

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Leanne Couves

### Welcome to the 2017 Annual SGRA General Meeting.

The 2016 - 2017 season was another year of opportunity, successes and challenges.

Spruce Grove Ringette Association continues to grow at 10% per year. In 2016-17, SGRA had almost **300** registered athletes from the tri-municipal area and beyond, **21 teams** from Active Start to Open, **125** coaches and team staff, **25** referees and "**too numerous to count**" parents, volunteers and fans!

### New in 2016-17 Season

SGRA's evaluation processes continue to evolve. This year, the Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA) from u10 to U14 became mandatory for every ringette association in Alberta to help balance competitive equity across the province. Also new was SGRA's introduction of a AA team in the U14 division.

### Successes

Teams at all ages and levels saw personal and team **successes**, both ON and OFF the ice, in fun, friendships, skill development and competition. Please take a moment to reflect on yours. SGRA congratulates each of one of you and your teams on those successes! An additional congratulation to the two teams that represented SGRA at Western Canadian Championships and came away with gold (U16A) and bronze (U14AA) medals.

The **Sweetheart Tournament** continues to be a highlight for our teams. It has gained a reputation for being one of the biggest, and most exciting, sporting events in the tri-community area, bringing in thousands of visitors and a noticeable impact on the local economy. Competition ON the ice is first-rate and the fun and team-building OFF the ice is memorable for all. SGRA is equally challenged by the fact that provincials playdowns occurs for several SGRA teams during our tournament which puts pressure on volunteers and officiating.

This year also saw SGRA celebrate its **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary** (1976-2016) with celebrations at the Sweetheart Tournament.

### Challenges

SGRA, ringette and youth sport continues to see challenges ahead: how to balance elevated expectations with the need to keep sport affordable for all, volunteer burnout, athlete retention into adolescence and adulthood (sport for life), ability to provide options for every participation context, revenue generation and need for ice and other facilities to accommodate growth. There are no easy answers, although Spruce Grove Ringette is part of a larger ringette community in Alberta that is working toward building on our successes and giving thoughtful reflection and solutions to our challenges.

### Final Thoughts

A big thank you to all our members and volunteers within SGRA – kids, parents, team staff, Board members, sponsors, fans etc. You **ARE** Spruce Grove Ringette Association! None of this is possible without your continued support and participation.

Submitted on behalf of the SGRA Executive,

Regards,  
Leanne Couves, President  
Spruce Grove Ringette Association

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Rhonda Kew

This season began with a vacancy at the President's position and therefore I am very thankful to Leanne Couves for stepping into this role. She has done an amazing job. As Leanne has stated in her report, this season has seen tremendous growth and development not only with the athletes, coaches, and officiates, but also within the association's executive and guiding structure. The position of the Vice President is relatively new to the executive structure. As with all new roles it has been a learning experience as to the particulars of the duties and responsibilities. Leanne has done a large amount of work this season to define the role and responsibilities. This position will continue to support the President and the association in the season ahead. Thank you to all the SGRA members for your continued support and engagement.

## **DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION (SECRETARY)**

Director: Donna Fortune

My role over the past two years has been to determine meeting dates via Doodlepoll, schedule meeting rooms, draft Agenda's and send them out to the Board members before the meetings, attend meetings, draft the minutes of the meetings and forward them to the President for review. Once reviewed the Minutes are sent out to the board members and the webmaster posts them on the website for all members to review. The position is a fairly simple position, although can be hectic when trying to get all of the information out on time.

## **DIRECTOR OF COACHING DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT**

Director: Dillon Elliott

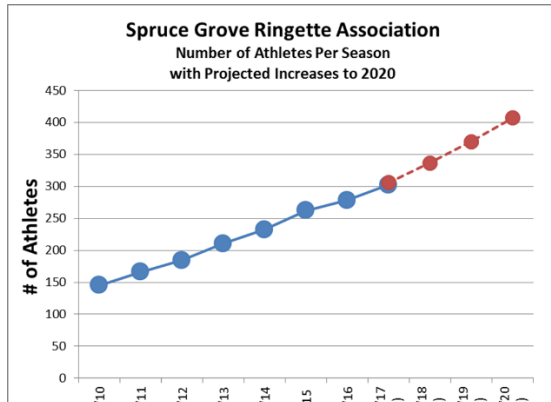
I'd like to begin by thanking all the head coaches, assistant, trainers, managers and volunteers within the association that took the time to step up and make our past ringette season another huge success. Without these unselfish contributions and countless volunteer hours, our association would fail to exist. I'd also like to thank all the individuals who took the time to fill out our annual coaching feedback forms. This submitted information will assist all our coaches with modifying and making improvements to their coaching style for the future. While there is work to be done, we can't forget the positive compliments made in the feedback forms, pointing out the hard work and dedication put forward by our coaching teams.

