

**SWIRL Meeting**  
**Sunday, September 17, 2017**  
**2:00pm Edelweiss Tavern,**  
**600 Doon Village Road, Kitchener (small meeting room)**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order (2 pm)**

Prior to Roll Call Chair Laura Pfanner advised the meeting attendees that SWIRL had just received notice from WRRRA (this morning) of a “new option for Independent Team Registration” and WRRRA’s approval of an “Independent Adult Association” for teams that do not register through an association. Laura also advised that no details on costs, etc. of registering via this avenue were provided in the communication. She then gave any attending teams which were not participating in League play and preferred to register directly with WRRRA the option to leave the meeting. No teams exercised this option.

**Roll Call**

Ayr, Cambridge Coyotes, Dorchester, Guelph Cougars, Guelph Gold, Guelph White, Kitchener Bandits, Kitchener Nites, Kitchener Rebels, Kitchener Wild, London Storm, London Strike, Mitchell, North Dumfries Cougars, St. Clements, St. Marys, St. Thomas, Stratford Stingers, Stratford Thunder (tournament team), Tillsonburg, Waterloo C, Waterloo Fury, Waterloo Immortals, Woodstock, Woolwich Beez, Woolwich Legends.

New teams: Royal City Ravens ‘B’ tournament team (moved Stratford Stingers, 2nd Dorchester, carried)

Departing teams: Chatham, Cambridge Coyotes (league team; switching to ‘CC’ tournament team)

**Review of January 2017 Exec Committee Report Summary in lieu of minutes**

There was no meeting in January/17 (weather cancellation). As such there were no minutes to review or approve. The summary of the Executive Committee reports, as circulated and posted to SWIRL’s web site, was reviewed. No questions or concerns.

**SWIRL Executive Committee Elections for 2017-2018** (nominator, seconder)

- Chair - Laura Pfanner (Bandits, Immortals; re-elected)
- Vice Chair - Tori Wood (St. Clements, Guelph Gold; re-elected)
- Treasurer - Connie Sanders (Immortals, Strike; re-elected)
- Secretary - Angela Kington (Woolwich Legends, Woolwich Beez; carried)
- Discipline Chair - Jane Larkworthy (St. Thomas, Bandits; re-elected)
- Scheduler - Brenda Brenner (Immortals, Stratford Stingers; re-elected)
- Statistician - Brenna Veats (Guelph Gold, Woodstock; re-elected)

- Registrar - Tammy Mast (Stratford Thunder, Woolwich Legends; elected)

## **2016-2017 Executive Committee Reports**

### **Chair's Report** [Laura Pfanner]

Privacy of our member information: Specifically with respect to our SWIRL team contacts as posted on our web site, SWIRL will be changing our username and password. We will advise team contacts (as provided to us during this meeting) once that's done.

Levels of governing bodies: Our players deal (in some way) with four governing bodies for ringette: National (Ringette Canada) Provincial (ORA), Regional (Western (WRRRA)/Southern (SRRRA) Regions) and SWIRL. All players registered with the ORA are also registered with Ringette Canada. SWIRL is a member Association of WRRRA, so all teams that register through SWIRL are also members of WRRRA. Teams that register through their Minor Associations are members of the respective Region in which that Association resides. SWIRL has jurisdiction over SWIRL play including the actions of our League members during League play. Regions have jurisdiction over Regional play (e.g., Regional Championships). The Province (ORA) has jurisdiction over sanctioned play (tournaments) and all other matters related to its registered members (teams and individuals).

