

# G&T Report September 2017

Welcome back to the Rinks!

Western Region welcomes Chris Sharpe to the G&T team. Chris & I will be sharing the G&T role going forward, ensuring better coverage of meetings and an extra person available at tournaments.

## Provincial Teams & University Teams:

Ranking games (AA) and tournament assignments (A) were completed by G&T at our August meeting for teams U14-U19. This year the process was a little different, with a focus on tournament viability and a reduction of “super-tournaments”. While this was partially successful it was also apparent that team enjoy the larger tournaments, and that the mix of teams at these tournaments gives the flexibility to reduce the number of times each team plays each other. We will continue to strive to find a balance between the direction of the ORA Board, and what our teams are requesting.

The U12P and 18+A/AA tournament assignments will be determined next week.

The tournament selection meeting that was held in the late spring (hosted by Chris) contributed to the success of tournament assignments but also left tournaments traditionally “filled” with Western region teams, with smaller divisions, or no division at all. Overall the process was very good and helped to minimize the number of times teams see each other.

A few teams were contacted by Chris and asked to modify their tournament choices. Thank you to all for quick responses, making our lives much easier. Note that teams being assigned within their choice were NOT contacted. All 6 choices are considered viable options, although we do consider how teams rank their choices when we can.

A similar process will take place for U12's and 18+, but since these are by conference call, we may be reaching out to you shortly after our calls.

### Provincials:

The G&T committee has proposed that U14A be moved to all inclusive, beginning this season. This proposal still has a few roadblocks - it needs to be approved by the ORA Board, and Kitchener (A's host) needs to secure additional ice. However, a previous roadblock, Officiating, is now supporting this initiative. We are keeping our fingers crossed that this will be successful. (Note, if we are unable to secure ice, the proposal is that this will be still be implemented, just not until next season)

The G&T committee has also proposed to change future provincials so that there is a U12 event, then an event for other levels of younger players (example U14A, U14AA, U16A?) and then an event for older players. There are a number of reasons for this change, one being preparing for a fully inclusive event for all divisions. The challenge is finding the right balance of team levels, numbers of teams, and the level of officials required. G&T is working closely with Officiating to finalize how this might look. Once finalized, this will also require approval of the ORA board.

The G&T Committee has proposed that if 5 or more 18+ University teams are planning to attend provincials, that they will attend as a separate University division. This is primarily for A teams, but AA and B teams can attend as well. The requirements for attending in this division are set by the club teams and will be supported by G&T. This is intended to move one step closer to having University Ringette fully recognized by schools across the province.

Western Region is looking forward to hosting 4 Provincial events this year and next:

2018 U12 Event - Waterloo

2018 A's - Kitchener

2019 U12 Event - Guelph

2019 AA's - Waterloo

## Regional Teams:

### Tournaments:

Now is the time to be thinking about your tournaments for the upcoming season!

Tournaments are required to submit their schedules 4 weeks in advance. As such many will have earlier deadlines than in past years!

Plan your year and get your applications in so that the tournaments can confirm your division and start their planning process.

Reminder that PAYMENT is generally required to secure your spot at any of our region's great tournaments!

### Regionals:

Regionals 2018 will be held in Kitchener, Waterloo, and Woolwich. Due to changing ice policies, **Regional teams will be required to submit their deposits at the NOVEMBER Western Region meeting.** This is considerably earlier than in the past. This will allow WRRRA to put together a draft schedule and return unneeded ice prior to the December 1st deadline which we need to follow for some of our required ice.

As in past years, all associations will be required to cover volunteer slots.

As in past years, Minor Officials (and Referees too!) from across the region are welcome to submit an application to work at the tournament. Minor Officials are paid a set rate per game, but expenses are not covered. This is a great opportunity for a sibling of a player who will be in the tournament to participate.

Note that Referees are managed by our Officiating Chair & her team - please direct any questions to Denise Pelletier at [offwrra@wrra.ca](mailto:offwrra@wrra.ca).

Details for all of the above will be posted on the Regionals web page closer to the event.

## Player Restrictions:

Keep in mind that younger teams are restricted to a set number of tournaments in which a team can participate.

There are also restrictions on the number of tournaments in which a PLAYER may participate. This will still allow a player to substitute for another team, at a tournament, but Goalies in these age divisions are no longer EXEMPT from restrictions.

The SAME restrictions apply to 2-team players.

Please refer to the Sport Development Compliance policies found here:

<http://ontario-ringette.com/resources/compliance/>

Please direct any questions or concern regarding these policies to Tania Pettitt, Western Region Sport Development, [wrrasport@wrra.ca](mailto:wrrasport@wrra.ca).

## More on 2-team players:

2-team players are not permitted to step on the ice with their 2nd team until they have been fully approved.

All information for 2-team players must be received by NOVEMBER 15th. In Western Region, this includes both the (now filled out online) ORA form found here:

<http://ontario-ringette.com/members-resources/administration/forms-and-appendices/membership-services-forms/m-f-02-player-agreement-standard-form/>

and a supporting document, sample found here:

<http://www.wrra.ca/forms/2tmsmpl.pdf>

The supporting document must outline the reason for the contract and specifically detail the player's priorities and any other restrictions. All

2-team contracts need to be approved by both Membership Services and G&T, and for younger age groups, Sport Development is also involved.

#### Substitutions:

Please review "Western Region Substitutions process"

For all Tournament Substitutions, please use ORA form G&T-F-07 found here:

<http://ontario-ringette.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/GT-F-07-16.pdf>

This must be submitted electronically to [gtwrra@wrra.ca](mailto:gtwrra@wrra.ca) for signed approvals.

For Provincial events only, a proposal has been forwarded to the Board of Directors that changes the rules for the addition of a goalie at a Provincial Event. If approved, the additional goalie will be restricted to a maximum number of games. The fair ice policy will no longer apply to the additional goalie, allowing teams to bring a spare goalie who may or may not play at all, but at the same time protecting the rights of the goalie who has been with the team for the entire season. These rules will be applicable to all teams currently governed by the fair ice policies.

#### Game Sheets

Please submit copies of all season game sheets (league) to G&T in person or online.

#### Penalty Reporting:

Please review "Western Region Penalty Reporting"

Please review "Western Region Suspension Reporting"

### Tournament Hosts:

This was the second year of ORA's new allocation of divisions to the Regions. Most Western Region hosts were all able to offer the divisions they requested. However, not all divisions filled.

Hosts are reminded that their initial schedules are due to G&T four (4) weeks prior to your tournament, or three (3) weeks prior for 1-day events.

Hosts should avoid 18+ game before 5 pm on Friday whenever possible

Hosts will be provided with AA division ranking games, and A division game matchups. Please advise of any Out of Province teams attending your tournaments in these divisions.

### U12PP

Tournaments may be reassigned in December for the 2nd half based on tiering.

This will affect both teams and tournament hosts.

This is our third year for this approach and we will work with all affected parties as needed. In order to mitigate, we will attempt to seed smaller tournaments with similar skilled teams (based on the matrixes submitted) and larger tournaments in a manner that can split to 2 divisions.

### Contact information:

Email: [gtwrra@wrra.ca](mailto:gtwrra@wrra.ca)

Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling	Chris Sharpe
519-573-1771	519-572-2409

Please keep in mind that we both are employed outside of ringette and may not be able to take person phone calls or respond to emails during business hours.

See you at the rinks!