A huge thank you to all our junior coaches that assisted with teams throughout the season. They are strong role models for our younger players and also provide wisdom, feedback and support to all our coaches. Thank you to all the parents who ensured their daughters arrived on time for games/practices, assisted with team functions and put hundreds of kilometres on their vehicles this season. Hope there were some great memories along the way!

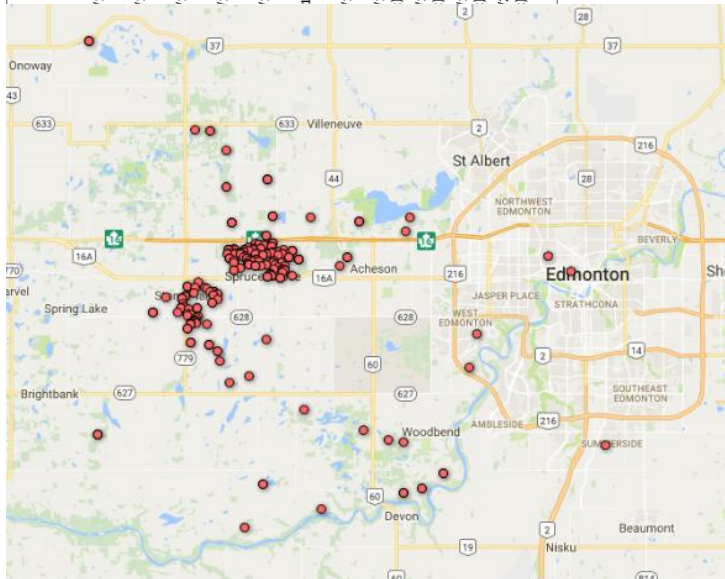
## DIRECTOR OF REGISTRATION

Director: Lisa McIntyre

Our association has doubled in the last 8 years, from 150 athletes in 2009-10 season to over 300 athletes in 2016-17 and we are projected to have 330 athletes for the 2017-18 season.



- Athletes come from all three municipalities and beyond:
  - ~50% from City of Spruce Grove
  - ~25% from Town of Stony Plain
  - ~25% from Parkland County and other regions



\*\*\*Not on the map... athletes from Drayton Valley, Mayerthorpe, Hinton, Morinville

In the 2016-17 season, our association had 21 teams, with players ranging in ages from 4 to 40. The breakdown is as follows:

- 21 teams, from ages 4 to 40+
  - Active Start: 2 teams
  - U10: 6 teams
  - U12: 4 teams
  - U14: 4 teams
  - U16: 3 teams
  - U19: 1 team
- 18+: 1 team

With our projected growth for the 2017-18 season we should expect to see between 21 to 23 teams. The breakdown is expected to be:

- Active Start: 2 Teams
- U10: 6-7 Teams
- U12: 4-6 Teams
- U14: 4 Teams
- U16: 2-3 Teams
- U19: 1-2 Teams
- 18+: 1 Team

Registration for the 2017-18 season will open on June 1, 2017.

## DIRECTOR OF ICE ACQUISITION AND ALLOCATION

Director: Lynda Snider

- Attended user group meetings at the Tri-Leisure Centre and Town of Stony Plain. The City of Spruce Grove did not have an in-person user group meeting, as allocation was conducted via email
- Gained an additional 2 ice slots in Wabamun for the 2016-17 season, for a total of 33.5 slots (38 hours) for youth per week. One adult slot adds another 1.25 hours
- Youth Breakdown includes:
  - By day of week: Mondays – 4, Tuesdays – 2, Wednesdays – 3, Thursdays – 1, Saturdays – 12, Sundays – 11
  - By duration: 1 hr – 17, 1.25 hr – 16
  - Two additional outdoor ice slots were contracted in Stony Plain for use in January through February. Due to weather fluctuations and early thaw, these slots were only used sporadically.
- Secured ice at 5 arenas for the Sweetheart Tournament
- Maintained regular school gym use for off-ice development (facilitated by the Director of Player Assessment and Development)
- Tracked practices, games and tournaments to ensure ice equity amongst all teams
- Hosted numerous provincial play down pools. These events are organized by Ringette Alberta and our costs are reimbursed.
- Hosted numerous U10 playoff games. They are organized by BGL and we were reimbursed for the extra ice that we provided.