Formal Complaint vs. WRRRA: On Jan. 26/17, Laura (in her position as SWIRL Chair) filed a formal complaint "regarding the actions of the WRRRA Executive and Coordinators toward some of our (SWIRL) teams". There were two specific situations cited in the complaint: Refusal to allow our member teams to withdraw with full refund from a tournament in which a higher level (B) team was permitted to register in a lower division (CC), and threatening to deny participation in a sanctioned event (which began the next day) of a number of our member teams due to SWIRL's WRRRA fee being outstanding. With respect to the latter, SWIRL did not receive either an invoice or an "overdue notice/reminder" from WRRRA prior to our teams being threatened with ineligibility. Secondary to these two specific situations, the complaint also cited "offensive, condescending and borderline bullying" in written the communications received from a member of the WRRRA Executive. In its written decision, ORA's Appeals and Complaints Committee sided with SWIRL on both of the primary components of the complaint, stating that "G & T representatives must be reminded of their ongoing obligations to fairly and consistently adhere to these (G & T) policies", and that "Associations or Regions should be communicating and enforcing these (payment) obligations in a clear and professional manner in strict accordance with their established policies". With respect to the secondary complaint (re: verbiage and tone of correspondence), the ORA, although acknowledging that "elements of the text were blunt and revealed some level of frustration", did not see a basis for the complaint. Laura summarized this section of her report with this caveat: If something doesn't feel right about what your team is being told, let someone on SWIRL's Executive know so that this situation can be investigated.

### **Vice-Chair's Report** [Tori Wood]

Nothing to report.

### **Treasurer's Report** [Connie Sanders]

SWIRL's current bank balance is \$651.59. The only expenses since last year were our \$75 ORA fee, odd team fees and our monthly bank fees of \$2.50.

Discussion ensued as to whether to increase the SWIRL registration fee for this season or leave it at \$25 (as per 2016-2017). Moved by St. Thomas, seconded by Woodstock to leave the fee at \$25 for this season. Carried.

Performance bond cheques (\$50, postdated to Jan. 9/18)) and SWIRL registration cheques (\$25) were then collected from the teams.

### **Registrar's Report** [Margie Van Oirschot]

No report was provided to Chair Laura by Margie (who has resigned as SWIRL's registrar). Margie did send Laura the registration materials. Our new Registrar (Tammy) will work with Vice Chair Tori on getting the packages sorted and out (by e-mail).

Teams wishing to have their 2016-2017 performance bond cheques returned were asked to see Laura who will check in the registration materials for those cheques.

### **Statistician's Report** [Brenna Veats]

Game result submission process: Last season's change to the method by which game results were submitted worked really well ... up until the Xmas break and then it really tailed off. Teams are encouraged to comply with the required process. They were also warned that failure to do so may result in fines being levied. A reminder that the process requires that the **HOME TEAM** submit both the game results (on-line) and a copy of the game sheet (by e-mail or photo to Brenna) **within 72 hours** of all SWIRL games. For tournament and exhibition games, **ALL TEAMS** must submit the results and game sheets (within 72 hours).

Changes to SWIRL's Master schedule: Teams were reminded that all game changes (i.e., reschedules, cancellations) **MUST** be submitted to the League via the on-line "game changes" page. The decision was that the **HOME TEAM** will be responsible for those submissions - in a timely manner and regardless of which team triggered the change.

Game sheets: Teams were reminded that SWIRL game sheets are considered official SWIRL documents and therefore must be completed accurately and in full. Please see Brenna's section in the January/17 Executive Report Summary for details.

Substitutions: Teams were reminded to consider the level of play of their opponents when acquiring subs, and that the same substitutions should not be used repeatedly by the same team (i.e., essentially creating two-team players).

Underage (U19) goalkeepers: Woolwich Beez requested that the League consider allowing U19 goalkeepers to participate in SWIRL games. Numerous reasons for that "exception" (to age and TRF requirements) not being feasible included the need for both ADP and G & T approval for (third year only) U19 players to participate in 18+ play. Under current SWIRL operating rules only players registered on

SWIRL TRFs are eligible to participate in SWIRL play, a requirement that is both easy to understand and administer.

**Scheduler's Report** [Brenda Brenner, aka "Beanzie"]

Beanzie expressed her appreciation to all teams for their cooperation in turning around last year's draft schedule in a timely manner.

A new form for collecting ice date submissions was distributed. The revised form includes a number of new questions such as a willingness to play prior to the beginning of November and/or through the Xmas break.

**Secretary's Report** [Tosha]

Nothing to report.

**Disciplinary Chair's Report** [Jane Larkworthy]

SWIRL game sheet falsification: See Appendix A.

NEW (for 2017-2018) game sheet "player sign-in requirement": In response to last season's game sheet falsification situation and effective immediately, every player participating in a SWIRL game must initial her name on the game sheet (in the space directly to the left of the "name" column).

