



Board of Directors Meeting
September 19, 2009
(Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel)

1. Call to Order (@ 9am)

2. Roll Call

Present:

Glen Ritchie, President
Grant Ayers, LMRL
Kim Taschuk, Provincial Programs
Monika Weatherill, Promotions
Debbie Coulter, High Performance
Bill Woodley, Coaching
Brian Crandell, Athlete Development
Cathy Lipsett, TORL
Laura Tighe, Island
Gail Sweet, NORTH
Rob Tait, Officiating

Staff:

Wayne Leslie, Executive Director
Laura Watson, Technical Director

Absent:

Ken Hawrys, Administration

3. Approval of Agenda

BOD Motion #1: "That the agenda is approved as amended." (TORL/Promotions) (Carried)

4. Approval of minutes of last meeting

BOD Motion #2: "That the minutes of the last meeting are approved as presented" (Provincial Programs/Island) (Carried)

5. Business arising from last meeting

5.1 (Event representation list)

The list will be re-circulated to update various event dates. Directors will confirm availability or attendance for each event and advise the office.

5.2 (BCRA Committees)

The master committee list is now complete and will be circulated to each director and posted on BCRA's virtual office for reference by the Board throughout the season. The list includes the appropriate staff contact for each committee.

5.3 (Tiering/Petite non-tiering)

BCRA's policy manual has been updated to reflect the non-tiering at the U12 level. BCRA online tiering forms used by teams and associations to determine tiering levels will be revised to reflect no tiering at U10. A note will be added to the form to clarify that online forms are to assist with team tiering and do not automatically get submitted to BCRA when completed online. Tiering is done through each association with their respective league. The league is responsible for advising BCRA of individual team tiering by the appropriate deadlines.

BCRA will continue to work with individual leagues to address issues arising from the non-tiering of the U10 division and team competition.

The BCRA office will distribute information to associations and league about the tiering process, recommendations for non-tiering levels and critical timelines.

5.4 (Tween-AA)

Leagues have experienced internal problems adjusting to the new zone structure of the division. While leagues have authority to develop their internal programs within their league and BCRA policies, there have been a number of league requests for BCRA assistance in areas such as team formation. BCRA's directors considered the importance of guiding this development to assist provincial growth in this division agreed, with league agreement; to revise policy to clarify the direction team formation should take under the new zone structure.

The North will be revised to only 1 zone to reflect limited numbers of available players.

**BOD Motion #3: "That Appendix "D", Section 2 be amended as follows:
The Northern Ringette League is one zone and the Island Ringette League is one zone"**

(Coaching/Officiating) (Carried)

6. Correspondence

None

7. Financial

7.1 (Monthly financial statement)

8. Other Business

None

9. New Business

9.1 (2009-2010 Gaming grant status)

We have received word on our 2009-2010 application. We will be receiving funding, based largely on the result of our focus on youth sports and the way in which we have positioned our annual grant application to reflect that. Unfortunately, like most other sport organizations, we will be receiving substantially less. Approximately 30% of our typical annual amount has been approved. This shortfall will require us to make adjustments in our annual operating budget to accommodate. In outlining it's priorities in our approval letter, the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch has identified programs for low income and disabled sectors are key areas of focus. As such, BC Ringette will continue to ensure that programs designed to serve these sectors (i.e. gym/community ringette, Come Try Ringette, etc) are funding by our Gaming grant. Programs associated with high performance, such as team travel grants, will be significantly affected by recent and ongoing funding cuts by the provincial government.

9.2 (2009-2010 Provincial Core Funding)

There continues to be a high degree of uncertainty and much speculation about the remainder 2009-2010 Core Funding for Provincial Sport Organizations (PSO's). At present, BC Ringette (and all other PSO's) have received 58% of our annual core funding. The remaining 42% is due by the end of November and at currently at risk for reduction or elimination. We have been advised that of the remaining 42%, the one quarter portion disbursed by 2010 LegaciesNow can be considered safe. The remaining three quarters, which comes directly from the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, is still in question.

With our cut in Gaming, finalization of our core funding for the remainder of this fiscal year, followed by our member registration revenues, is an extremely important piece of financial puzzle we are working to complete in order to properly adjust to what is quickly becoming the new economic reality for amateur sport in BC. Should we receive no further Core Funding, which amounts to close to 40% of our overall revenues each year, program and service cuts are likely. A reality faced by all provincial organizations.

Anticipating continued economic challenges, BCRA reduced its overall general administration budget going into the 2009-2010 fiscal year and continues to reduce costs in this area. Directors will also prioritize programs to ensure that should cuts result from reduced funding, key essential programs will be maintained.

9.3 (Releases)

There has been some confusion as to the process for seeking approval for “Overage” player releases. While BCRA approval is required, all applications for player release including those for overage participation must first be made through the local association to the respective league. Each league is responsible for vetting all release applications and making final submissions to BCRA. Overage releases do NOT come directly to BCRA from the applicant. BCRA policy on this will be reworded so this is clear.

9.4 (Provincial AA Structure)

As in past seasons, there are ongoing issues surrounding the AA program in the province that put increased pressure and demand on our volunteers. BCRA has looked for ways to restructure our AA program to put less demand on those in the community program while emphasizing the attention required at the competitive level. Numerous concepts have been proposed, including the separation of the AA program into its own "association" where it functions on its own, and the concept of the association AA teams rather than league. Recently the concept of adopting the BC Games structure to our AA program has been proposed. While the leagues would have the flexibility to define their zones, as they have currently done with the U14AA program, the structure and policy would remain similar. It has been noted that every second year the BCWG format works relatively well, with a zone rep handling the responsibilities of acquiring a coach and facilitating the administration of the program.

