



Hello All Spruce Grove Ringette Families and welcome to the 2016 Annual SGRA General Meeting.

The 2015-2016 Season marks the end of my two year term as President. I would like to start by saying thank you to all current and past board members for the support and dedication you all provided over the past 2 years. It has been my privilege serving with all of you! And of course I would like to also thank all the hardworking volunteers within this association that ultimately make it one of the best youth sports organizations around. The continued success this Association has is due largely to the Parents, the Coaches, the Team Staff Members, the Board Members, the Referee's, and of course, to the will and desire of our players. It is because of all of you that this game continues to be great and why increasingly, year after year, it is a sport of choice for so many young athletes.

The 2015 - 2016 season was another season with change, opportunity, and success like any other year. We once again saw tremendous growth in our player registration numbers to a record breaking **278** registered players. We continue to see growth rates averaging around the 10% mark each year and as such, the forecasts for the 2016-2017 season could bring well over 300 players and potentially 23 teams versus the 19 teams we had this past season. It is encouraging to see this growth and equally it also highlights the need to continue to adapt and change to ensure we continue to be successful as a sport of choice in Parkland County for future years.

Some other positives of note this season was once again a very successful Sweetheart Tournament with record attendance, record revenues, and an overall successful event enjoyed by many players and families alike. Our Special Event was once again a hit with many families coming out and enjoying a great night as well.

We also saw another season where SGRA teams were incredibly competitive in all their respective divisions. We had great results throughout the regular season from all teams and from U12 to U19, we saw almost every team go to Provincials, 4 of which came away with medals including U12A XLR8 (Bronze), U12C Rage (Bronze), U14A Renegades (Gold), and U16A Impact (Bronze). Thanks to the hard working efforts of the U19 families, SGRA also hosted the U19B Provincials which brought in a lot of families and athletes from various points around Alberta. Congratulations once again to all of you for a successful seasons and successful Provincial Championships, all very well deserved. U10 which continues to be our largest contingent of teams and players saw great strides in development in the younger stages and saw some great competition and success in our older stages.

With success comes challenge and with challenge definitely comes opportunity. In the U10 Division we saw the introduction of the Mini Nets this season which represented a large challenge in adopting a new size net and adjusting to a new level of play. Much discussion took place over the season which inevitably will continue leading up to the 2016-17 season. There were many lessons learned and feedback will continue to be provided for the use of these nets going forward.

As a Board, we also had the opportunity to listen to a lot of feedback surrounding the Evaluation Process this past season. We have listened to the overall feedback, both positive and negative, and we have begun making strides to update our process based on all the information we have received. We will continue to work through this process to have a completed and updated Evaluation Process to begin the 2016-17 season with. Updates and communications will be shared throughout the process with the goal of adopting a framework that continues to allow all players equal opportunity to succeed.

Further to the Evaluation process, continued work will be required on policy, process, and revenue generating initiatives to once again ensure we are adapting and evolving with the ever changing landscape within the sport and the growth within our own Association.

Again, thank you for another great season, a great experience, and thank you for your commitment as players, parents, fans, and dedicated volunteers. All the best!

Warmest Regards,

*Brian Pedlar*  
*SGRA President*

Spruce Grove Ringette Association



## **2015 – 2016 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Director of Ice Acquisition and Allocation**

- 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 for the 2015-16 season, for a total of 31 slots (38.5 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 – 9
  - By duration: 1 hr – 20, 1.25 hr – 12
  - Two additional outdoor ice slots were contracted in Stony Plain for use in December through February. Due to weather fluctuations and early thaw, these slots were only used ~8 times over the season.
- 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 several provincial play down pools. These events are organized by Ringette Alberta and our costs are reimbursed.
- Developed and presented “Ice Needs: Current and Projections to 2020” to Mayor Stuart Houston, City of Spruce Grove and to the Community Services administration in the Town of Stony Plain to help make the case for additional facilities and increased regional coordination and cooperation.
- Surveyed other Ringette Associations about their practices and structure for Ice Allocator positions. Currently developing a proposal for presentation to the 2016-2017 Board on instituting a paid/honorarium position going forward.

### **Referee Allocator Report**

There were many accomplishments this year;

- Survey of coaches, referees and parents of referees to get feedback on issues and potential improvements
- Feedback was organized and reviewed by a committee which led to the development of the Referee Handbook. Updates were also done to the Coach & Manager handbooks.
- Scheduling went fairly smoothly for the season and the tournament with very few issues.



- There was a focus on Officials Development and mentorship this season, which was positively received. Many of our more experienced Level 1 officials will be pursuing their Level 2 training and continued development.
- Six new Level 1 officials were brought into the association; all are current players. All new officials were provided with a mentor.
- Improvements to the referee allocation process will continue to be done along with updates to the Referee Manual.
- All officials were evaluated at least once during the season.

Overall, it was a good season for the officials, but we still have other issues/improvements that need to be addressed

### **Registration**

This season's enrollment totaled 278 players. Registrations per division are as follows:

U10	108 players (19 players in Active Start)
U12	54 players
U14	45 players
U16	30 players
U19	17 players
18+	24 players

This year there were 19 teams compared to 20 teams in the 14/15 season. With an average of 14.6 players per team compared to 13 players last season.

The previous season's registration numbers are as follows:

2014/2015	261 players
2013/2014	232 players
2013/2012	210 players
2012/2011	181 players
2011/2010	166 players

Growth was down slightly this year from previous seasons.

As revenues were also down this year, a fee increase has been proposed for the 2016/2017 season.



From the statistician's perspective the year ran rather smoothly. There were very few issues with filling in game sheets incorrectly and the majority of the teams and managers submitted their games sheets to the BGL in a timely manner. I think that having managers submit directly to the BGL statistician and bypassing the association was a positive change this year. There were fewer issues with submissions and no time spent running around searching for missing game sheets etc.

There were, however, several teams who even after several requests did not submit game sheets to our own association which made keeping up with game statistics including penalties and suspensions (in the older levels) difficult. There will be more specific instructions given at next year's manager's meeting which will hopefully rectify this situation.

### **U12 Year End Report**

A lot of time and effort by the President and Vice President was put into contacting associations both within BGL and throughout Alberta to determine the tiering in U12 for the 2015/16 season. After much discussion with other associations on how they were tiering their U12 divisions and based on our evaluation results it was decided that SGRA would create an A,B, and 2 C teams for 2015/16. This was met with resistance by some of the U12 parents who felt we should have 2 B teams instead of 2 C teams; 2 parent meetings were held to discuss the decision.

I had discussions with a couple of families regarding the reasoning behind the associations decision but found many complaints did not follow proper channels and instead other people on the executive were approached with complaints. The year went smoothly once evaluations were complete.

The SGRA executive had discussions regarding how to better transition players/families from U10 to U12 next year. The need for policies addressing the inappropriate use of social media and the verbal/personal attacks that some executive experienced during the season was also discussed so that we as an executive can respond to situations quickly.

The 2015/16 year was a great success overall for U12. Both our U12A and U12C-1 teams finished with a Bronze at Provincials. U12B also attended Provincials and while they did not medal, they had a lot of fun and an amazing experience.



## **Year End Report for U14**

There were a few issues to begin the season but things were quickly sorted out and all three teams at U14 level had a great season.

It appears that the majority of the girls were placed correctly during evaluations, and all teams showed improvement during the season.

Congratulations to the U14A Renegades for their Gold Medal win at Provincials!

Good luck next season to all the returning U14 Players and those moving on the U16.