



Western Region Ringette Association Region Chair's Report

WRRRA GENERAL MEETING REPORT – Nov 26, 2020

First off, I want to say how thankful I am to all the association Presidents and CSL leaders for having done such an outstanding job so far this season. The hours and hours of volunteer time that the leaders in these roles have put in to be able to get their associations sorted and back on the ice is truly impressive. We would not be playing ringette this year if it were not for all of you!

THANKS SO MUCH!

This may go without saying, but please take back to your associations, the thanks from RO and WRRRA to all your associations board members and volunteers. How amazing our sport has worked together to make the best of a tough situation this year, and there is no way that we could have done it without them.

The last two months have seen most, if not all the region's associations get back on the ice in one form or another. We are starting to see more association within the same health units starting to play exhibition games of varying formats which the athletes are so excited for. Interest in practicing only is starting to weigh on player's interest. For the most part players have been happy, but they really want to be able to apply their skills in competition.

Western Region volunteers have primarily been focused on do everything and anything to get players back on the ice. Most if not all region resources for scheduling and leagues have been on hold up to this point and may remain so for the rest of the 2020/21 season. With the onset of the 2nd wave of Covid-19 kicking into high gear in Ontario, there appears to be a low likelihood of any stage 4 play in the foreseeable future.

Most associations are down in overall numbers of registered athletes (some less than others), the largest age group we have lost this season is adult. From what we can tell, that is likely not to change this season unless tournaments were to happen, and that is not in the cards. I have attached to this report the summary of players registered in each of the WRRRA associations, so you can all see where we are at.

One of the major items I have been hearing directly from coaches, parents and athletes is for us (The Sport) to work on developing a consistent understanding and approach for the modified games rules. We have found that there is a wide range of understanding and interpretation of what is permitted for social distancing play and what is a covid-19 violation. From coaches of different levels, referees from one association to another and association to association, the understanding of the application of the rules is not consistent. Denise is working with RO to get this sorted out and will be reaching out to the association RIC soon to help address this.

I again would like to thank all volunteers, plus the staff at the RO office for all the work they have put into the RTR documents and processes. It has been a tremendous amount of work for them and I think they have done a fabulous job.

I have also updated the WRRRA region top priority list and have attached it for your reference. Now that most of the CSL and RTR systems and process are in place, I intend to put more of my focus on some of our other priorities such marketing to grow the sport for a return in 2021, however please do not hesitate to reach out to me on any of the RTR or COVID-19 related issues.

Yours in Ringette,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CS', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Sharpe, Chair Western Region
chairwrra@wrra.ca

Association	18+	U19	U16	U14	U12	U10	Fun 2 U8	Fun 1 U6	Total
Chatham	15	1	22	0	14	18	4	39	113
Dorchester	0	19	18	17	20	12	18	14	118
Elora Fergus	0	11	21	18	7	1	11	0	69
Exeter Seaforth	17	11	9	9	3	3	7	6	65
Forest Xtreme	0	23	30	23	30	32	34	17	189
Goderich	0	9	10	17	17	17	12	3	85
Guelph	42	18	23	17	27	34	15	3	179
Hanover	0	3	12	0	0	6	6	0	27
Kitchener	38	32	35	32	42	24	17	2	222
London	0	23	28	26	29	21	14	0	141
Mitchell	0	0	14	11	23	19	11	14	92
Owen Sound	17	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
St Marys	0	13	20	25	21	17	5	10	111
St Thomas	9	9	9	10	7	11	1	0	56
Tillsonburg	21	9	7	12	10	11	8	10	88
Waterloo	128	83	58	48	58	36	35	19	465
Wellington North	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	18
Western University	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Woolwich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWIRL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London Open	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Thomas Open	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	306	273	325	265	308	271	198	137	2083

WRRR Top Priorities -2020/2021 Season

UPDATED: 15-Nov-20
 Team Leader Team Members (Rock Stars but need more volunteers)
 (of the Rock Band)

#	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
1	Association Support	Help associations in WRRR navigate and survive the Covid environment Help coordinate "bubbles" that could be cross association in the region.	Chris S.		
2	Covid Safety	Develop support system in Western Region for Association CSL.	Barb G.	Association CSL Reps	CSL is a new role implemented by associations at the request of RO. To Coordinate activity to manage Covid Safety Policies Work in conjunction with RO in supporting and coordinating association activity with Associations CSL reps.
3	Player Retention	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?	Chris S.	Jason/Phil/Stephanie	With current limitation on play and tournaments, there is a heavy pressure on player registration rates. Most heavily the heavy hit will be the Adult and very young age groups (Adults not coming back due to lack of tournaments and young players due to exposure concerns and need for additional support for players on ice in less than 2M space)
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 environment Review either maintaining portions of existing web site or review what can be ported in to the new web environment. We do not want to lose the "resource" value of the existing Wrrra page
5	Childrens Ringette	Help associations roll out Childrens Ringette within Western Region for the 2020/21 Season	TBD		RO office is has put out a new Childrens Ringette program. Please review and do what you can to get in alignment for the 2nd half on the programing Coordinate any issues with CSL to formalize implementation
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	Reached out to Marketing Firms: -Intrige 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 Unkown We will need to have discussion in the first half of the year if we plan on initiating formal Marketing activity for the Spring and Summer of 2021. Get New players on the ice!
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	TBD		Ayton Johnson from London willing to run, will work with Associations to deploy to cohorts
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		WRRR did purchase Zoom account for Video Conf call. Being used for GLRL, WORL, WRRL and WRRR AGM Exploring use of Google Drive and services to be able to tie in all coordinator and executive activity
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	Craig H.		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 challenged 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.	TBD		This involves a broad scope plan to increase/maintain Volunteer involvement in our region.