

WRRRA AGM Meeting – April 17, 2014

WRRL President's Report

This marks the end of the first year of my term as WRRL President. I must say that it takes a significant number of volunteers to make a minor sport like ringette a fun and rewarding experience for all, particularly the players. Until a person truly gets involved it really is just a spectator sport. I've come to realize that there are many people behind the scenes at the local Association, WRRL, WRRRA and ORA levels who make all attempts to make the game of ringette run like a well-oiled machine at practices, league/exhibition games and tournaments.

Having all the positions filled on the WRRL Executive in December resulted in a real team approach to managing WRRL from that point on and obviously more hands make light work. I thank all members of the current executive for their assistance and co-operative leadership. WE are a great TEAM.

I thank the Association representatives for being constructive liaisons with their Associations throughout the seasons.

However, there are always things to improve upon to make the game and organization better. The WRRL Executive fully realizes that there are some key times during the season when more information is required in order to make decisions with accuracy and clarity. I believe a major objective of ringette is to create an atmosphere of fair and safe play for all and we are charged to ensure this happens at the Regional level.

The September/early October meeting is crucial to determining the makeup of WRRL over all age groups. One very important aspect at this time is the recognition and approval of teams with overage, 2-team agreement and male players. The December re-seeding meeting is just as crucial and Association attendance is mandatory, as it is for the September/October meeting. Just as important however, is the fact that Association reps need to be fully aware of issues and concerns with all their respective teams so finite and accurate decisions can be made for the second half of the season.

It became obvious over the past 2 weeks that the success/downfall of WRRL is judged most closely at the year-end Regionals tournament. We heard many positive comments regarding the equality of the pools within the various age groups but similarly there were also negative comments within a couple age groups and/or pools. I must say that the Executive met in length on March 4 and made the best possible decisions with the amount of information at our disposal. Hindsight is of course 20/20. We will challenge the Associations to provide even more info prior to the Regionals in 2015 and we will also challenge ourselves as executive members to do a better job of pooling.

Finally, I thank everyone who helps in front or behind the scenes to make this great sport of ringette in Western Region a fun and rewarding experience for all.

Respectfully submitted and until next season,

**Brian Woolley
WRRL President**