

## 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:

18+AA: Waterloo-D (Silver), Waterloo-G (Bronze)

U19AA: Guelph (Gold), Waterloo (Silver)

U19A Jacks: Forest (Bronze)

U16AA: London (Sportsmanship)

U16A Jacks: Waterloo (Gold), Forest (Silver), Forest (Sportsmanship)

U16A McCarthy: London (Bronze)

U14AA: Waterloo (Silver)

U14A Jacks: Kitchener (Silver), Waterloo (Bronze)

U14A McCarthy: Elora Fergus (Silver, Sportsmanship)

U12 Gough: London (Sportsmanship)

U12 Lajeunesse: Chatham (Bronze)

U12 McCarthy: Guelph (Silver)

### **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 2018-2019 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 15<sup>th</sup>**.

### **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 10<sup>th</sup>** except U12 which has a deadline of Sept 15. The July 10th 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 may be 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.

### **Regionals**

Western Regions was attended by 83 regional minor teams, including 11 U8 teams. This is up 9 teams from last year!

Western's regionals used 29 minor officials from 7 associations across the region. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Watch for signup next year in late January/early February. Remember that the first draft of the schedule is usually done by March 1st and finalized 2-3 weeks prior to the tournament and that those who can be available on the first day of Regionals will most likely be scheduled first! Anyone who is also reffing will be fitted in as needed once the ref schedule is set. This is perfect for meal breaks for those who are shot-clocking or time-keeping all day :-).

### **Suspensions**

This year a new suspension type was introduced. While this affected a number of players, as the season progressed, the occurrences declined. See notes on proposed changes to suspensions (below).

### **G&T Representation**

Western Region is represented by both Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling and Chris Sharpe as G&T. Both can be reached by using our email [gtwrra@wrra.ca](mailto:gtwrra@wrra.ca). Having 2 reps has been very beneficial as we have been able to share the workload.

### **Changes for Next Year**

A number of motions were made and passed by the ORA which either impacted play for this season or will for next. While this is probably a little boring, please take the time to read through it.

Also scroll down to the next section which includes the motions being put forward to the ORA board this coming weekend.

*The following G&T motions were approved by the ORA Board this season:*

#### **September Board Meeting:**

**MOTION D2-17-19** THAT: the following section be added to the Fair Ice Policy: Fair Ice Policy 7.2.2. Contract for An Additional/Substitution Goalie at a Provincial Event U14, U16 and U19 This role is unique to the A and AA Provincial Championships, and the Fair Ice Policy will not apply. The Additional/Substitution Goalie will be allowed to play in up to a maximum of 2 games except in the case

of illness or injury to the original team goalie. (This is a sport development proposal which was supported by G&T, proposal to change to max 3 games for next season)

*What this means: If you pick up a second goalie or sub goalie, you are not obligated to play them under fair play. However if you do play them, and your rostered goalie is available to play, the addition or sub cannot play more than 2 round robin games.*

**MOTION D2-17-21** THAT: effective the 2017/18 playing season, if a team that is ranked in the top 14 according to the ORA rankings is to be prevented from attending the Provincial Event by a host or Regional Representative, then that team will be invited to attend Provincials – expanding the specific “A” division.

*What this means: An A team will not be bumped out of Provincials by a lower ranked Regional Rep*

**MOTION D2-17-22** THAT: effective 2018, the deadline for the submission of the sanctioned event applications will be June 15th .

*What this means: If you host a tournament, this is the new deadline for your application to be RECEIVED at the ORA office, with payment.*

**MOTION D2-17-23** THAT: effective the 2017-18 playing season, any 18+A University team intending to proceed to a Provincial event must participate in the University division at the final Provincial event providing there are 5 University teams willing to attend a Provincial Event.

*What this means: Applied to University teams for the 2017-18 season*

**MOTION D2-17-24** THAT: any four minute fully served penalty that cannot be served during the remaining clock time of the game shall result in a one game suspension. This includes any such fully served penalty assessed after the end of the game.

*Note, the applies to ALL teams in Ontario except NRL, and also applies to ALL Out of Province teams playing in an ORA tournament under ORA rules*

**MOTION D2-17-25** THAT: effective 2018 the U14A division be all inclusive at the Provincial Event. Teams will be placed in tiers according to Provincial rankings.

