

**WEST FERRIS RINGETTE ASSOCIATION
AGM MEETING
DIRECTOR REPORTS**

**Wednesday, April 27, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Pete Palangio boardroom North Bay, ON

- a) **Call to Order**
- b) **Reading and Adoption of minutes from previous AGM**
- c) **Business arising out of previous minutes**
- d) **President's Report (Darren Pace):**

I joined our Executive shortly after the last AGM when I found out there was no one in the position of President and I thought maybe I could help out. The Executive agreed to my nomination and we began our year. It has been an interesting experience with many ups and downs.

To tell the story of this year we must talk about COVID. We have had to make a lot of adjustments over the course of the year based on changing regulations from the Province, Public Health, the City, and Ringette Ontario. As rules and regulations have changed, we have worked to keep ahead of them and communicate these changes out to you our members. In spite of the pandemic and its various restrictions and precautions, I feel we were able to have a fairly successful season.

Change is an inevitable variable when we as volunteers run an association. The pandemic brought many changes over the course of the year, but so did change at the executive level. We began the year without a House League Director and despite our efforts we could not fill the vacancy. To fill this gap we created a House League Working Group from members of the Executive. I would like to thank Meaghan Spykerman, Erin Johns, Mark Desroches, and Kelli Van Buskirk for leading this process. I would also like to thank Stephen Hamilton who acted as a support to the group on various topics.

Shortly after we agreed to host the 2022 Northeastern Ontario Regionals Tournament, our Tournament Director had to step down for personal reasons. We again tried to recruit someone to fill this position but were not successful. We again created a working group of executive members and volunteers to manage this project. They did a great job! We have had many compliments and thanks for the fun people had at the tournament and some great media coverage. I would like to thank Erin Johns, Meaghan Spykerman, Richard Spykerman, Pam Voght, Kelli Van Buskirk, Trina Palmieri, Shawnah Smales, Josee Lebel, and Lori King for all their hard work and leadership. I would like to thank Mark Desroches for getting all of our ice contracts for the tournament set up. I would like to thank Leslie King and Brennain Lloyd, both of whom were past members of our executive who came back to give us much needed help. I would like to thank Kyra Barnett and Alex Parker for all their work recruiting and organizing our minor officials and referees. I would also like to thank all of our sponsors in particular Source for Sports, Wagg's Petroleum, the Corporation of the City of North Bay, and Tourism North Bay.

Another loss for us was our Publicity Director who needed to step aside part way through the season due to other commitments. Thankfully Brennain Lloyd was able to come forward and help us out with media and publicity for the Northeastern Ontario Regionals.

As you can see from above finding and keeping volunteers is a real challenge. In order for WFRA to not only run well but simply to exist we need a steady stream of volunteers to join and help us run our association and its programs. There are many opportunities available including positions on the executive, coaching and leading teams, as well as helping out with various programs and events.

One of the main reasons I volunteered is there are a lot of changes coming through legislation and policy on how we govern and run our association and this is an area I can be helpful. I haven't gotten quite as much done on this topic as I had hoped in my first year but hope to reformat my plan over the summer if you will allow me to continue as President. Changes to our governance through the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) will require us to review our bylaws and letters of incorporation. Changes to the Provincial and National competition model being driven by Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) models will be creating change in our programming and how our tournament

teams compete. Ringette Ontario's policy review is creating a variety of changes in how we run our association and offer programming. I look forward to the opportunity to help the association continue to work through all of this.

There is so much more that went into the last year but I will let each of the Executive elaborate with their reports.

e) **Treasurer's Report (Mark Webster):** Please see attached Balance Sheet and Income Statement.

We are happy to report that WFRA is still in good financial shape. Year after year we made more money, mainly due to the tournament and some unexpected revenue from our insurance carrier. There are some accounts receivable out there, but we are collecting quickly.

Nevada revenue has helped and bingo is continuing, we will see how bingo goes moving forward. Looking forward we are continuing to build resources for the future of WFRA.

Although I will be stepping down as Treasurer, I am always happy to review and comment on the overall financial picture of the association if needed.

f) **Registrar's Report (Josee Lebel):** Please see attachment for Registrar's report.

g) **Executive Member's reports**

Vice President's Report (Stephen Hamilton):

- I have served on the team managing the Open Division of house league
- assisted Treasurer to review and process refund and credit applications as a result of COVID restrictions
- served on the marketing, recruitment and retention team
- with the resignation of the Publicity Director. I took over the creation of social media initiative to distribute marketing video. Our first of 2 videos was a general overview promoting the benefits to consider playing ringette. <https://youtu.be/U9WATUJgmac>
- It has received 437 views in the past month with a lot of traffic directed from Facebook (95%). A second video is in production that will highlight what WFRA offers such specifically. These videos will be the target to drive social media advertising and other promotions
- served on coaching selection committee
- worked to grow more synergies with the Nipissing University Lakers Ringette program. We organized an exhibition game to promote the sport in community. Lakers assisted with the learn to skate. A goalie camp was cancelled as a result of covid. The offering of a skills camp is being evaluated for September.

