



Western Region Ringette Association Chair's Report

WRRRA AGM July 22, 2021

The 2020/21 season has been full of ups and downs, driven mostly by the partial allowance to play a modified version of the sport due to Covid-19 Protocols and eventual shutdown of all indoor sports at the end of 2020. As a region we participated in various committees in summer/fall to do our best to develop a structure that would permit the staged return of the sport if permitted by the government. Unfortunately, with Covid-19 surges it did not allow for us to move very far along the stages. This resulted in all league and tournament play being cancelled for the 2020/21 season.

New Annual Scholarship:

I am excited to help implement the new annual scholarship in the name of Mary and Keith Kaiser. There is a motion being brought forward at the AGM to implement this new scholarship and I hope everyone supports the motion. Mary and Keith have done so much for WRRRA, I am personally thankful for them and WRRRA is better for all they have done.

Bylaw changes:

Want to thank everyone for getting involved and providing recommendations for changes to our bylaws. I am recommending that we make the proposed changes to help us align with proper NFP governance. With changing in Sub-Committee vs Working committee at RO, we need to change to our coordinators being elected to be on the board. Few other admin changes, specifically forming sub committees for B/C play, AA/A play and Adult play. Also changing the position of Adult coordinator to a VP role will help elevate visibility of Adult play and issues that we need to address as a region.

New Sub-Committees:

As listed in the proposed bylaws, these new "formal" committees of the region will have some work to do to implement terms of reference in next 30 days and work on their mandates for type of play. New committees will need vote in Chairs, that will fill the roles of VP's in the region. This new structure will allow WORL to change to a subcommittee of AA/A play. B/C will cover all WRRRA league activities and any other system changes such as Fun1/Fun2 implementation. WRRRA is in discussions with SWIRL to determine how we will move forward to work together under the new Adult Play committee to help coordinate all adult play in the region.

Regional Play:

All League play was cancelled this year, I do want to thank Jason Vermeiren for his ongoing participation with the RO B/C & 12A sub-committee. Looking forward to the outcome of the work and how it will impact our sport in the future. Jason will outline in his report activity that is ongoing for the B/C level of play. There is a lot of discussion and some confusion around the U12 A/B/C age group that needs to be clarified.

Provincial Play:

All League play was cancelled this year, I do want to thank Phil Singeris for his continued leadership in WRA and for his participation in GLRL this season as Chair.

Athletes are getting excited as we move close to the 2021/22 season and the possibility of team formation. There are a few changes being worked on for Provincials being worked on such as qualifiers. Associations, please give your athletes as many chances before tryouts to get warmed up and back on the ice. RO is indicating a minimum of 4, however consider 6 or 8 if you can.

AAA:

This year had no AAA play. Big change for this coming season all AAA teams will be hosted by RO. Think of it as 6 x United AAA teams + up to 5 development teams. WRRRA will be hosting development ice to help prepare those players with intents for AAA tryouts in Oct 2021.

Adult Play:

WRRRA has initiated working with SWIRL to determine next steps on how SWIRL will operate this coming season. Review if they will be their own association or only a league. Stephanie is coordinating with SWIRL board to determine best steps forward.

RO – Committees/Involvement/Initiatives:

- Chaired the SCC committee this past season, to help coordinate changes that were required to have any ringette this past season. This function will be taken over by the office for 2021/22 season. For the most part outside of tournaments starting in 2022, and delay in team formation. Let's hope we see a semi regular 2nd half. All indications are vaccine is having a positive impact and Covid cases are dropping rapidly in Ontario.
- Participated in RO HR & Gov committee. Working on overall review of Gov structure and some bylaw changes will be proposed for RO AGM. There were several potential governance changes that were discussed from a review that was completed by a 3rd party. RO is looking at all items to improve RO's sport recognition with the Ontario Government. This is the main driver of the amount of funding we get as a sport to provide services to our members.
- Currently participating on RO Nomination committee, starting the search for RO board candidates. Committee has put together a comprehensive new package of information and assessment tools to help aid in the recommendation of top new candidates to membership at the AGM.
- RO board has been meeting regularly, through the season helping guide the current priorities of the Ringette Ontario.
- A new working group is being formed, to be chaired by RO Executive Director, that creates an avenue for region Chairs to deal with more operational issues, that are no longer part of board discussions.
- Implementation of Covid tracking and safety protocols was a monumental task. CSL associations leaders and volunteers did an unbelievable job this past year. CSL will be required again this coming season. All sports will have to submit safety plans to the facilities we rent.