*Note: The plan is to eventually have all A divisions all-inclusive. This also meets a sport development objective. There are no changes planned beyond U14A for the 2018-19 season due in part to ice limitations*

**MOTION D2-17-26** THAT: effective the 2019 Provincial Championships, the first championship event – will host U16AA, U19AA, 18+AA, 18+A and 18+A University divisions. The second event will host U14AA, U14A, U16A and U19A.

*Note: This starts next season!*

### November Board Meeting:

**MOTION D3-17-06** THAT: Section 4.5.1 of Entry Fees in the Games & Tournaments section be removed and replaced with: 4.5.1 All Provincial Event Entry Fees are to be submitted to the Regional G&T Coordinators by the region deadline, which will be no later than December 31st . These fees will be payable to the Ontario Ringette Association and are part of the Intent to Proceed to Provincials Process. Teams make the team entry cheques out to the Ontario Ringette Association and dated January 1st . The cheque will clearly indicate which team, level of play and which event the cheque is for. The Regional G&T Coordinators will submit them directly to the ORA office. As teams are confirmed by G&T, the team's cheque will be deposited. Teams that do not qualify will have their cheque returned directly to them from the office based on the name and address printed on the cheque.

*Note: This means cheques will be collected by the Region & sent to ORA. This worked fairly well except for a bit of confusion over what cheque belonged to what team. Will work on an improved process for next year for this.*

Board motion pertaining to G&T:

**MOTION D3-17-10** THAT: Effective until February 1, 2018 any player participating on two team who receives a suspension shall serve their suspension in their next regularly scheduled game(s) regardless of which team the games are with. The player may not participate in practices or other ringette activities until the suspension has been fully served. (This was extended to the end of the season in January and is proposed to revert back to the existing procedure for next season)

*This came forward due to concerns raised by the NE AAA team. A decision in January was made by G&T to keep this in place for the rest of the season (vs changing mid-season). G&T is proposing to go back to the original process with a few other changes (see proposed section below)*

### January Board Meeting:

**MOTION D4-17-08** THAT: Effective the 2018/19 season, \$100 of the team registration fees for Provincial Events from each team participating in a specific Provincial Event will be given to that host.

*Note: This addresses concerns made by the hosts that hosting a Provincial event does not benefit the host under the funding model introduced by ORA this year.*

**MOTION D4-17-10** THAT: effective the 2018/19 playing season to be eligible to attend a Provincial Championship, 18+AA teams must have attended four (4) O.R.A. sanctioned events, a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the first day of the Provincial Championships in which they are intending to participate.

*Note: All teams were already following this and it was agreed to remove the exception (previously 3 tournaments) for this group*

**MOTION D4-17-11** THAT: effective the beginning of the 2018/19 season, all 'AA' teams 18+ and below must submit their tournament selections by July 10th

*Note: The date is moved earlier to allow the G&T SCM to be earlier, and should allow team's tournaments to be finalized prior to league scheduling. In addition this now includes all 18+ teams*

**MOTION D4-17-12** THAT: effective the beginning of the 2018/19 playing season all 'A' teams 18+A, 18+U and below must submit their tournament selections by July 10th

*Note: The date is moved earlier to allow the G&T SCM to be earlier, and should allow team's tournaments to be finalized prior to league scheduling. In addition this now includes all 18+ teams*

**MOTION D4-17-13** THAT: effective the beginning of the 2018/19 playing season the exemption for goaltenders substituting will be removed and goaltenders will follow the same substitution rules as other players in their age category.

*What this means to you: A goalie will only be allowed to substitute in ONE initalational tournament (minor) or TWO tournaments (18+) during the season. Teams and associations should consider developing goalies for all teams, with teams carrying 2 goalies where this is an option.*

**MOTION D4-17-14** THAT: effective the beginning of the 2018/19 season requests for substitutions must be made at least 48 hours prior to the official beginning of the tournament. Requests made with less than 48 hours or during the tournament will only be granted for medical or extenuating circumstances.

*What this means for you: Last minute substitutions, outside of documented medical or extenuating circumstances, will NOT be granted. Please plan ahead!!*

**MOTION D4-17-15** THAT: effective the beginning of the 2018/19 season, when two (2) or more teams have an equal number of points after completion of the round robin games, the G&T Designate is responsible to determine the rankings.

