

G&T Report – Western Region AGM

COVID-19

COVID-19 unfortunately brought our season to a sudden and abrupt halt. This impacts Provincials, Regionals, remaining league play, tryouts, and will change what ringette looks like at least initially as we phase back in, following protocols that are still being developed.

The good news is that we are resilient!! Sports and many other aspects of life as we know it are put on pause, but not deleted. We will be back, in time, as strong as ever.

2021/2022 Season

Western Region is seeking host applications for AA's and Regionals in 2022.

Please submit your application to host AA's by August 7, 2020 RO's timelines. If you are not able to get facility commitment due to COVID closures, please include this in your application.

Please submit your application to host Regionals 2022 by October 15th.

Provincials:

AA's were cancelled mid-event, and both A's and U12's were cancelled completely. Ringette Ontario announced this week that refunds are now in process to all Associations. Associations are then to reimburse teams as applicable.

For 2020/2021 provincials will look a little different. Regardless of any planning, we will also be bound by provincial health regulations and RC/RO restrictions in place at the time.

If all goes well and we can hold a "normal" event, it still will not be truly "normal".

This may include all inclusive groups, and less games (5 vs 6) and only the first few games scheduled, with the rest being based on outcomes (also known as brackets).

This is new to all of us, so we ask for patience as we work through it. We are planning for best case scenario without knowing where we will be by then.

Leagues

All of our local leagues (WRRL, WORL, CORL) have now wrapped up their seasons with virtual AGM's. Some of the leagues have found they saw record attendance at their virtual AGM's and are considering utilizing this format more frequently. Lower costs and time commitment and higher participation!

2020/2021 League start will be delayed until January in all cases. Start date is subject to change depending on the COVID situation.

Regionals

Like all other events, Regionals this year was cancelled. Our expenses consisted of payment for medal backing plates that had been printed, and a fee to the accommodation's coordinator. These costs were absorbed by WRRRA and all teams were issued full refunds.

We would like to thank all those who filled the volunteer schedule within a few days of it being released and all minor officials who would have had the schedule fully covered based on responses from the first and only call-out for signup. Hope to see everyone next year!

2020/2021 Regionals are being planned in Kitchener. Like all other year end events, we are proceeding with planning but will follow guidelines as needed.

Tournaments – Hosts

A Tournament Co-ordinators meeting was held in May. This is a mandatory meeting for all centres planning a tournament in the 2020-2021 season. Since that meeting, all tournaments in the fall have been cancelled. Winter tournaments can proceed with planning but are strongly encouraged to reduce all possible risk of expenses in case these tournaments also are not permitted to run.

Tournaments - Teams

Team assignment will be determined once we have a better idea of what will be available for tournaments. Normally provincial teams are assigned, and regional teams are accepted by the host. Like everything else this process is fluid and may change depending on the situation. With limited tournaments we need to be fair to all teams.

Once tournaments are permitted to open for registration, teams are reminded to ensure that you follow the tournament's deposit and payment policy.

All teams should be aware that there are sanctions for withdrawing from a 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.

Sanctions for tournament withdraw will be reviewed on a case by case basis if due to COVID regulations. Make sure your team is willing to travel or attend tournaments prior to applying.

If your team members are not 100% comfortable with the idea of attending a tournament, don't register for one. Maybe this isn't the season. Or if travel is a concern, stay local.

For provincial teams, watch for the RO updates for application and attendance requirements (if any). Like everything else, this is fluid at this time and will not be finalized until closer to applicable dates.

Suspensions

At this time, carry-over suspensions are still in effect. All Western carry-overs are for majors in the last 4 minutes. This means that players can still attend practices. As we slowly return to the ice we will be evaluating how these can be fulfilled in a reasonable manner.

Proposed Changes for Next Year (effective Sept 2020)

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.-(updated for 2019-2020) → this rule will be removed completely for the 2020 season per RO Board decision. As such for the 2020-2021 playing season, there will not be a suspension automatically applied for an unserved major. Please address any concerns about this RO rule change to the RO board of directors (not G&T). Please continue to report all fully served penalties on the tracker. The additional comments section can be used where appropriate to report behaviour concerns or injuries (non-confidential details only).

Tournament Hosts:

1. Application fee of \$50 but is not to be submitted until tournaments are sanctioned. This will happen in the fall and will be based on RO's directive.

Provincials:

1. 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.
 - a. Full Roster must be submitted prior to application
 - b. Any and all roster changes must be approved by G&T. A roster change can negate the approval to play at A and require to team to move to AA.
2. Provincial Divisions for 2020-2021:
 - a. AA's: U14AA, U16AA, U19AA, 18+AA, 18+U
 - b. A's: U14A, U16A, U19A, 18+A
 - c. U12'sPlans to modify this have been delayed indefinitely.
3. 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.
4. 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!

Yours in Ringette,

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