

**WEST FERRIS RINGETTE ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
May 5, 2021 6:30pm  
Zoom meeting, North Bay ON**

Name	Position	Attended	Regrets	Name	Position	Attended	Regrets
Erin Johns	President	x		Shawnah Smales	Equipment Coordinator	x	
Leslie King	Vice President	x		Lori King	Web Director	x	
Mark Webster	Treasurer	x		Stephen Hamilton/Jeff Graham	Referee-in-Chief	x-Stephen	
Marc Desroches	Ice Director	x		Brennain Lloyd	Publicity Director	x	
Lee Ann Truax	Registrar	x		Meaghan Spykerman	Technical Coordinator	x	
Lorrie Nolan	House League Director	x		Pam Voght	Sponsorship Coordinator	x	
Erin Johns	Rep Director	x		Niko Gregorin	Tournament Coordinator	x	
Trina Palmieri	Secretary	x		Carrie Read	Past President/Registrar		x
Claire Periard	Ways & Means Coordinator		x				

**General Membership in Attendance:** Darren Pace, George Seymour, Joanne Thisdelle, Josee Lebel, Nathalie Goulet, Phillip Penna, Terry Ablett, Brianne Trecartin, Renee Baker,

**6:30-housekeeping-reviewing rules for Zoom meeting-polls and how to ask questions**

**6:32-Call to Order**

Agenda Item	Key Points of Discussion	Action	Status – Contact Person
Additions & Adoption of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reading and adoption of 2020 AGM minutes. The minutes will be posted on the website as reviewed.</li> <li>-There will also be a powerpoint presentation of the Director reports and agenda for our 2021 meeting.</li> <li>-New business arising from 2020 minutes. Successful in meeting goals-return to the ice, for the new season.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Motion:</b> “To approve the minutes from 2020 AGM.” Motioned by Stephen Hamilton and seconded by Meaghan Spykerman . 95% in favour and 1 to abstain.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Trina will send Lori minutes to post on our WFRA website.</p>	