## ACTIVE START and U10 STEP 1

Director: Stu Becker

This past season found great growth with our young athletes participating in Active Start and U10 Step 1.

Active Start - There were a total of 23 players split over 2 Active Start teams. As this is a non-competitive level, players focus was primarily on FUNdamentals as per LTAD. Both teams were able to participate in the SGRA Sweetheart Tournament as well as participate in one away tournament/jamboree each. These young players all progressed significantly in their basic skills throughout the season.

U10 Step 1 - The 2016/17 season only had one Step 1 team with 14 players within the SGRA. There were a number of girls (aged 6-7) that moved on from Active Start directly to Step 2 without having experienced that first year of competitive game play in Step 1. This was as the result of increased direction from Ringette Alberta and the use of the Universal Athletic Assessment.

- This placement of players (while following the direction of RAB), led to a significant difference in both size and age of the SGRA players when playing teams from other associations within the BGL. There was valid concern from a number of parents regarding the difference in size and concerns for both the safety of their children and a significant imbalance for in-game competition.
- This issue was discussed with the Executive as well as the Director of Player Development & Assessment. It was agreed that with the exception of athletes that would be in their final year of the Step Program (IE: 9 year olds) that in most situations, players graduating from the Active Start Program would be required to participate in the Step 1 program thus providing the players with critical on-ice coaching instruction during game play for the first session of the year. This will also improve the on-ice competitive balance with other BGL Associations.
- Despite a challenging year competitively, the Step 1 team saw marked improvement throughout the year and were able to significantly close the competitive gap with other teams by the end of the season.

## **U10 STEP 2 and U10 STEP 3**

Director: Barb Hoffman

The 2016/2017 Season started with a great increase in the number of U10 players. The evaluations and UAA went very well. The Active Start Step 1 director and myself worked together running the evaluations and UAA's which helped spread the work load. The use of U16 and U19 players for the UAA's was very helpful as it took away our need to recruit volunteers as well as the perception that parents/coaches were influencing any of the players. Our teams were set and practicing by the last week of September. This was faster than previous and hopefully helped with the stress associated with evaluations and waiting for team selection.

We had 3 U10 Step 2 teams and 2 U10 Step 3 teams this year. All the teams were competitive during their game play. Thanks to all the coaches for stepping up and helping these girls have a great year.

The U10 teams all participated in the Black Gold play offs, seeing our season end March 26 this year.

We held a Come Try Ringette event in March and had 43 girls attend to try out; the majority of these are U10 aged. So next year is looking promising.

## **U12**

Director: Johnanne Parker

SGRA executive based on evaluation scores and RA recommendation decided upon 1 U12A, 1 U12B and 2 U12C teams for the 2016/2017 season.

Playdown results:

- U12A - Only allowed top 2 teams from the North to move onto Provincials. (First place in both pools) Our U12A team came in second in their pool and as a result didn't move forward.
- U12B - Top 5 teams in the North moved on to Provincials. Our U12B placed third in their pool and didn't go forward.
- U12C - Top 5 teams in the North moved on to Provincials. Both of our U12 C teams placed third in their pools and didn't move on to Provincials.

## **U14**

Director: Shelley McCallum

This year the U14 level had a great season. The division included the following teams:

- The U14AA team was made up of sixteen players including two from Hinton. This was the first year for a U14AA team in Spruce grove, yet they were able to place third in Westerns. Since this is the first year with the AA team the Board is gathering feedback from stakeholders on the AA program – what worked and what to improve for next year.
- The U14A team included twelve players. The U14A team had a great season.
- The U14B-1 team included eleven players. Highlights for the U14B-1 team this year include winning the gold medal at the Red Deer tournament and making it to the second round of playdowns.
- The U14B-2 team included twelve players. The highlight for U14-B this season was the team bonding! Parents and kids as well as some girls that were planning on quitting next year but have changed their minds and are now going to come back.

Everyone from all the teams played hard, had fun and made new friends along the way. With the help of our fantastic coaches and parent volunteers the girls all had a great season.

## U16

Director: Sherry Stypula

We had three teams competing at the U16 level this year, one A and two B. The division was fortunate to have a U14 goalie able to step-up and fill this role on one of our U16B teams. From a competition standpoint....one out of our two B level teams competed at the provincial level. Our U16A team had a very strong year, winning provincials and carrying that on to Winnipeg where they won Westerns. Congratulations to all our girls for their successful year.