Review of penalties and suspensions: We had three ejections during SWIRL play last season, all in the second half: a Misconduct (for "kicking", which by rule is a Match (not Misconduct)), that was upgraded to a Match Penalty (extra game suspension served in-season); a Misconduct that was assessed following a minor penalty; and a Match that was assessed for a deliberate and aggressive hit from behind with "intent to injure".

In addition, the manager of the team that falsified a SWIRL game sheet (February/17) was suspended from SWIRL for the remainder of the 2016-2017 playing season (2 games).

Carry-over suspensions: The player who was ejected from the WRRRA final in March of 2016 served her (one game) carryover suspension at the beginning of the 2016-2017 season. The player assessed the Misconduct following a minor penalty assessment will be serving her (one game) carryover suspension at the beginning of this (2017-2018) season. The player who was assessed the Match Penalty served two games of her (four) suspension last season. Given that she is not registering with the same team this season, her file has been flagged by the ORA office should she register with another team this season. In addition, the individual suspended for the remainder of last season for her role in the SWIRL game sheet falsification has been suspended as outlined in Appendix A.

League Disciplinary Committee for 2017-2018: Jane (Chair), Tosha, Barry, Tori and Brenna.

Match and Misconduct Penalty Reporting Process: Covered under Section J iv) (p. 9) of our SWIRL Operating Manual. Summarized, BOTH teams are to advise the Discipline Chair, within 24 hours, of any ejections. The NON-OFFENDING TEAM is responsible to forward a copy of the game sheet to the Discipline Chair within 24 hours. If both teams have had ejections, the HOME team is responsible to forward the game sheet to the Discipline Chair (within 24 hours).

Player deportment: Every season, one or more of our SWIRL Executive receives complaints about teams/players “acting badly” during League play. Last season was no different, with two games actually being stopped early because of “bad behaviour” on the part of players or entire teams. A reminder that this is a recreational adult league in which players and teams are (and will be held) responsible for their actions. If you are having issues with players on your team, please remind them of SWIRL’s Mission Statement (“to provide an opportunity to play games in an atmosphere of fair play and sportsmanship”) and deal with it before it becomes a League issue. Teams requiring assistance with these (or any other) issues are encouraged to contact a member of SWIRL’s Executive.

### **Operating Manual Changes [Jane Larkworthy]**

Jane will add “game change reporting” (G iv) 2nd paragraph) and “game sheet sign-in procedure” (Section H, NEW 2nd paragraph) to the 2017-2018 Operating Manual.

### **League Format and Schedule [All]**

#### **2017-2018 Tiers:**

<b>Tier 1 (B+)</b>	<b>Tier 2 (B)</b>	<b>Tier 3 (B-)</b>	<b>Tier 4 (C)</b>
<del>Chatham</del>	<del>Cambridge Coyotes</del>	Dorchester	Kitchener Bandits
Guelph Cougars	Mitchell	London Storm	Kitchener Nites
Guelph Gold	St. Marys	St. Thomas	St. Clements
Kitchener Rebels	Waterloo Fury	Stratford Stingers	Waterloo C
Kitchener Wild		Tillsonburg	Woodstock
London Strike		Woolwich Beez	Ayr
North Dumfries Cougars			
Woolwich Legends			
Waterloo Immortals			

Guelph White			
9	3	6	6

**Crossovers:**

B+: All but ND Cougars will crossover with B

B: All three teams will crossover with B+; Mitchell and St. Marys will crossover to B-

B-: All teams will crossover to both B and C

C: St. Clements, Waterloo C and Woodstock will crossover to B- (other three teams will not)

**New Business**

ADP changes for 2017-2018: Teams were encouraged to review the online version of the ADP section of the ORA Operating Manual via the ORA web site. The following changes (from among those highlighted) were emphasized:

- 3.5 (composite teams): change to # teams, # skaters/team, # goalkeepers, level of play.
- 3.6 (player affiliation): deadline for approval now Dec. 1 (vs. Dec. 15); removal of two-player cap.
- 4.3 (subs for sanctioned play): request to be submitted 14 days in advance (20 days for cross-Region subs).

