



# Western Region Ringette Association Chair's Report

WRRRA AGM June 24, 2020

The second half of the 2019/2020 season has been eventful and mostly not in a great way! The unfortunate shut down of ringette in Mid March 2020 due to Covid-19 has been a major challenge for all players, association, and volunteers. We all want to be participating in the sport we love, and it is just not possible. We are very much looking forward to getting back to the rink in whatever form that may be. Hopefully soon, but only when it is safe.

I have been fortunate enough to meet with most of the associations Presidents, treasurers, and schedulers this past month to talk about current condition of the sport and gather information for our Association Audit project. I want to thank all the associations that were able to take the time on zoom and talk with Mark and Stephanie and myself. The 1:1 conversation provided extremely valuable information. Overall, you are very pleased, excited, and proud to see so many maintaining a positive spirit, working through various return to activity plans and continuing to be engaged with their membership. This is what makes our sport! There are a few opportunities identified for Western Region to assist with governance (ie bylaws or incorporation), financial guidance or support and general assistance with return to activity logistics (ie contract tracing, safety, one ice activities)

## Regional Play:

Majority of the league season was completed, however the 2020 WRRL Championships were cancelled due to Covid-19, which were to be hosted in London. Thanks to Jason Vermeiren and the WRRL board for all their works this year. Also, we were fortunate to have very limited costs incurred due the cancellation of Championships, some medals and hotels booking agent costs only

## Provincial Play:

The season went very well, until COVID-19 caused the cancellation of all provincial events on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Majority of league of play was under the newly formed league (GLRL) Great Lakes Ringette League. U12P remained under the WORL league, which could change for 2020/2021 season. Thanks to Phil Singeris and the GLRL & WORL boards for all the work they did to make the season portion a success

## AAA:

Congratulations to Western AAA team on your Bronze Medal at OWG, what an amazing improvement from the start of the AAA season. I could not have been prouder of the team. Special Thank you to the bench staff and the time you put in with the players, and of course to the outstanding leadership of head coach John Mezenberg

## RO – Planning for the 2020/21 Season:

-RO working on 1<sup>st</sup> draft of "Return to Ringette" and some information what that looks like. Stages that ringette will move through, from our current focus on family to return to full competition. Expect something out in the next two weeks shortly after Ringette Canada's release.

-RO putting resources to help associations navigate the year to come and creating modified game formats that can be used while we work towards "RTP" return to play

-Participant Survey – Very important we get as many athletes to complete this survey as possible. The data will be shared with each association so they can use this for planning  
-RO AGM has been moved to July 25<sup>th</sup>, to a digital format on Zoom. There will be a special voting system put in place to ensure all votes are counted properly. If you are not going to have a member present, then please let me know so we can ensure your vote is carried by the region.  
-Children’s Ringette is on the horizon, expect information and resources to be communicated in the next few weeks from Karla Xavier, Technical Director.

RO – Committees:

-Many changes at the committees in last year, 3 chair positions are up for re-selection (Adult, Coaching, Officiating), which are expected to be filled. A few committees have been taken over management by the office for various reasons. Elite and Sport Dev were combined into Athlete Development and are going to be run by the office going forward. G&T is busy preparing for next season pending what that might look like and which events we are able to hold.

Top 10 Priorities List:

We made progress on the top 10 list this past season, we did see progress on all the items, some more than others. Given the pivot that happened on March 13<sup>th</sup> for our sport, I consider us very lucky on the progress we have made this season. I have attached an updated priority list summary to the bottom of this report

WRRRA Board & Coordinators:

I personally want to thank the entire board and coordinators that have put in so much of their time and effort this past season. We have accomplished a lot over the past 12 months, your patience with me and taking the time to make our region successful. We are often leaders in Ontario!

Special Thanks:

-Keith Kasier for running our web site for so many years, you have been an amazing contributor to the ringette sport, and we consider ourselves lucky to have been able to have you be a part of WRRRA

-Nancy Houghtling, G&T coordinator, chairing the new Tournament Host Selection committee, chairing regionals, scheduling WORL and helping in so many other ways this past season. Crossing our fingers that we can enjoy some year end events; I am looking forward to Regional Championships in Kitchener and the A Provincials in Guelph in 2021.