<p><b>President's Report</b></p>	<p>It goes without saying that the 2020-21 season has been the most challenging for players, families, coaches and volunteers. Despite our season looking different this year and it's abrupt end at the Christmas break, there were many successes with our season given the circumstances.</p> <p>The WFRA board understood that the 2021 season was going to look different and we elected to create a "Return to Ringette Committee" in July of 2020 to start planning the logistics in order to safely return to the ice. In August Ringette Ontario announced that all associations were to appoint a "Covid Safety Leader" to be the point person to be the contact between the association, the city, the public health unit and Ringette Ontario regarding "all things covid" ensuring that the expectations and protocols of each group was communicated and followed through by all the WFRA members. The WFRA was back on the ice in August and we didn't look back!</p> <p><b>Acknowledgements:</b></p> <p><b>Players</b> - Players quickly became adaptable to the "new way" to play the game, respecting the Covid 19 safety rules/expectations and still showing up with a positive attitude to play the game they love. From arriving dressed, or dressing in the parking lot, wearing masks, talking with their friends from afar, we want to thank you for all that you did to make this year a success, we know it was difficult!</p> <p><b>Parents</b> - Thank you for being understanding and respecting the Covid safety rules. From completing the covid screens, ensuring that your child arrives dressed and within the timeframe, ensuring they follow the covid safety rules, arranging child care for your other children (due to the restrictions) and perhaps having to miss some of the ice times due only being allowed one parent per player, we understand how difficult this must have been! We appreciate all of you!</p> <p><b>Coaches</b> - The coaches were very accommodating and understanding the importance of following the Covid safety rules and helping us roll out the modification required both on and off the ice. At WFRA we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful team of dedicated coaches and helpers who devote countless hours to the sport. THANK YOU</p> <p><b>Officials</b> - Our officials were asked to interpret and enforce the modifications of the game which was not an easy task, to say the least. This posed some new challenges and coaches, players and referees learned together on how the game could be played in this new format. Thank you for being open and understanding with all of this!</p> <p><b>Volunteers</b> - Our volunteers are literally "the glue that holds this all together". Not only do we have a dedicated board that looks to ensure that our sport can continue in North Bay but we also have many other volunteers that we can always count on to help us when we call upon them. Thank you a million times over for all that you do.</p> <p><b>Ringette Ontario</b> has focused on governance this year and they have offered direct support to associations to review policies and procedures, gather and provide feedback and suggestions. They have also offered a variety of webinar sessions that offered additional education to promote operational excellence and strategic planning.</p> <p>Once the restrictions loosen and we are given the "okay" to return to the ice, the WFRA will look at all</p>		
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	<p>options to offer sessions as we can. In the meantime, we will be planning for our upcoming 2021-22 season. Take care, stay safe and WE WILL BE BACK!</p> <p>-some movement in the Board with this new season          -looking at options for the new season and hope to back on the ice soon          -looking to garner interest for WFRA Board member and what is involved such as time commitment, training, and reviewing policies and procedures.</p> <p>Questions/Comments: Terry Ablett noted that WFRA was the first association in the province to meet approvals from Ringette Ontario to Return to Ringette.</p>		
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<p>• WFRA continues to be a very solvent organization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising has been and will remain to be key in maintaining this position.            Ex. Bingo and Nevada</li> <li>• 2020-2021 season had more transactions than usual with ice times over and above the registration ice times. (aka Etransfers, \$15, \$30 etc) This process will be reviewed moving forward for any additional ice.</li> <li>• We have healthy reserves to help offset increasing ice costs and to help protect against other potential negative factors. (Bingo Revenue decreasing)</li> <li>• Refunds were made possible due to our strong financial position and will allow us to continue with programs like the \$99 1<sup>st</sup> year registration. (Coming soon)</li> <li>• Registration remained strong in 2020-2021, considering....</li> <li>• Overall we are happy to report a break even income/expense report.</li> </ul> <p>-many additional transactions this year and difficult to reconcile and will need to review this process going forward          -Nevada helps to supplement Bingo revenues nicely. Mark will need to open a new bank account for Nevada revenues.</p> <p>Questions/Comments: From Josee-How does Bingo decide which organizations get funding? Non-profit organizations can apply to be a member to the Hall of Charities through the Bingo Hall and assigned your night by them.          -Important to note we have a bookkeeper that helps to keep our financial processes accountable.          From Terry-Do we know if the City's rates and format will be the same for the upcoming year?          We are not sure what next year will look like. We are prepared either way. Summer ice will look the same with 1.5 hour ice times. Ice expenses were higher this year due to higher costs from the City and paying for 1.5 hour blocks.          -Please see Treasurer's Report (attached)</p>		
<b>Vice President's Report</b>	<p>The VP has a supporting role to the board and assists with committee work and assists with projects as required such as assisting team apparel, investigations and follow up.</p> <p>In 2020-2021, the VP was part of the Return to Ringette Committee, which worked with Ringette Ontario and local authorities to facilitate the safe return to play.</p> <p>Questions/Comments: none</p>		
<b>Registrar</b>	<p>-position shared with Kelli and Lee Ann-started later in the season in this position with some shuffling</p> <p>Questions/Comments: From Meaghan: When is registration for next season starting? Will there be a early bird</p>		