Ice Director's Report (Marc Desroches):

- Returned to 50 min ice blocks in the 2021-22 season.
- Ice Cancelled for Jan 5 – Feb 1, 2022 – No Ringette
- WFRA reserved 271 hour-long ice times booked
- 193 ice times for HL (all divisions)
- 78 ice times for Rep Teams (all divisions)

HL

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
	Ice times						
U8	4	4	4	0	4	3	19
U10	8	10	6	0	9	5	38
U12	9	10	6	0	8	5	38
U14/16	9	11	6	0	9	5	40
JBO	12	12	10	0	14	10	58
							193

REP

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
	Ice times							
U10	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	7
U12	3	4	3	0	2	3	1	16
U14	3	2	3	0	3	1	0	12
U16	4	2	3	2	6	4	0	21
U19	3	2	5	2	4	4	0	20
18+	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
								78

House League Director's Report (Erin): Due to an unfilled vacancy, the WFRA was without a dedicated House League Director for the 2021/22 season. The position was filled with a group of WFRA board members "wearing various hats" to help make it a success. There was a U8 program, U10 program, a U12 division with 2 teams, a U14/16 division with 2 teams and a U19/18+ division with 4 teams. We are looking forward to the year end banquet and celebrating our season.

Rep Team Director's Report (Erin Johns):

Thank you to you and your bench staff for another successful season - even though it looked and felt different!

Despite a shortened competitive season, compounded by a Covid 19 shut down, the WFRA was able to ice a competitive team at all levels (U10, U12, U14, U16, U19 and 18+). Many of our teams participated in regionals, locally, with the U16B team playing in the Niagara Falls tournament and the Eastern Ontario Regionals, and the U19A team playing a tournament in Ajax and provincials in Ottawa. Our teams were creative in arranging exhibition games to maximize opportunities to compete with teams from other areas. Two players from the WFRA were selected for the Ringette Ontario High Performance AAA program where they participated in a training camp and a challenge cup weekend. Due to Covid 19, the Ontario Winter Games were postponed until 2023. After a 2-year hiatus due to covid 19, the Northeast Region is looking forward to running their U14AA, U16AA, U19AA (pending decision based on AAA) development program next season. Stay tuned for more details.

Now that the season is over, we have a few housekeeping items to finalize the year.

- Equipment - please return the jerseys and any other equipment to the equipment director
- Financial Statement - please forward the rep team financials/final budget to me and I will provide it to the Treasurer
- Feedback - I am looking at developing a rep program survey. Please stay tuned for details.

Ways & Means Director's Report (Maxine Samson): Maxine to provide report at AGM.

Equipment Director's Report (Shawnah Smales): 39 players utilized the equipment loan program this season, including 7 goalies. Equipment return dates have been set for Saturday April 30 (11am-12pm) and Tuesday May 3 (6pm-7pm).

The equipment bags were replaced this season with 30 junior sized bags with the WFRA logo added to the front from Skater's North Source for Sports. The bags cost \$955.50 + tax, which is \$26.85 per bag with and additional \$5/bag for the logo to be added.

Next season, we will need to purchase new rings to replace any in bad shape.

In the next few years, we should look to replace some of the more worn out equipment, including girdles, pants, and gloves.

We are also planning an inventory and maintenance of our goalie equipment, as part of our goalie recruitment initiative.

Web Director's Report (Lori King): This season saw the beginnings of a project creating WFRA executive position email accounts for each board member, which will be ongoing as volunteers join the board.

The WFRA also saved some space bucks by diy ip blocking, cron job creation, and spider bot managing with google and yahoo. Our ISP wanted to sell us a dedicated server to resolve issues instead.

The Online Game Keeping System received more upgrades for data validation, with a future goal of implementing single-referee games in the event a second referee is unable to attend.

The WFRA website saw a very hefty jump in visits and usage compared to last season. Online website testing using <https://webpagetest.org/> was performed, resulting in a few ways to increase performance. For example, an Archive page has been created to help the main page load faster, and for historical value. Other work this season included upgrading the site header to give sponsors more visibility, and massaging the site layout and information to find a happy medium between mobile users and desktop users. Please see the WFRA Website 2020-2021 - Fun with Stats for more information.

This year we successfully hosted the Northeast Regional Ringette Championships, along with a website (NER2022.CA) for presenting the tournament information, sponsors, schedule, drawboards, etc. The best part of this undertaking is that I am now learning PHP (a programming language), and I have been able to code a way for website users to directly change data like scores, or scheduling, on the fly in real time. Please see the NER2022 Tournament Website - Fun with Stats below for more information.