**Note: 18+ BB and lower teams must have at least one certified bench staff member (i.e., coach, assistant coach, manager or trainer) on their TRF.** All bench staff must have proper qualifications and be registered on the TRF. Age requirements must be met. 18+ BB and lower teams must also have a certified bench staff member (who can be also be a player) for all sanctioned play.

Independent Coaching Registration: Coaches who choose not to be on a bench/TRF but wish to be eligible to substitute for or help out a team may now register independently via the following link:

<http://www.wrra.ca/coaching/>

**Western Region Meetings (Spruce Lodge, Stratford, 7:30 pm):**

- September 14, 2017
- November 16, 2017 (Provincials fees due): team TBD
- January 11, 2018 (Regional's deposit due): Guelph Cougars
- February 22, 2018 (General Meeting): Stratford Thunder
- April 12, 2018 (AGM): Guelph White
- September XX 2018: Waterloo Fury

**Announcements**

Tournaments: Check the ORA website for current listings.

Coaching & Officiating Clinics: Refer to Western Region web site ([www.wrra.ca](http://www.wrra.ca)).

**Note**: 2017-2018 is a rule change year. All ORA-registered teams must send a coach (or, in the case of 18+BB and lower teams, a registered bench staff member) to a “Coaching Refresher”. On-line registration is required for courses hosted by WRRRA. WRRRA Clinics scheduled to date:

- Monday, Oct. 16, 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Dorchester (Flight Exec Centre, Blueline Room)
- Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7-9 pm, Waterloo (RIM Park, Room 104)
- Monday, Oct. 23, 7-9 pm, London (North London Optimist, 1345 Cheapside Street)
- Monday, Nov. 6, 7-9 pm, Guelph (Victoria Arena)
- TBD, Mitchell

Insurance Coverage: See membership notices on ORA Website. ORA insurance certificates are available for download on the ORA web site (search for “forms”, click on “administration forms”, forms A-F-06 (general) and A-F-07 (request for additional insured)).

Other:

- London Open is operating a house league program for those interested
- Question as to whether we would consider a change in venue for our SWIRL meetings (e.g., Woodstock). The answer was yes if someone wanted to investigate. Left in the hands of the person making the suggestion. She will advise in January.

**Next SWIRL meeting**: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at **7:30 p.m.**, Edelweiss.

**Adjournment** (4:20 pm), moved by Guelph White, seconded by Dorchester. Carried.

## Appendix A

### September 2017 SWIRL meeting Game Sheet Falsification Summary

In a League game in February of last season a SWIRL member team knowingly falsified an official SWIRL document, in the form of an Official Game Report (game sheet), by playing a substitute player under the name of one of their rostered players who was absent from the game

In the opinion of SWIRL’s Discipline Committee, playing a player under a false name - in essence committing fraud against the League and, by extension, the opponent - is a very, very serious issue, one which potentially places all game participants (players, team staff, officials and minor officials) at risk

Further, SWIRL’s Discipline Committee considers this a breach of the fundamental premise of any sport: A “trust”, on the part of the opponent and governing body (in this case, SWIRL), that the individuals who are purported to be competing are, in fact, those individuals

Given the gravity of this situation, SWIRL's Discipline Committee deliberated both by e-mail and via an in-person meeting

**Four decisions resulted from those deliberations:**

1. to suspend the individual who took responsibility for falsifying the game sheet; the suspension includes all SWIRL-related activities for the remainder of the 2017 calendar year, and from any SWIRL team representative/liaison roles for the full 2017-2018 season;
2. to fine the offending team who admitted, via e-mail correspondence, to being complicit in the falsification of the game sheet; it should be noted that this fine is the first one levied against a team in the history of SWIRL - a clear indication of the perceived seriousness of this situation;
3. to not suspend or fine the substitute player due to a lack of concrete proof that she was aware that her name did not appear on the game sheet but that her uniform number was attached to the absent player; and,
4. that players participating in SWIRL games need to be aware of their status as it pertains to the game sheet; in that regard, SWIRL will be instituting, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, a game sheet "sign in" process that will require all participating players to personally initial their names on the game sheet.

I can not stress enough the potential gravity of this situation, so much so that the consequences to anyone who commits a similar infraction in future will very likely be much more impactful (in terms of suspensions, fines or some combination thereof).

Jane Larkworthy  
SWIRL Discipline Chair