	<p>registration discount?          -have had no updates from RO and Ramp has not opened yet for registration</p>																																																																																									
<b>Ice Director Report</b>	<p>-Total Ice booked by the WFRA totalled roughly \$30574. This includes ice times that were booked for Development (which some funds would have been recovered back).          -Ice costs increased last season due to by North Bay as well as the 1.5 hour charge.          -WFRA reserved 130 ice times that would account for roughly 195 total hours on the ice (1.5 hour slots)          -104 ice times (156 hours) for HL (all divisions)          -26 ice times (39 hours) for Development (all divisions) – Oct-Dec</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="11">2020-21</th> </tr> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="2">September</th> <th colspan="2">October</th> <th colspan="2">November</th> <th colspan="2">December</th> <th colspan="2">Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th>ice times</th> <th>hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>U8</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>7.5</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> <td>4.5</td> <td>14</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U10</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>8</td> <td>12</td> <td>6</td> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>20</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U12</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>7</td> <td>10.5</td> <td>6</td> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>19</td> <td>28.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U14</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>7</td> <td>10.5</td> <td>6</td> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>19</td> <td>28.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JBO</td> <td>4*</td> <td>6</td> <td>13</td> <td>19.5</td> <td>9</td> <td>13.5</td> <td>6</td> <td>9</td> <td>32</td> <td>48</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">*U16/19 and JBO was divided in Sept</p> <p>-clarified that JBO had 48 hours between 3 teams so was effectively equal for all age groups          Questions/Comments: none</p>	2020-21												September		October		November		December		Total		ice times	hours	U8	2	3	5	7.5	4	6	3	4.5	14	21	U10	2	3	8	12	6	9	4	6	20	30	U12	2	3	7	10.5	6	9	4	6	19	28.5	U14	2	3	7	10.5	6	9	4	6	19	28.5	JBO	4*	6	13	19.5	9	13.5	6	9	32	48										
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<b>House League Director's Report</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HL operated for half a season</li> <li>2. We combined divisions and built cohorts with the RTR committee</li> <li>3. 9 teams were formed allowing us to promote our sponsors</li> <li>4. Arrangements for additional players, a goalie clinic and mini cohort tournaments were in the works before the lockdown</li> <li>5. Summer camps are still arranged and are dependent on our lockdown status</li> <li>6. Gym Ringette was hit and miss</li> </ol> <p>-thank all the players and bench staff for their dedication this season.</p> <p>Questions/Comments: none</p>																																																																																									
<b>Registrar</b>	<p>With COVID 19, registration in each Division was limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 126 players registered for the 2020/21 WFRA Ringette Season</li> <li>• U8 – 8 players (2 new)</li> <li>• U10 – 18 players (3 new)</li> <li>• U12 – 27 players (2 new)</li> <li>• U14 – 18 players (1 new)</li> </ul>																																																																																									

