



Western Region Ringette Association Chair's Report

WRRRA GENERAL MEETING – FEB 20th, 2020

November, December & January have been mostly focused on ensuring tournaments were well supported in the region, setting up regional teams and league play for both regional and provincial levels. Congrats to London, Mitchell, St. Mary's, Waterloo, Mitchell, Kitchener and Guelph for running successful tournaments this season. Also special thanks to Laurier University for hosting the UCC event in Elmira over Christmas break and Waterloo for running last weekends AAA challenge cup.

The Coordinators and Executive continue to work on all the functional areas of our region. If there are any challenges that your association is experiencing and need assistance with, please reach out to the appropriate coordinator.

RO has updated or added several new policies this year, as associations please become familiar with these and if you have questions please direct them to the RO office.

[Alternate Dispute Resolution](#) – New Policy

[Appeal Policy updated](#) – Reduced from 21 days to 14 days & other tune ups

[Expedited Appeal Process updated](#)

[Risk Management Policy](#) – New Policy, Associations will be expected next season to participate in Risk management items specific to their association.

[Safe Sport Policy](#) – New Policy, How Ringette Ontario aims to provide a safe sport environment

[Investigation Policy](#) – New Policy

[Athlete Protection Guideline](#) - New Policy on how a Person in Authority can maintain a safe sport environment for athletes. Rule of two, communication, video, travel etc.

[Whistle Blower Policy](#) – New Policy

Policy/Rules changes being worked on for next season:

-**Fair Ice Guidelines:** updates expected for start of next season, reduced requirements in some areas and will be moved from sport development to coaching

- **Major Penalty not fully served:** Suspension of rule for 2020/2021 season to collect data on it's effectiveness.

-**RO AGM date and format** changing this year – Saturday will have #WEWILL Summit: athlete conference and association member conference with awards dinner that night, then Sunday morning will be the formal AGM meeting Date: June 13th and 14th

-**RO fiscal year end is changing** to better help facilitate year end activities that currently occur on March 31, will be moving to June 30th in 2021. AGM date would likely move to Sept time frame.

Tourney Host Selection Subcommittee: Formally formed within WRRRA since last general meeting for the purpose of seeking tournament hosts and oversight of the tournament bid process. Currently working on U12P hosts for 2021 and Regional Host for 2021.

Committee is being chaired by Nancy Houghtling (G&T)

RO Awards: The opportunity to thank our volunteers from within our associations as the call for nominations for the RO awards is now open until beginning of April – please try and think of outstanding athletes in various positions and levels, volunteers, coaches and leaders within your associations. Let's do our best to make sure that Western Region is well represented at this year's AGM and the awards dinner on June 13th. Link for nominations: <https://ringetteontario.com/ora-forms/awards-and-nominations/>

Officiating:

-Under the new rules the term “reckless” was added so that along with the initial contact to the head or from behind a major penalty could be called on any penalty that was aggressive and intentional or “reckless” in nature. The addition of the term “reckless” to “aggressive and intentional” has led to increased qty of majors called.

Athlete Development:

-Plan was to host 5 goalie clinics- We have had no luck with getting these put together, looking for instructors

-Children's ringette is still in limbo, RO office is going to be working on this, WRRRA associations should thinking about how they will implement for next season. Not sure what it will look like, however plan for now to match what Guelph has done as a starting point.

WRRRA Region Volunteer Screening:

-Next season all board/league executive members for WRRRA, WORL, WRRL, GLRL and Association boards must perform volunteer screening. If a bench staff is a member of an association board then no further screening will be needed at this time.

RO [Screening Policy](#) was updated at start of this season to create three different levels of Risk (low, Med, High) pending the volunteers responsibilities.

RO has also established a relationship with Stirling screening which should be seriously considered by all associations and leagues. Many benefits to using them, such as you not having to handle private/personal information. RO would also deal with any flags raised through this process.

-WRRRA executive will need to decide on the approach we will take to perform these responsibilities.

-New Screening disclosure form: <https://ringetteontario.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/RO-Screening-Disclosure-Form.pdf>. This can be used along with your

-Annual RO Offence Declaration form should be completed by all volunteers and kept by associations/leagues: <https://ringetteontario.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/RO-Annual-Offence-Declaration-Form.pdf>

WRRRA Board Members:

We have a single executive position coming open in April 2020:

-Treasurer position is open for next season for a 2 year term. Anyone interested please let us know

-WRRRA Coordinators please confirm to Chair your interest in participation in your roles for the 2020/21 season prior to AGM.

Social Media and Photos:

Reminder that photos in change rooms and bathrooms should never be taken by team staff or players. These are considered to be private places; cities often have policies in place saying this is not permitted. Teams and individual players should be reminded this is not acceptable. If you see players or teams posting photos which were taken in these locations' associations should request they be taken down by the person posting them immediately.

Competition Review:

- New Steering committee is being formed to manage the three to five year process. Cross functional representation on the steering committee.
- Very pleased to see so many Western Region contributors to the start of Competition Review process. Limited number could attend unfortunately at the 1st brain storming session.

Volunteers for Regionals:

We are looking for volunteers for Regionals. Each association will be asked to contribute volunteers as has been done in the past. Look forward to seeing everyone in London.

Association Audit:

Please let Keith know your AGM dates for your associations. We will try to attend as many as possible this year. Prior or after the AGM meeting, we would like to meet with two executive members (president and one other) to gather information about your association. May setup a google form to collect information prior to meeting

Marketing:

I have met with one local company already, very expensive!, Meeting with another firm tomorrow about approx. costs to complete some effective marketing this summer/early fall. Also, in discussions with RO and other Regions about working together on this initiative. Southern has expressed formal interest. Considering pooling our financial resources along with RO marketing team support to create content and arrange plans since content exists internally already at RO.

- Decided to postpone WRRRA logo update process until we better understand marketing and web page update timelines.

See you at the rink!



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