

G&T Report – Western Region AGM

Provincials:

Western Region was very well represented at all levels of Provincials, with teams advancing to Easterns and Nationals. Well done!

Our medalists include:

U12P Cockburn - Guelph (Gold)

U12P Gough - Waterloo (Bronze, Sportsmanship)

U14A LaJeunesse - Kitchener (Bronze)

U14A McCarthy - Dorchester (Silver), London (Sportsmanship)

U14A Jacks - Guelph (Silver), Elora-Fergus (Bronze)

U16A McCarthy - Dorchester (Silver)

U16A Jacks - Forest (Silver)

U16AA Jacks - Waterloo (Gold)

U19A McCarthy - Mitchell (Gold, Sportsmanship)

U19A Jacks - Forest (Gold), Guelph (Silver)

U19AA Jacks - Guelph (Gold)

18+A McCarthy - Woolwich (Gold), London (Silver, Sportsmanship)

18+A Jacks - Waterloo-W (Gold, Sportsmanship)

18+U - University of Guelph (Gold)

18+AA Jacks - Waterloo-G (Silver), Elora-Fergus (Bronze)

Honourable Mention:

18+AA Jacks - Toronto (Gold, Sportsmanship)

- Toronto has a significant number of Western Region alumni.

Leagues

WRRL wrapped up another successful year and will be moving into next season with a number of new executive members. This league still needs a chair.

WORL will continue for the purposes of team formation but teams will be moving to play in the larger Great Lakes Ringette League. G&T supports this initiative as it will keep more teams actively playing across the province. Western Region continues to be strongly represented at most Provincial levels.

Regionals

Western Regions was attended by 82 regional minor teams, including 12 U8 teams. This is down 1 team from last year however we had 2 teams opt to not attend vs 1 last year.

The location was a little challenging with a lot of single pads. We will be actively searching out multi-pad facilities when possible for future events. Most multi-pads are doubles (except London & Waterloo)

All associations except one contributed their required volunteer shifts, with Tillsonburg as host opting to take considerably more than required (24 in total). Many thanks to Tillsonburg Ringette and their extra help especially on Sunday!

Tournaments – Hosts

A Tournament Co-ordinators meeting will be held in May. This is a mandatory meeting for all centres planning a tournament in the 2019-2020 season. Please bring your tournament applications and be prepared to review the Provincial level division allocations. Reminder that your completed and signed (by G&T as well as you) tournament hosting applications must be received at the ORA office no later than **June 10th**.

Tournaments - Teams

All A, AA, and U12 teams will be assigned tournaments using a similar process to past year. Please watch for the next Ringette Flash for details and submission deadlines - all submissions must be received by **July 5th** except U12 which has a deadline of approximately Sept 15. The July 5th deadline also applies to all 18+AA, 18+A, and 18+U teams.

In order to facilitate this process, please ensure that Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling (G&T) has your coaches' and presidents' contact information as soon as possible. This is required by June 1.

Regional teams are encouraged to plan their tournaments as early in the season as possible. All tournaments are currently required to submit their schedules 4 weeks in advance and most of the scheduling issues were due to changes in the regional divisions. Please also ensure that you follow the tournament's deposit and payment policy.

All teams should be aware that there are sanctions for withdrawing from a registered tournament. For A/AA (& U12P) this is based on tournament assignments. For Regional teams and tournaments outside of the regular playing season, this is based on the tournament's published deadlines and the required schedule submission dates.

Deciding to pull out of a tournament can have a significant impact not only to the host but also the other teams in your division.

Suspensions

In 2018-2019, Western saw just under 30 suspensions, which included 3 Match Penalties, and 2 Coach ejections.

G&T Representation

In 2018-2019 Western Region is represented by both Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling and Chris Sharpe as G&T. Having 2 reps has been very beneficial as we have been able to share the workload.

Chris Sharpe is unfortunately leaving the "team" to (hopefully) take on other roles within the Region. If you are interested in contributing as a member of the Region's G&T committee, please contact Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling at gtwrra@wrra.ca.

Proposed Changes for Next Year (effective Sept 2019)

Players:

1. A 4 minute fully served penalty, not fully served in game time, will result in a 1 game suspension, but not other sanctions.

