

Western Ontario Ringette League – WORL A/AA League

April 19, 2012

League summary for 2011-2012:

- 14 member Associations in current playing year
- 40 teams (7-U12, 7-U14 A, 4-U14 AA, 7-U16 A, 2-U16 AA, 6-U19 A, 3-U19 AA and 4-18+ Open)
- League Champions
 - U12 – Jacks: Waterloo McCarthy: Elora Fergus
 - U14 A – Forest
 - U14 AA – Guelph
 - U16 A – Elora Fergus
 - U16 AA – London
 - U19 A – Forest
 - U19 AA – St. Clements
 - 18+ Open A – Waterloo-Duncan
- The WORL teams that qualified for post-season play went on to Provincials in Whitby for AA and Ottawa-Nepean for A. The U12 Provincial event was held in North Bay, Eastern's were held in the Province of Quebec and Nationals were held in Burnaby, BC.
Congratulations to St. Clements – U19 AA – Gold at Nationals, London – U16 AA - Silver at Nationals.
Congratulations to Waterloo-Duncan – Open A – Gold at Eastern's, Guelph U14 AA – Gold and Elora Fergus U14 AA – Silver at Eastern's.
Congratulations to the 5 medals and sportsmanship awards won by Western Region U12 teams at the Provincial Petite event.
Congratulations to the 23 medals and sportsmanship awards won by Western Region teams at Provincials.
Overall, Western Region A and AA teams had a very successful year! Well done!

The League, through a Trillium Grant, purchased and used a new software package - Diamond Scheduler. Thank you to Tim McCann for all his hard work and time needed to oversee our League schedule. 300 plus games, plus additional changes and re-schedules – a daunting task handled extremely well, thank you Tim.

League continues to experience issues with lack of qualified officials. There is not enough qualified level 4 officials to cover current slate of games. As our sport grows and as more teams are created at the U16 AA level and above – the situation is getting worse. The following points have been gathered and need to be discussed at the Association level:

- To establish a clear mentor program for new referees
- Train more individuals to become Evaluators to help officials move thru ranks
- Advertise or market to more individuals to become referees

- Strategic planning and scheduling of games – cut down on travel costs. Back to back games of same or adjacent level. More weeknight games needed to avoid weekend tournament scheduling availability.
- Consider having a central location for games during heavy tournament season.

The process to select and offer A and AA teams for the new season has begun. The new WORL evaluation committee has met with our member Associations to review intents and to encourage any and ALL players interested in playing at the provincial level to register their intents on-line at the WRRRA website: www.wrra.ca then follow to the A AA League Link to complete. The 2012-2013 process paper is on-line, including timelines and important dates of interest.

WORL AGM is scheduled for Tuesday May 29, 7:30 PM in Dorchester at the Optimist Hall. Presentation of banners, committee presentations as well as elections will take place.

Thank you to all of our Associations for a very competitive and exciting year of Ringette. Thank you to the many volunteers that help guide this League – your commitments, your patience, your understanding is all very much appreciated.

Mike Guiler

WORL President

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