-Melinda Suchard for doing an amazing job with the membership services role. For as long as I have been involved in ringette Melinda has been there. Melinda has also been a steady hand for me with advice and contributing to various functions and the always fun tribunals when they occur. Melinda will be training Elly Simpson to take over the Membership Service roll for Western Region going forward.

We are looking for new volunteers to fill the roles of Sport Development and Elite for the coming season. If you are interested, please reach out to me soon to express interest.

Yours in Ringette,



Chris Sharpe,  
Chair of Western Region Ringette Association

WRRR Top Priorities -2019/2020 Season

UPDATED:

25-Jun-20

#	Project (Rock)	Description - Overview (Initial but can be modified by team lead)	Team Leader (of the Rock Band)	Team Members (Rock Stars but need more volunteers)	Status Notes	Status (Est)
1	Marketing Incl New Branding	Develop and Broad Marketing plan for Top of mind awarness for ringette in the region. And activate on it including proposed budget and potential marketing partners for 2019, 2020 and 2021	Chris S.	Mark D.,	Reached out to Marketing Firms: -Intrigue media - Minimum Budget to start is \$20K -Marketing Factory - Meet with them provided Data but never received. Followed up by expecting \$20K level -Ringette Ontario - Is intersted in adding capacity to help, but would have to costs covered. Would be guided by RO marketing person. Cost Unknown? Executive of WRRR to discuss at first board meeting if next year is the right time to focus on Marketing, I feel that it may be more important then ever.	15%
2	Player Development (Goalie & Player)	2019/2020 Season Player development plan and activate on it. Goalie Training was specifically proposed to be driven by WRRR and act as possible fundraising event coordinated with AAA team. 5 x Goalie Clinics and 3 x Player Clinics	Tania P.	Jason V., John M	No Plan formally developed. Attempted to find goalie instructors but no success. Look to activate this next season for goalies Waterloo and London did run Goalie Clinics on their own, other association goalies were welcome	0%
3	Coaching Dev (Training and Practice Plans)	Development of coaches, at all levels in a number of specific areas: Tactics, Goalie Training, Practice Plans, Rules Understanding, and Player Skills Development at the practice level.	John M.	Brian B.	Reminder that all coaches are required to complete professional development in order to maintain their coaching credentials on a five year cycle. There are opportunities offered through many sources such as NCCP, Ringette Canada, Ringette Ontario and the Region. Many of these are free or for a minimal charge and coaches are encouraged to take advantage of these courses as often as they can. A number of resources can be found on the Ringette Ontario website at <a href="https://ringetteontario.com/the-people/coaches/">https://ringetteontario.com/the-people/coaches/</a> and has also been shared with association Coaching Coordinators and contacts. -Coach Development has been assessed as an important priority for us to focus on by both the Western Region Board as well as Ringette Ontario. The Regions and Ringette Ontario are working to provide coach development opportunities throughout the province but we believe it needs to be a priority at the association level as well and association executives need to encourage their coaches to attend the opportunities that are being provided. These opportunities help all our bench staff and in turn our players to be the best they can be. -This season I reached out to all associations to ask who might be interested in hosting a PD clinic this season. There were a number of clinics options made available including: Building a Practice Plan – How Best to Utilize your Ice, Goalies – Don't Forget them at Practice, Strategies and Tactics – Don't Forget your Timeout, Those are the Rules – Closing the Gap Between Coaches and Officials -Only 4 associations inquired about hosting a clinic and from these four that were interested we were able to arrange three clinics as well as a fourth during the University Challenge Cup over the Christmas Break. We had 32 participants attend over the four clinics and from all accounts the feedback was very good and the participants felt the clinics were quite worthwhile attending. However, with almost 140 teams in our Region and well over 300 coaches this is somewhat disappointing given that during the Association Meetings over the summer with the Region this was put forward by those in attendance as a focus point for the Region moving forward. -In addition a Strategies and Tactics clinic was set up to be part of the AA Provincials and Richmond Hill and we had a lot of interest but unfortunately this was cancelled due to Covid-19. -Ringette Ontario is working to come up with different ways to offer coach development through not only in class but also online training through the use of such things as Zoom and webinars as well. -Both Western Region and Ringette Ontario will continue to provide as many Coach Development Opportunities as possible, but we need the help of all associations to make this a priority within their own organizations as well.	100%