What does this mean? A player on a 4 minute suspension is no longer suspended from "all other ringette activities". They are only suspended for their next game. This does however still stand for all other suspension types. (Not retroactive for carry-over suspensions)

What else does this mean? If the penalty is not fully served in the available game time, the suspension still applies. This includes if a game is curfewed, or goes to overtime.

2. A player or coach involved in multiple teams: In all cases the secondary position will never be more severely punished than the first

What does this mean? If you are a player and a coach, or a coach and a player, or a player on 2 teams, or a coach on 2 teams, the rules will be applied consistently across all similar situations.

Note: A player under suspension is not eligible to be used as a substitute - this still applies

3. A player under suspension cannot be substituted for with the exception of when the suspended player is a goalie on a team with only one goalie.

What does this mean? If you have 12 skaters (or less) and you have a player under suspension, you cannot use a substitute to replace them, except in the goalie scenario.

4. G&T is recommending that other regions adopt Western Region's policy on Declined Offer-to-Play. Pam will be taking this forward to membership. Reminder that a player who has declined an offer-to-play and is therefore required to play in her home association, is not eligible to play as a substitute on any team outside of her home association.

Teams:

5. AA ranking games are eliminated for next season. AA will use the same assignment and ranking process as A.
6. Substitutions:
 - a. Max 4 substitutes (over the course of the tournament)
 - b. Max 2 laterals (over the course of the tournament)
 - c. If a player dresses and is on the bench for one or more games at a tournament they are considered substituting for that tournament. This applies to all divisions including 18+. (Note: This was not really an issue in Western but was in some other Regions)
 - d. Players can only play in ONE provincial event. This now includes 18+U.
7. A player must play in a minimum of 50% of the tournament games on any team they are registered on in order to be eligible to participate in any post season event. (Pending clarification for 2-team and regional players).
8. No game shall start without a person with Head Coach qualifications. In the event of an ejection of an emergency, the game can continue with a qualified bench staff.

Tournament Hosts:

9. Application fee has been increased from \$40 to \$50.
10. S2S will be increasing their fee for Split-Round-Robin divisions and all 18+ divisions due to the extra work required for these divisions.
11. G&T will not be approving Regionals schedules after March 1st, therefore Regional pools must be determined prior to this date.

Provincials:

12. The winner of the 18+A Jacks division will continue to be moved to the 18+AA division. Teams can request a formal review (no cost) to stay down or be moved down. This is to be submitted in early September when the team roster is finalized.
 - a. All Roster additions for any teams allowed to remain in 18+A under the above process or any team moved from 18+AA to 18+A must be approved by G&T. This is defined as all changes which vary from the submitted roster.
13. Provincial Divisions for 2019/2020:
 - a. AA's: U14AA, U16AA, U19AA, 18+AA, 18+U
 - b. A's: U14A, U16A, U19A, 18+A
 - c. U12's
14. Provincial Divisions for 2020/2021:
 - a. AA's: U14AA, U16AA, U19AA, 18+AA, 18+U
 - b. A's: U16A, U19A, 18+A
 - c. (New Name for Event): U12's, U14A

Note: 18+U will be evaluated - may be moved to the A's event in 2021/2022

U14A will remain all inclusive, U16A to 18+A will remain capped at 14 teams each.

15. Stick and Medals
 - a. U14 & up - Winner, Jacks division, will receive Sticks (and medals)
 - b. All other medalists will receive medals only
16. The Host Committee is responsible for arranging and coordinating the medal ceremonies. This is not a G&T activity although if available, G&T may opt to assist.
17. Minor officials at Provincial events are to be paid the Ringette Ontario rate. This amount is covered by Ringette Ontario. Hosts can opt to pay more but not less - no exceptions! Associations are not to be making money by short-paying minor officials. This policy has been in effect for a number of years but has not always been followed. The Host guide will be re-worded to ensure that this is clearly stated.

Note: Current rates have been reviewed and will remain for 2019/2020.

Yours in Ringette,

Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling, G&T Western Region

Chris Sharpe, Asst G&T Western Region