

Sport Development Report – April 2019

I would like to take a minute to Congratulate all our teams on such a fantastic season. Western Region was well represented across the Province at the many different tournaments and our players stood out as well-developed athletes!

Come Try Ringette

This September will again be our *Come Try Ringette Month!* The Region will help support any association that wishes to participate with Marketing, Equipment and Training. If you are interested in participating, please let me know by June 1st so that I can help you get organized.

Available again this season. The Region will help support your event by sending 2 – 4 on ice helpers that will be CTR certified and will run your on-ice events for you. This will leave your association volunteers available to help with off-ice activities, recruiting and talks with parents.

As in previous seasons, I would ask that all Associations reach out to me by June 1st to register their CTR event(s). I will be sending out a link to the registration page to all the Presidents later this month, so please try to get your board organized and settled on a date early. I will order all the materials needed for each Association and get them delivered in early July so that we are all organized and ready to go this fall.

We will also be offering a CTR certification course in September for those that wish to come. I will send out more information on this in the fall.

U7 – U8 Half Ice Program

This season the Guelph Association ran a trial program for half ice at U7 in conjunction with Ringette Canada and RO as a part of our planning for a province wide launch in 2020-2021. There will be another 10 Association piloting the program across the province this Fall.

The half ice program will help our youngest players learn the game with increased ring touches, Increased shooting opportunities and increased skating development. It has proven successful in hockey, lacrosse, basketball and soccer so far and will also let our sport develop more coaches and officials as we link programs like Come Try Officiating and Come Try Coaching with the program.

There is a great video that can be found on YouTube that shows the enormous size differences for our U7 aged players and will really help open your eyes and minds to this great new opportunity.

From a Child's View - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXhxNq59pWg&t=8s>

While we are still in the planning phase of this roll out, I would strongly recommend that centre's start having conversations with their local municipalities about half ice program opportunities. Hockey has mandated this program Nationwide, so there are already centres that are planning for the change. Equipment like bumper pads or large pylons for ice separation and smaller nets could be a big part of a

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successful program. We do not have any of the details finalized yet but please start to have this conversation with your board now and I will share more details as they unfold.

Skills Matrix

RO has decided that the Skill Matrix will no longer be a mandatory requirement for associations, so come fall 2019, you will no longer have to complete these. However, Sport Development still recommends that you use these sessions to help evaluate your regional level players when establishing your teams. The Skills Matrix drills are designed to help evaluators look at basic skills that are essential to core development.

If you have questions about this, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Fast and Female Ringette Only Event

Western Region hosted a Fall Fast and Female event for all our players ages 8 to 13. This fun 4-hour event was designed to help promote healthy living, fun fitness and leadership in youth. We worked with some Team Canada Ringette players along with some Olympic Athletes to deliver a fun filled day for our girls.

Finally, I would like to encourage anyone that has suggestions or ideas for our Sport Development program to reach out and contact me directly. We are always looking for ways to improve your experience and ensure that you have everything you need to be successful.

I look forward to hearing your feedback,
Thank you,
Tania

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