4	Web Site Remodel	Assess possible Website System or offerings. Consider aligning with RO and review Ramp or others, Prepare cost model for hosting leagues and can it replace Officiating management system	Brian	Nancy, Keith	Reached out to MBS and RAMP. Proposals received, awaiting Presentation first week of June 2020. Would like to target new Web site for Sept 2020 Proposals review, looking to create hybrid "resource" web environment for resource information with existing space and RAMP for front face and scheduling system that integrates with many WRRR associations	25%
5	IT Infrastructure for WRRR operations	Develop internal system for sharing of Knowledge within WRRR. Review Cloud based file system and ways of sharing systems. Do we need Office software as part of system? Accounting system already in use. Look for alternate to RO conf call system as is expensive, consider a Video Conf system that does not cost attendees fees.	Astrid E.	Mark D.	No Update, tough to get rolling on this. WRRR did purchase Zoom account for Video Conf call. Being used for GLRL, WORL, WRRL and WRRR AGM	25%
6	Childrens Ringette	Development of plan for Childrens Ringette Role out within Western Region. Assist with implementation for 2020/2021 season. Support as needed with 2019/2020 season, requested 3 other centers consider launch this season	Tania P.	Jason, Peter	RO office is preparing a Childrens ringette package for Associations, however with Covid this has taken back burner. Confirmed with RO, that information will be sent out with resources in the next couple of weeks. RO is still planning to launch Childrens ringette for this coming season. How are associations make out with talking with other sports groups about using their equipment	25%
7	Parent Education	Each Association will have expectations of improved education of parents, specifically with focus on the rules of ringette, team formation rules for rep and general tournament/league function rules. With specific intent to reducing harrasement of Ref's and improved understanding of processes	Jason	Jordan, Melinda & Phil	Requesting Update from Each association on their Parent Training session. Chris did receive a few emails from associations of what they did, would like to have seen more. Next season this will still be a priority, so start planning now for what you plan to do next season in terms of parent education. Leverage Zoom if you can!	25%
8	Association Audit	Develop system to assess association current risks, weaknesses and strengths. Attend Association AGM's and create more "presence" at the local level for WRRR. Help educate associations of the improvements and changes that RO is making	Chris S.	Astrid, Ely Simpson	Delayed do to Covid, Intend to meet on Zoom with all associations prior to AGM. Audit complete, summary of information gathered and shared with Exec of WRRR. Will review and use the collected information to decide on top 10 prioirities for 2020/21 season. Thanks to all associations that participated	100%
9	Referree (Recruitment & Training)	Roll out of RC rules changes for 2019/2020 season. Development of plan to run Ref Recruitment initiatives, Coordinate with local RIC to run Come Try Ref events. Look at Association Incentives for U16/U19 players to become Ref's	Denise P.	John M.	All Rules Changes communicated, Not sure about CTREF	85%
10	Volunteer Recruitment	his involves a broad scope plan to increase/maintain Volunteer involvement in our region. It was identified during the last few meetings over the summer as being a Top 10 issue in our region, that needs specific focus on. Develop multi year plan, with some action items that could be put in place this year, and some for the next year There would be involvement with engaging Associations and finding ways tp engage the adult ringette community to increase volunteerism in our sport.	Stephanie (To be confirmed)	Keith, Peter (To be confirmed)	No activity in this area	0%
11	GLRL	Launch GLRL	Phil	Chris, Shelley	Fully Launched and league in place. Great Work!	100%