-Club Playbook has been finished and is being rolled out to all Ontario Ringette Associations. Tyler Harding the new club development manager is going to be the main driver to help each association along its journey. Having healthy/strong associations will help us grow the sport and continue to improve our development of our athletes.

-Transgender Policy and males in Provincial Ringette has been an important topic that we are working on implementation this spring for implementation in the 2021/22 season.

-New online video programs offered directly to athletes for all levels of play this past season. Karla Xavier has done a tremendous job to make this happen. This helped keep our athletes engaged during the shutdown period. The amount of time given back by some of the older players from all levels of play including NRL was well received.

Top Priorities List:

See list below with updates.

WRRRA Board & Coordinators:

I personally want to thank the entire board and coordinators that have put in as much time as they could this past year. There was a lack of typical activity due to cancellation of leagues and tournaments, however when required everyone stepped up as needed.

Special thanks to Mark Delafranier for helping keep the board moving forward with organized zoom meetings and doing a great job with the proposed bylaw edits.

I also want to thank each association, volunteer, official, athlete and coach for the past two years for working with me as Chair of the Region. I have met so many people, all of which have been kind and helpful. Ringette is truly a great sport, because of the people that participate in it. I am very interested in remaining in the role as chair for another term, and I ask for your support to make that happen.

Yours in Ringette,



Chris Sharpe,
Chair of Western Region Ringette Association

WRRR Top Priorities -2020/2021 Season

UPDATED: 19-Jul-21

**Team Leader
(of the Rock
Band)**

#	Project (Rock)	Description - Overview (Initial but can be modified by team lead)	Team Members (Rock Stars)	Status Notes	
1	Association Support	Help associations in WRRR navigate and survive the Covid enviroment Help coordinate "bubbles" that could be cross association in the region.	Chris S.	So far no associations have requested financial support. This will be reviewed again during Feb 18, 2021 WRRR General meeting	
2	Covid Safety	Develop support system in Western Region for Association CSL.	Barb G.	Association CSL Reps	
3	Player Retention - Focused on Adult	Work on ways to get players back to the ice, how can we get adult players back? How do you deal with the younger ages and need for support on the ice?	Stephanie	Chris	WRRR to review and investigate what Adult play would look like for 2021/22. 1st meeting with SWIRL has occurred and will continue. Swirl to decide if it is going to be and association or only a league 1st. Will discuss more in August how WRRR can work with adult teams in the Adult Play subcommittee.
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	Mark	Keith	Ramp Implementation to act as front end Marketing and Scheduling web enviroment Review either maitaining poritions of existing web site or review what can be ported in to the new web environment. Change to target for 2021/22 season as we are looking to align with RO, integrate with all member moving to Ramp, unify online B/C scheduling (formerly regional) and improve branding with our new marketing director position
5	Childrens Ringette	Help associations roll out Childrens Ringette within Western Region for the 2020/21 Season	Jason	Associations	RO office is has put out a new Childrens Ringette program. Fun 1 and Fun 2 & Fun 3 are a go for 2021/22 season.
6	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.	RO Office & 3rd Party	Marketing kicked off with Rogers spots through RO. Two months of activity have occurred. Very start of program over the summer. Chris to work with future Marketing Director to hand over program to. RO has created a landing spot for Rogers media to land at and collect information for association. Work with local Graphic designer (Brian) to create some media pieces for use by associations and also look at social media compaign on our own as RO does not have enough capacity to support this activity right now (Marian is now part time only)
7	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	John M.		No activity this past season. Region will be looking to host some AAA development opportunities for 80+ players that put in their intent to RO. High Performance will be driving this progam with help of region coaches
8	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.	Mark		Will be formally moving to basecamp for 2021/22 season. Zoom purchased for another year for all associations use. Each functional role in WRRR will be setup with access to basecamp in near future after AGM
9	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	Hold		Each association put on a minimum of one Parent Education session on a topic of their choosing this season. Covid parent education has been ongoing. We have challanged each association to run another rules/education session in 2nd half
10	Volunteer Recruitment	Associations are in need of volunteer sport more then ever. 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.	Hold		This involves a broad scope plan to increase/maintain Volunteer involvement in our region.