*What this means for you: Tournaments, and S2S will not be doing the tie-breaking. Tie-breaking is to be done by G&T or their designate. This is to address several challenges with tie-breaking errors this season.*

**MOTION D4-17-17** THAT: effective the 2018/19 season, where O.R.A. has indicated that there is an approved accommodation booking agent, all teams renting, or leasing, accommodations must use this service for Provincial Events or be subject to a fine of \$1,000.00. Teams are defined as players, parents, guardians and bench staff members attending the event.

*What this means to you: Use of any accommodation, including AirBnB and similar such accommodations, are violation of the policy. Teams can opt up front to pay the fine (several do every year).*

#### Proposed Changes for Next Year

The G&T committee met in April and has proposed a number of changes which will be discussed at this weekend's ORA Board meeting. These include:

#### **Motion #1:**

The Initial seeding of Provincial A and AA teams is the responsibility of the respective region. The Provincial G&T Committee will give advice.

**Motion #2:**

The proposed ranking system be implemented for all "A" level round robin games.

*What would this mean to you: The new ranking system is referred to as the "2-point system". For A teams only, all round robin games against the same opponent would be averaged to a maximum of 2 points. Then the points for each opponent / the total points if all opponents had been wins (2 pts ea) for an average win. This eliminates the advantage or disadvantage of playing the same team(s) multiple times.*

**Motion #3:**

The dates for the 2021 Provincial Events will be:

U12 Provincial – March 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

First Provincial Championship – March 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

Second Provincial Championship – March 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

*What this would mean for you: Thinking of hosting a Provincial Event? Securing ice is often the most important consideration for submitting a host bid*

**Motion #4:**

If a team is reseeded to AA mid-season, every effort will be made to accommodate ranking games. If there are 2 tiers, the team will place no higher than the McCarthy division.

*What this would mean to you: If a team is reseeded, they will still have an opportunity to improve their ranking in AA. A team that would place higher than the McCarthy division, when there are enough teams for 2 tiers, should have seeded correctly in the beginning of the season and will not be given the advantage of only meeting some of their potential opponents.*

**Motion #5:**

(Added to fine listing) Host not submitting substitution summary by specified date - \$500

**Motion #6:**

Dave Bennett University Cup (DBUC) rules - some minor variances from ORA, documented to ensure that the event can be fully sanctioned:

Team formation guidelines

Substitution rules for Invitational Tournaments and the DBUC - adding that the Player must be registered in a post-secondary program. Except for UCC, University team MUST follow all other ORA substitution rules. UCC rules apply to UCC.

Requirements to attend DBUC - attend 3, UCC can be one but games played at UCC will not be used for ranking (teams are able to submit a modified roster for UCC so may or may not be the same "team")

Format at DBUC - 5 games, 20 minute periods (?)

Semi-Finals if 7 or more teams

Fair Ice Policy will be in effect for University teams at all Invitational tournaments and the DBUC.

---Note that these changes are primarily coming from the participants in this division.

*What this would mean to you: Only applies to University teams*

#### **Motion #7**

Effective the beginning of the 2018/19 season, section 5.5.2 of the G&T section of the Operating Manual will be reinstated.

*What this would mean to you: Players under suspension will serve their suspension with the team with which they earned the suspension. If they play on more than one team, the second team will be penalized no more than the first. (see also Motions 8 & 9)*

#### **Motion #8**

A suspension due to a 4 minute fully served penalty not being fully served will be considered a technical penalty and will not have ramifications outside of a one game suspension.

*What this would mean to you: Players under a technical suspension can still attend practices and participate in other ringette activities. They will still need to sit their game suspension.*

#### **Motion #9**

A suspension due to excessive penalties will be considered a technical penalty and will not have ramifications outside of a one game suspension.

*What this would mean to you: Same as #8*

#### **Motion #10**

Effective the beginning of the 2018/19 season teams may carry up to four (4) substitute players in total per tournament. The maximum number of lateral players permitted as part of the four (4) substitutes will be two (2).

Note: Adult has worked with this request and can incorporate into their current rule structure so there is no need for rewording.

*What this would mean for you: Your team would be able to use no more than 2 substitutes from your level of play, and 2 more from a lower level of play.*

Yours in Ringette,

Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling, G&T Western Region

Chris Sharpe, Asst G&T Western Region