

## **Sport Development Report – April 2018**

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 1<sup>st</sup> so that I can help you get organized.

**NEW 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 fall the Guelph Association will be running a trial program for half ice at U7 in conjunction with Ringette Canada and ORA as a part of our planning for a province wide launch in 2019-2020. 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 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.

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I will organize a conference call with all the Presidents in June to discuss the planning details and to outline the first steps of this program. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of the planning committee for this within Western Region, as I would love to have some enthusiastic people on board to help get this up and running!

### **Skills Matrix**

The Skills Matrix Assessments are excellent tools for Associations, Teams, Coaches, Parents and Players to see how they are progressing through the season. The information gathered can help Teams and Coaches develop practice plans that support team and individual development and parents can have confidence to know that the primary focus is on developing their child.

Several associations have requested additional training for their volunteers on the evaluation process, so we will be hosting a training session for all associations on ***How to administer a proper Skills Matrix***. Each association will have the opportunity to send as many volunteers as they want to this training. It will include both off ice and on ice so that we can help you deliver the best program possible.

More information on this training will be send out early next month. If you require assistance in your association, we can help by running the on-ice portion of your skills matrix. Please reach out directly if you would be interested in this type of support.

Thank you to all associations for submitting their completed evaluations this spring. From reviewing the submissions, it appears that many associations had improvement with their younger programming and that their players developed over the season!

### **Fast and Female Ringette Only Event**

Western Region is currently in the process of organizing a Fall Fast and Female event for all our players ages 8 to 13. This is a fun 4-hour event designed to help promote healthy living, fun fitness and leadership in youth. We will be working with some Team Canada Ringette players along with some Olympic Athletes to deliver a fun filled day for our girls.

The date and location are still being finalized but here is a link to their website so that you can see what they do! <https://www.fastandfemale.com/>

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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