Future plans for the website and Webmaster include updating the WFRA site to include more images and information concentrating on the players. I'm excited to make use of this year's team pictures, which turned out really fantastic! The challenge here is the minimal mobile screen real estate. I also plan to make our schedule page completely editable online, as proof of concept, which will equate to really amazing future tools like tournament websites with editable drawboards, etc. I also have plans to create an inviting Volunteer page.

Thank you all for a very successful season!

Referee-In-Chief Report (Kyra Brownlee-Barnett): As my first year in the position there was a lot to learn.

The biggest challenge this year was staffing. After putting out the call to recruit new Minor Officials we managed to find 12 new Minor Officials to add to the 6 that were returning. Due to hosting Regionals this year, it was evident we required more training for our new officials, therefore we hosted a Minor Official clinic with great success. Thanks to the input and training from Alex and Olivia Parker, we recognize this is something we need to do before the start of every season.

There were no new Referees trained this year, which left us relying on the few we had returning. It made for some long nights, many last minute pick ups and quite a few single Referee games. With five of the seven referees playing in the JBO\Open division made for challenging scheduling.

Considering the staffing challenges we overcame, I think over all the season was a success!

Publicity Director's Report:

We had a successful year in publicizing our events, specifically our Come Try Ringette event and our 2021 Regionals event. Promotional video has been discussed by our Vice President and was a major initiative for Publicity this season.

Technical Director's Report (Meaghan Spykerman): -This year we had 26 people express interest in coaching/helping on a bench staff

- The Executive decided that if you were a first year house league assistant coach that we would only require the requirements for an 'on ice assistant' this year, but going forward if that coach coaches again, they will need to obtain all of the house league coach qualifications

- The Nipissing players assisted Shawnah with the U8 division again this year

Changes for next year:- In the 2022/2023 season managers will no longer be allowed on the bench during any sanctioned games (tournament games). This was supposed to take effect in the 2021/2022 season however, the RO coaching coordinators decided to delay this by one year for regional bench staffs due to COVID-19

- In the 2022/2023 there must be a qualified female head or assistant coach on all bench staffs. Previously the one designated female on the bench could be a trainer or a manager but now there must be a female head or assistant coach.

- A reminder to all teams that they are required to have a trainer on their bench staffs and on benches during games.

Sponsorship Director's Report (Pam Voght):

Sponsorship Director 2021-22

- 2021-22 was another difficult for sponsors and we fell short on a couple of teams but the WFRA will come back even stronger next season.
- A big thank you to all our wonderful sponsors who managed to stay with us through the pandemic. We couldn't have pulled this off without you.

Thank you to our amazing sponsors for continuing to support us:

- Skaters Source for Sports
- Kings Sportswear
- Active Running
- The Shriners
- Grecos
- IG Wealth
- Harwood Plumbing & Heating
- Tim Hortons Timbits

Thank you to our New Sponsor:

- Canadian Hock Exchange

Tournament Director's Report (Erin):

Northeast Regional Championships

The WFRA hosted a successful regional championship March 11 to 13 in North Bay. We welcomed 26 teams to our city for an amazing weekend of ringette. Thank you to our tournament planning committee and our dedicated volunteers for helping to make this event such a success. This was a wonderful revenue generator for not only our association but for the City of North Bay. It felt so good to be back at a tournament!

Committee Reports (if applicable)-reports from House League Committee and Tournament Committee in Director reports.

h) By-Law Amendments:

1) Bylaw 8.11-Tournament Director duties

Current bylaw: It shall be the duty of the Tournament Director to organize and coordinate the Association's annual invitational tournament.

Proposed bylaw change: I motion that under article 8 of the WFRA bylaws the title of Tournament Director be changed to Tournament Director/Director at Large and that it be responsible for the Tournament Director role in years WFRA hosts a tournament, and that the role be Director at Large in years WFRA does not host a tournament. The duties of the Director at Large will include attendance to Executive meetings, voting, and acting as a general support as needed to the other Directors.

Rationale: As we no longer run an annual tournament there is no specific utility in having a Tournament Director role in years WFRA does not host a tournament. The Director at Large role can be used as an 'entry level' Director position where the Director can support and shadow other Executive members to learn the roles and responsibilities of other Executive members so they can move into those roles in later years.

i) **New Business:**

j) **Election of Officers:**

Nominations: The following nominations have been received:

Position	Nominee (s)	Term
President	Darren Pace	Open for 2 year term
Treasurer		Open for 2 year term
Equipment Director	Pam Voght, Caitlyn Stevens	Open for 2 year term
Rep Director	Marc Desroches	Open for 2 year term
Referee in Chief	Kyra Brownlee-Barnett	Open for 2 year term
Ice Director	Erin Johns	Open for 2 year term
House League Director		Open for 1 year term
Tournament Director	Chris Phillips	Open for 1 year term
Publicity Director	Jade Cayen	Open for 1 year term

k) **Draw for free registration for 2022-2023 ringette season.**

l) **Adjournment:**