, and U14A levels.

During the tryouts for the 2022-2023 season, I assisted with one team's tryout committee on a couple of occasions. After the first meeting, I made a couple of suggestions at the following board meeting about how the role of those working with coaches during these meetings could be altered for the sake of providing each participant with more information and therefore make

them more knowledgeable and informed participants in the process. I believe some changes would allow the process to be more transparent and hopefully represent the best interests of Waterloo players, while, in doing so, reflecting the values and goals presented in the organization's mission statement and Provincial Tryouts and Player Selection Policy's guiding principles. I hope that this conversation will continue next season and include input from other board members, coaches, and parents.

Following the 2021-2022 season's conclusion, I have initiated conversations with Vince Turkalj, owner and manager of Sports Zone in Waterloo, to see if his store could be a suitable equipment and clothing provider for WRA families next season and hopefully beyond. As of the end of May 2022, we have had one meeting, and Vince has agreed to provide some material and information to be shared with the WRA Board for consideration. Vince has expressed an interest in presenting to the board at a future meeting. At the end of March, I also communicated with Tanis Humphrey, owner and operator of the Ringette Store in Stratford, to express interest in promoting her company, particularly regarding stitching at the bottom of ringette pants.

Mike Richardson