

G&T Report – Feb 20, 2020 WRRR General Meeting

Special Requests

We received an unprecedented number of requests for exceptions to almost every known ringette rule. A few of these exceptions were granted:

- a U10 team was allowed to form a composite to attend a tournament (not historically permitted for minor teams)
- a new University team was allowed to form a composite for participation in the University division in Oshawa, and UCC's, not following the Adult requirements for composite teams
- at Adult (only), two backup goalies were permitted to play for other teams (with their home team's permission). In both situations, the teams had to sign-off their rights to their goalie for the weekend as they were also in tournaments.
- In one case a goalie just coming off the ice was allowed to play for another team as their goalie took ill at the arena. The same almost happened with another team when their goalie was in a car accident, but she made it to the rink just in time for the game.

Tournament Attendance

Many tournaments filled up very quickly this year. Reminder to all U12 & under teams that Sport Development has capped the number of tournaments permitted for these age groups based on Long Term Athlete Development. This information is now located on the RO site under Operating Resources, Games & Tournaments, Playing Rules (even though it's not G&T rules).

Regionals 2020

Regional planning is well under way. We have our schedule finalized and will slate teams into the tiers at the WRRR meeting on March 2nd.

This year we are trying something a little different! First, we are bringing back our U7 Skills and Drills session, Saturday at WFG. Secondly we are adding a special activity for U10 and U12 teams. Watch for more information! This will also be Saturday at WFG.

Minor officials - we had a great immediate response to our call for minor officials and the schedule looks like it will be fully covered.

Hotels - this year is our first year working with Jim File for contract hotel bookings. While we don't have a final count on numbers, quite a few teams booked. We would welcome your feedback on this process.

Reminder that the league decided not to use S2S this year as S2S has a March 1st deadline for schedules.

Team commitments:

All coaches U8 to U19 (regional) are to attend the WRRR meeting on March 2nd (7:30 pm, Spruce Lodge, Stratford). This will be a combination coaches meeting and seeding meeting to determine the pools for the event.

All associations are required to cover volunteer shifts. These include convenors, gift table coverage, and medals. The count per association is posted on the Regionals page under teams (scroll down). Volunteer spots will be available for sign-up when the final schedule is posted.

Team payments are tracked on the same page.

All teams are asked to bring a donation for the gift table. Most teams provide gift baskets but gift cards are accepted as well.

Regionals 2021

We are currently accepting applications for Regionals 2021. Based on proposed dates for the provincial events, this will be Thurs April 1 to Sat April 3 on Easter weekend.

Provincials 2020

Provincials are just around the corner for many of our Provincial teams!

Congrats to our Regional Representatives:

- Forest U14A
- Forest U16A
- Waterloo U19A
- 18+A London

Reminder to teams needing substitute players and/or wishing to add a second goalie to submit your requests to G&T ASAP.

Provincials - Hotels

This year “seemed” to be a LOT less trying than past years for hotels, although as the person doing the bookings for our team, the RO site crashing within minutes of opening was VERY stressful!!

Feedback on the new process is welcomed.

Reminder that if you chose NOT to use the booking process, to please submit your opt-out fee of \$1000 to Ringette Ontario. RO has advised that they will be auditing teams not attending and invoicing non-compliant teams. Make sure you are in good standing as teams not in good standing will not be allowed to participate in games until resolved.

Provincials going forward

The following is the proposed and accepted rotation based on the current number of teams in each region:

	AA Championship	A Championship	U12 Provincial Event
2021	Eastern	Central	Western
2022	Western	Eastern	Southern
2023	Southern	Western	Eastern
2024	Eastern	North East	Western
2025	Western	Eastern	Central
2026	Southern	Western	Eastern
2027	Eastern	Southern	Western
2028	Western	Eastern	North East

2029	Central	Western	Southern
2030	Western	Southern	Eastern

Changes proposed for the Provincial events and the following items are up for discussion:

- removing U14A all inclusive and returning to 14 teams. Currently there are 26 teams in this division.
 - too many issues getting ice (still “hockey first” when it comes to allocations)
 - officiating challenges for coverage with 16 extra teams
- look at the regional rep program - does it still meet the objectives?
- go back to 6 reps + host + wildcards - if a lower ranked team “bumps” a team out, are they actually bumped out or did they just expect to go as top 14?
- U12 event - the office has advised that this may cease to be an RO run event. If RO pulls the plug, can it continue post 2021 as an association or regionally sponsored event?

Requests for changes being taken forward by Western:

Substitutions: Limit is 4, and max 2 lateral for all levels. Will be proposing that the lateral limit be removed for U10 & below.

Provincial Wild Card - should semi-finals and finals be included now that teams are not penalized (old math) for losing a semi-final?

Changes under proposal from RO, including from discussions at the Competition Review

- changing early tournaments to “pre-season” (ie non-ranking) but requiring all teams to attend one pre-season. Dates not confirmed but proposed as some or all of the November tournaments.
- looking at how to determine ranking will be determined. One camp wants no ranking but then how do you decide who goes to provincials?? At the same time the concern is that provincials is too large and associations are having problems securing ice; officiating is having problems covering games with qualified officials.
- Revamp substitution chart removing AA players subbing up to A

Suspensions

We have had very few Misconduct and Match penalties this season. This is an ongoing improvement.

The unserved 4 minute majors continue. The RO Board will be removing the related suspension for the 2020/2021 season to see if it makes any difference for injuries. There is no current data to compare to other than the penalties themselves.

The policy remains in effect for this year, including carry-overs if assessed in the last games of the season.

Reminder that effective the 2019/2020 season this suspension is only for the next game, not any other activities.

Substitutions

The tournament season is almost over but we do have a lot of teams heading to Niagara. Please get any sub requests in EARLY. Same for Regionals, if needed. Note that Southern’s regionals are the weekend after ours.

Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling & Jordan Kovats, G&T Western Region