

June 25, 2020

Western Ontario Ringette League – WORL A/AA

The Western Ontario Ringette League (WORL) for A and AA Provincial Ringette teams in Western Region has completed the 2019/20 Ringette playing season with the League AGM having been held on Monday, June 15, 2020.

This season the Western Region U14A-U19AA teams played league games in the GLRL (Great Lakes Ringette League) www.glr.com allowing for a broader range of opponents including both Southern and Central Region teams.

The U12P division played this season in WORL. We began the season with 8 teams but added the St Mary's U12P team in the 2nd half.

At the June 15th WORL AGM, the WORL Committee voted to allow the U12A (formerly U12P) to play league play in GLRL for the 2020/21 season. What this means for the future of WORL is the continuance as the governing body for Western Region for Provincial play including team formation, player tryout process and any other issues related to this level of play. League play will be scheduled and governed by the GLRL Committee which Western Region has a strong presence. The WORL Committee will be reviewing its bylaw throughout the next season and may return with some new changes with regards to their role of WORL in Western Region at next year's AGM.

MEMBERSHIP:

We had 9 member Associations with a total of 35 Provincial Level Teams at AA, A & U12P.

LEAGUE PLAY:

Divisional Champions were determined by League play. *The 2019/20 Champion for U12P is Forest.*

As we all know, this season came to an abrupt end in March due to the declared COVID-19 pandemic. It was not the way we all wanted to complete the season but it was the correct decision made in the interest of player safety as well as all others involved in Ringette.

To each Association, their teams and the many athletes – Thank You! This great sport would not be possible without the coaches, parents and the many hours of dedicated work by our volunteers.

PLAYER TRYOUTS:

The Player Tryout and Selection Process, by which we communicate, select and present our teams for play is one of this League's most valuable assets. Open communication and presentation through the website continues to define our League and showcases us as the premier Region in Ontario.

The Player Intent and Team Tracking spreadsheet has been very effective in keeping an open and transparent approach to managing team development and player movement. Peter Westelaken spends countless hours maintaining and supporting this League by updating this spreadsheet, his attention to detail, the collating of some 800 plus emails and his dedication to our sport, on behalf of the League, I want to THANK YOU!

With the suspension of Ringette activities until at least September 1st, we are not able to host any tryouts at this time. The WORL Evaluation Committee had put together some contingency plans for the tryout process but at this time we are not able to establish a timeline for these. We do know that Ringette Ontario has declared no league play until Jan 1, 2021 at the earliest so this does allow us some time in the fall to determine our tryout process once Ringette activities are allowed to resume. All communication for this will flow through each Association's WORL Representative. Some consideration is being given to hosting Regional tryouts rather than Association tryouts to create a more compact and efficient process. During times such as these, we must think outside the box and consider new ideas to foster and grow Ringette.

WEBSITE:

Thank you to our webmaster Keith Kaiser who spends numerous hours updating scores, game changes, posting announcements and much more. Your contribution does not go unnoticed. You are a critical cog that keeps this league moving forward each year allowing it to grow.

OFFICIATING:

Denise Pelletier, Referee in Chief for Western Region
Steve Baker, WORL Referee Scheduler
Association Referee in Chief's

Thank you to our officials, on-ice and off-ice, for their dedication and commitment to our League. We would not have a successful League without their continued support. We need to continue to recruit, train and develop our officials.

SCHEDULING:

Nancy Houghtling, WORL League Scheduler – Scheduling the U12P division and redoing the 2nd half schedule to add a 9th team is not an easy task. Thank you, Nancy, for all the work you did to produce this League schedule for our teams and Associations.

To each one of our Association WORL Representatives, U12P Convenor Dan Mitchell and to the League Executive - Shelley Handley, Leah Chapman, Annette Looper, Lori Adams & Chris Sharpe. Thank you all very much! This league cannot operate without all your continued support.

This has been my fifth year as WORL President. It is quite evident that the strong foundation of WORL has been built through the hard work of years gone by, the leadership of past members and the collective involvement of current members.

Phil Singeris
WORL President
p.singeris@rogers.com