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U16 – 13 play19ers</li> <li>• U19 – 9 players</li> <li>• 18+ - 16 players (3 new)</li> <li>• Nipissing University – 17 players</li> </ul> <p>As per Ringette Ontario’s mandate, RAMP was used exclusively for registrations (completed online) for the 2020/21 WFRA season and will be used for the upcoming 2121/22 season.</p>		
<b>Rep Director’s Report</b>	<p>As per Ringette Canada/Ringette Ontario mandate due to COVID restrictions, we couldn’t have rep teams or a rep program this year. We did run some extra ice for those wanting extra time that were well attended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per Ringette Ontario mandate, we aren’t allowed to have tryouts or form any rep teams until the fall. They are supposed to provide associations with return to competition guidelines in May.</li> <li>• Ringette Ontario has been reviewing their competitive structure and there may be changes coming to all competitive levels, from AAA to B/C. The participation of boys at competitive levels is part of the discussion. Ringette Canada and its provincial partners have been meeting to refine their trans inclusion policy. The information about all of this this should be forthcoming in the next coming months.</li> </ul> <p>-Erin was in this position most of season until she covered President and then Kelli stepped into this role. -will look at conditioning session before September and looking for interested coaches Questions/Comments: from Terry-no update on AA/A/B/C changes and working groups are underway.</p>		
<b>Ways and Means Coordinator’s Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WFRA is a member of the “Hall of Charities” and provides volunteers – and gains revenue – from a fortnightly bingo</li> <li>• WFRA bingo is every second Sunday evening; volunteer hours are 7 pm until approximately 11 pm.</li> <li>• Currently have 32 volunteers, including 11 Directors</li> <li>• March 15 2021 was last bingo before COVID-19 closure, reopened in xxx and closed again xxx (Brennain will fill in yellow highlighted areas after meeting May 3rd deadline!)</li> <li>• Scheduling is done through email, with an online schedule that is updated by the Ways and Means Coordinator</li> <li>• Monthly reporting to the City of North Bay on bingo revenues and disbursements</li> <li>• In typical years, bingo revenue accounts for approximately half of WFRA income; important fundraiser that keeps registration fees low</li> </ul> <p>Questions/Comments: none</p>		
<b>Equipment Coordinator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 players took advantage of the equipment loan program this year. The majority were players who kept their equipment from the previous year with an updated deposit cheque. (This option was preferred due to Covid19)</li> <li>• Returns for the season still need to be completed when current restrictions are lifted and plans will be made and communicated when possible.</li> <li>• A couple of coaches were able to return jerseys before the Stay-at-Home order, but the majority of coaches still need to return rings, jerseys and/or equipment.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No purchases were made for the equipment room this year, but I recommend next year we start replacing equipment bags. The ones we have are starting to just disintegrate. I think it could be done by replacing 10 bags per year for 3 to 4 seasons. We will also need to start replacing girdles and repairing some goalie equipment next season.</li> </ul> <p>Questions/Comments: From Josee-Can we put a call out to parents to get some equipment needed in equipment room-request for equipment donations? -A great idea and suggestion to discuss this further at our next Executive meeting.</p>		
<b>Web Director's Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>full overhaul of the website at the beginning of this season, making it more mobile friendly</li> <li>firsthand phishing and malicious IP address filtering, avoiding extra costs with our ISP</li> <li>landing page redesigned to accommodate COVID policies and tracking tools</li> <li>continuous upkeep of website, more so the schedule and landing page</li> <li>second year of successful OGKS (Online Game Keeping System) use which allows our gamekeepers to enter their time worked, calculates wages and summarizes results for our Treasure to make payments</li> <li>completed last year's goals including a Programs Section, document repository, and more automated OGKS functionality</li> <li>50th anniversary logo created, along with other photo and graphic editing</li> </ul> <p>Questions/Comments: Can we find out how much activity on the website and how many have visited? Lori will compile those numbers and forward them to the group.</p>		
<b>Referee in Chief</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This past season we had 13 officials on our roster with one new addition. We had 12 minor officials this past season with one new addition. Two previous officials who were intending on returning, ended up having to defer to next year as a result of them having to limit contact within the "covid bubbles."</li> <li>COVID limited our abilities to officiate games this season and saw officials scheduled for the U18+ and U14. As such, our new and younger officials were limited in the number of game assignments they received. Covid rules would not permit our new major and minor officials the ability to shadow an experienced official was not allowed and the new officials were not able to hit the ice and penalty box this season.</li> <li>Initially, implementing the Ringette Canada covid rules was a learning process. The rules created a great deal of ambiguity with the officials, coaches and players as well as conflict with the WFRA's Covid Safety Officers. To provide additional clarity to the situation, we implemented additional restrictions with the implementation and enforcement of a "hard triangle" in the offensive zones. This modification was adopted by the players with relative ease and was very successful. The product that evolved on the ice was fun and appreciated by the players and the officials.</li> <li>Lori King, web director and I worked on a portal to enable me to revise the roster for online attendance log for officials. Lori also was able to add the minor officials to the COVID contact tracing form. Major officials tracked their attendance through a portal launched by Ringette Ontario.</li> <li>Let's hope 2021-2022 season permits us back on the ice and be able to do so with a return to normal.</li> </ul> <p>Questions/Comments: None</p>		