## COORDINATORS OF SWEETHEART TOURNAMENT

Coordinators: Karen Shackleton & Jody Sutherland

Over the Family Day weekend, we hosted over 1200 athletes between playdowns and the 2017 Sweetheart Tournament from Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Athletes competed in Active Start to Open divisions. We hosted 2 National Ringette League games on Saturday, February 18. There were new vendors attend this year, Ivivva brought their great line of workout apparel and Smoke & Ash and Go Nuts for Donuts food trucks. The weekend was a huge success thanks to our many volunteers and sponsors.

## COORDINATOR OF EQUIPMENT AND APPAREL

Coordinator: Lisa McIntyre

Equipment: Our association received a government grant for the 2016/17 season for the specific intent of purchasing new equipment.

- New goalie equipment was purchased - pads, blockers, chest protectors and sticks.
- Six full sets of jerseys were purchased, three of those sets were specifically for the remainder of the U10 division which were still wearing Timbits sponsored jerseys. The remainder of the sets were purchased in anticipation of the growth for the 17/18 season.
- Plan is in place to purchase new shot clocks for the 2017-18 season to replace aging clocks.

Apparel: There is nothing to report on apparel as all ordering is done through entripy.ca website.

## COORDINATORS OF SPECIAL EVENT

Coordinators: Allyson Zelisko and Shelley Oster

The 2016 annual event was held at Galaxyland in the West Edmonton Mall on Sunday October 16, 2016

- Each player received 5 tickets for the \$50 fee paid at the time of registration
- Tickets were distributed by division directors during evaluations
- 1041 people attended the event
- Please see the financial report for the revenue amount generated from the event 2017

Save the Date! The 2017 annual event will be held on Friday September 29, 2017 from 7:30pm-10:30pm

- Each player will receive 5 tickets for a \$75 fee that will be paid at the time of registration
- Tickets will likely be distributed at the time of evaluations once again by directors as that seemed to work well.
- Additional tickets will be available to buy up to the event for \$15 per ticket
- We will have a table set up 30 minutes prior to the event starting, by the entrance to the event, with additional tickets available to purchase for \$15 per ticket.

## **COORDINATOR OF REFEREE SCHEDULING**

Coordinator: Lynne Anderson

It was a busy year for officials. For the 2016-17 season, we had 24 officials on the SGRA Roster.

- Official who moved from Level 1 to Level 2 - 6
- Senior Level 2 & up Officials - 6
- Officials inactive due to injury/illness/working - 4
- Level 1 Officials - 6
- New officials this year - 2
- New officials that dropped out - 2

Games scheduled for the 2016-17 Season

- Game (league and exhibition) - 122
- Sweetheart Tournament Games - 109
- Playdown Games during the Sweetheart Tournament - 17

Overall the season went smoothly. There were a few weekends where we did not have enough officials from our roster to meet the demand. As most officials are also players, when they are away at tournaments or league games, there becomes a shortage for our own games. We were able to cover these games by engaging officials from other associations and NARRA.

As many of our officials may be moving on to university or work as they are finished high school this year, I am recommending that the SGRA take up to 6 new officials next year.

Some of these officials will continue to officiate for us and we will be looking at them to become our future senior officials and mentors for the newer, less experienced officials. We have Level 1's who have completed 2 years and are looking forward to starting to officiate higher level games.

The Sweetheart Tournament had some challenges that may need to be addressed in the future:

- It is recommended that we have a senior official who is paid to be at the tournament to oversee and help resolve any issues
- It is recommended that there be a sub-committee during the tournament to deal with any action that needs to be taken or complaints that need to be investigated
- It is recommended that the board look at alternate weekends for our tournament or split our tournament between the younger and older age levels. As the playdowns for the older age group are at the same time as our tournament, many of these teams cannot participate in the SGRA tournament. This also causes a shortage of available officials, as many who play at the older levels also cannot officiate during our tournament. It was also difficult to find officials from other associations as they were also participating in playdowns.

There was one change from NARRA that will affect our games: *Game fees will be applied to games cancelled within 48 hours of game time (previously 36 hours).*

Overall, I feel we have made good progress into getting processes and procedures in place for the allocation of officials. There are still improvements to be made, but we are on the right track.

## **COORDINATOR OF WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATION**

Coordinator: Rhonda Kew

This year the SGRA website, while still being hosted by Ramp, moved to a new platform. This new platform has a new look and navigation system. It is much more user friendly from a smart phone. There was and continues to be work done on the transfer and

updating of the content and forms from the old website. We can continue to access all historical information from the previous website platform using the old credentials.

I feel that using Ramp as our host for the SGRA website has served us well. It has been easy for executive and team managers to use. I would recommend continuing to use Ramp going forward.