

Ice Manager Report for the 2023-2024 Season.

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

As the ice manager, my primary responsibility is to ensure that Waterloo Ringette's allocation of ice is distributed in a balanced and timely manner for home games, practices, power skating, skills clinics, special events and tryouts. During the 2023-2024 season, Waterloo Ringette used approximately 600 hours of ice (not including away games). This past season, WRA had 15 teams competing at various age and skill levels. These teams participate in four leagues throughout Ontario (WRRL, GLRL, SWIRL) or nationally (NRL). Each league builds their game schedules in different ways, with different procedures and timelines and are published in late-September or early October.

Notable Items from the Season:

Power skating for the Rep teams

In September, the decision was made to add 10 power skating sessions to be split between our U14A and U16A teams. As we were already locked into our ice contract through to January, this caused some logistical challenges for these teams as they were asked to practice together on Tuesday nights to allow for the extra hour to be set aside for power skating. For January-March, with the 10 power skating sessions complete, the teams were able to go back to full ice practices during the week. Thank you to these players and coaches for your flexibility this past season.

Columbia Ice Fields now has ringette lines.

In late spring the University of Waterloo decided to add the ringette lines to their Columbia Ice Fields (CIF). While it is preferred to use the city arenas for Waterloo Ringette, it is always nice to have an option that is close by that we can use if extra ice is needed.

Rep Tryouts

The city pulled their ice out in April. This made finding ice times for rep try outs a challenge. Neighbouring facilities look to sort out their cities needs for tryout ice first and then will offer any remaining ice to outsiders. Ice at the Cambridge Ice park was secured to accommodate A level tryouts.

Looking Forward to Next Season:

A new joint regional B/C league is being created to consolidate all B/C within Central, Southern and Western Regions. Lower Ontario Ringette League (LORL) will be the new home for all B/C teams in Western Region replacing WRRL.