<b>Publicity Director</b>	<p>Approximately 70 emails sent to WFRA google group (parents/guardians, players)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Approximately 50 primary posts to WFRA Facebook page, with 579 followers (up from 513 one year ago; Facebook post reach during season peaked in January</li> <li>▪ WFRA activity centre in the Canada Day Kidzone on July 1st and “Come Try Ringette” events were cancelled; these are our major promotional events</li> <li>▪ Due to COVID-19, there were no exhibition game between the Nipissing Lakers and Laurentian University or between WFRA rep teams and other teams</li> <li>▪ WFRA YouTube account has playlists with approximately 100 videos in 11 playlists, including 37 WFRA game</li> </ul> <p>-we missed out on many publicity activities due to COVID-busier with COVID announcement, but not the same opportunities to highlight all our great events.</p> <p>Comments/Questions: none</p>		
<b>Technical Coordinator</b>	<p>-We had 19 active house league coaches for the season</p> <p>-Due to not having tournaments we did not have any official rep team coaches but we did have many coaches and volunteers who coached our development ice times</p> <p>-RO has offered coaching courses online which is very helpful.</p> <p>-good Return to ringette course being offered by Ringette Ontario</p> <p>Comments/Questions:</p>		
<b>Sponsorship Coordinator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2020-2021 was a difficult year for all businesses.</li> <li>▪ A HUGE Thank You! goes out to all of the amazing sponsors who were able to step up and support ringette in their community this season.</li> <li>▪ Thank you to our returning sponsors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○Kings Sportswear - Jerseys in kind</li> <li>○Skaters Source for Sports</li> <li>○Tim Hortons - Jerseys in kind</li> <li>○Active Running - \$500</li> <li>○Grecos - \$500</li> <li>○IG Wealth -\$500</li> <li>○Shriners - \$500</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>~Thank you to our New Sponsor: Harwood Plumbing &amp; Heating - \$500</p>		
<b>Tournament Coordinator’s Report</b>	<p>Report on Tournament activity in the past season 2020/2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We are aiming for the North East Regional Ringette Tournament in April 1-3, 2022</li> <li>▪ Perhaps we will be able to have a WFRA tournament in the next season, opening 3:3 for example</li> <li>▪ All tournament activity depends on pandemic activity</li> </ul>		
<b>By-Law Amendments</b>	None proposed		

<p><b>New Business:</b></p>	<p>-goal is return to ringette safely and will await direction from province, City and Ringette Ontario</p> <p>Comments/Questions:</p>		
<p><b>Election of Officers:</b></p>	<p><b>Nominations:</b> The following nominations have been received: Only final voting results will be shared with the group. Will call for nominations for each position. Have polled the floor for Motion to accept the slate of incoming directors for the 2021-2023 term and for the one term of President from 2021-2022. Meaghan to accept, Mark to second. 89% in favour and 2 abstain. Motion is carried.</p> <p><b>President:</b> No nominations received.</p> <p><b>Vice President:</b> Stephen Hamilton was nominated for Vice President. No other nominations received. He has agreed to allow his name to stand for Vice President.</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> Trina Palmieri was nominated for Secretary. No other nominations received. She has agreed to allow her name to stand for Secretary.</p> <p><b>Publicity Director:</b> Renee Baker was nominated for Publicity Director. No other nominations received. She has agreed to allow her name to stand for Publicity Director.</p> <p><b>Registrar:</b> Josee Lebel was nominated. No other nominations received. She agreed to allow her name to stand for Registrar.</p> <p><b>House League Director:</b> No nominations received.</p> <p><b>Sponsorship Director:</b> Pam Voght was nominated for this role. No other nominations received. She has agreed to allow her name to stand for Sponsorship Director.</p> <p><b>Tournament Director:</b> Niko Gregorin was nominated for this role. No other nominations received. He has agreed to allow his name to stand for Tournament Director.</p> <p><b>Technical Director:</b> Meaghan Spykerman was nominated for this role. No other nominations received. She has agreed to allow her name to stand for Technical Director.</p> <p><b>Ways and Means Director:</b> Maxine Samson was nominated for this role. No other nominations received. She has agreed to allow her name to stand for Ways and Means Director.</p> <p><b>Web Director:</b> Lori King was nominated. No other nominations received. She agreed to allow her name to stand for Web Director.</p>		
<p><b>Adjournment: Next meeting:</b></p>	<p>Adjourned at 7:41pm. Next meeting: Executive meeting- May 18, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom. We will invite the new members to this meeting.</p>	<p>There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm. Motioned by Stephen Hamilton,</p>	

		seconded by Mark. All in favour. Carried.	
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