

Waterloo Ringette Association
Annual General Meeting – June 2023
Officiating Report

In total, the WRA hosted 150 league and exhibition games this season.

We are excited that the WRA had officials invited to be involved with the Western Region Ringette Championships in Kitchener, the 'A' Provincial Championships in Mississauga and the 'AA' Provincial Championships in Kitchener/Waterloo. These events are the pinnacle of the sport in our province at the various levels and we are proud of those officials that were able to represent the Waterloo Ringette Association again this season.

We are lucky to have a core group of officials who are always willing to pick up/ cover games at the Regional/ Open and A level, without them, many games would not have had refs this season.

We have very few young officials in our program, which makes the future of the Waterloo officiating program unknown. We need to find ways to encourage younger officials to join and get involved. There are many factors that contribute to the lack of young officials, leaving the city for school, time commitments such as work and school and conflicts with their own playing schedule. But one of the biggest issues continues to be the treatment they receive while on ice from coaches, parents and players. To be yelled at and ridiculed for an incorrect call or missed call is not appropriate under any circumstance. We saw first hand how out of control coaches, players and fans can get and the significant impact it has on the individuals refing, the association and the sport. No one deserves to be yelled at or treated in any such way when they are giving their own personal time to ref so a game is able to be played. Please consider this when you are at the arena next time.

All this said, the Waterloo Ringette Association's officiating program continues to be the home to many strong and skilled referees, but we always need new officials each year. If you are interested or know someone that is interested in becoming an official, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss.

I would like to thank all the officials for a fantastic year. I look forward to being a part of WRA for a full season and see what we can accomplish together!

Jessica Mezenberg
Referee-in-Chief
Waterloo Ringette Association