The Technical Director and the VP of High Performance will evaluate the future of the AA program, taking into consideration the BC Games policy and the feasibility of making this transition.

9.5 Provincial Championship Hosting/Sanctioning

Following membership consultation at the 2009 AGM, BCRA staff developed a recommendation to re-structure provincial championships and year end events as follows:

BC Ringette Association

Provincial A, B, & C Championships

This document provides an overview of the new format for the Provincial Championships in BC. The format is based on feedback and recommendations from the attendees at the 2009 BCRA AGM during the Provincials workshop. This document address issues with Provincial A, B, and C Championships, not the AA Championships. It has been set up in three parts: Background, Overview, and Hosting Practicalities.

Background

At the 2009 AGM, BCRA facilitated a workshop to encourage discussion and development of ideas to ensure future sustainability of BCRA championships. The workshop served as a start point to the process of updating our current hosting process through membership consultation. This is critical in that the majority of the members attending

represent local associations, who ultimately are potential hosts. Currently very few associations actively host BCRA championships with any regularity and this is an opportunity to find out why and how that could be changed.

Rationale

The status quo of how we host, format and facilitate our Provincial Championships (and under the new LTAD, “Year End Events” for younger age groups) is on the verge of failure due to the limitations of hosts & venues and the associated costs and volunteer requirements. Because hosts are strictly volunteers we have no assurance the event will be held and as such we risk a no show.

Workshop Format

Round table discussion (brain storming) focused on nine topics surrounding the Provincial Championships. The attendees were split into groups randomly with a BCRA Director at each table to act as moderator. Brainstorming ideas were recorded, by topic, after which the entire group reconvened for a wrap-up discussion.

General Understandings

The following points have been taken into consideration.

1. The BCRA Provincial Championships are a championship event, not a year-end tournament.
2. Based on past experiences it is obvious that an open-format provincial championship does not work, as it is seen as “just another tournament” and therefore does not host the top teams in each division.
3. According to the direction of LTAD, the year-end Championships should be an open format event that allows all teams to attend. Due to logistical, facilities, and infrastructure limitations this is not feasible.
4. The Provincial Championships in the following divisions serve as qualifying events for the Western Canadian Ringette Championships: U16A (Junior), U19A (Belle), and 18+A (Open) divisions. As such we should be fielding our best teams.

Overview

The Provincial Championships will exist in the A, B, and C divisions for the U14 (Tween), U16 (Junior), U19 (Belle), and 18+ (Open) divisions. The U12 (Petite) division will have their own year-end event that will be addressed separately.

The Provincial Championships will host 5 teams per division (1 per league plus one host team). In the event that a league cannot field a team in a division or there is no host team, a wildcard place will be honored (see wildcard below).

Teams will play a 4-game round-robin schedule over two days where every team plays each other with 2 games per day. The standard semi-final format will exist with the first place team having a bye to the finals, and 2nd vs. 3rd (the winner advancing to the finals) and 4th vs. 5th (for placing). This guarantees 5-7 games per team and keeps with existing championship policies.

This also preserves the current format of caliber of play in the same championships (i.e. all A teams together). The only division recommended a stand-alone division if a host desires (i.e. their own Provincial Championships) is the 18+ (Open) division as they have very different demands.

Provincial Qualifier

It is up to the leagues to determine their league representatives at Provincials. It is highly recommended that each league host an all-inclusive League Championships (see Format below) to determine their league winners to attend Provincials. The League Championships or other event must provide equal opportunity for all teams to attend.

League standings can be used to determine the placement of teams at this event, but may not be used to determine the league champion (i.e. the winner of the most league games may not directly determine a team to attend Provincials). The reason being this puts too much competition emphasis on the league games where these should be training opportunities. The exception may be this year in which some leniency will be granted as the change is adopted, allowing leagues unable to find ice for a league championship to use their league standings.

Format

The specific format for the League Championship is up to the league to determine with the guidance of BCRA, but would likely take one of two formats:

1. **Tournament Format:** A weekend event that allows for associations who may be required to bring in officials from other leagues, or for those leagues with teams travelling large distances. All divisions do not need to take place at the same time, but given the structure of this format it is advised to do so.
2. **League Playoff Format:** A 1-2 week period that allows for easier scheduling and less burden and strain on the associations and participants, as games can take place in different associations within the league. All divisions do not need to take place at the same time, although it is recommended that final games take place in the same location/days if possible.

Commitment to Attend

The current Commitment to Attend format will change, as each league will notify BCRA by January 1 of their teams eligible for each Provincial championship. BCRA will in turn confirm with each league by February 1 how many positions are available, in the event a wildcard place is awarded and a league can send more than 1 team.

In each league all teams would attend the all-inclusive Provincial Qualifying event, and as such it is hoped there would no longer be the need for team commitment to attend (i.e. everyone is vying for the chance to go to Provincials). Until it becomes a reality that all teams wish to attend Provincials, or if a league allows their teams the option, the league may have a deadline for their associations or teams to commit to attend to them. It would be up to the leagues to determine if they would require commitment to attend or a deposit from all eligible/interested teams.

Fees and Payment

BCRA will set and administer the Provincial Championship registration fees. As it is the league champions who attend Provincials, BCRA will invoice the league for their registration fees.

Registration and payments will continue to come through the BCRA office. To aid the hosting association in their financial demands BCRA will provide an advance on the Provincials fees. The fees are calculated based on costs of ice, officials, medals, etc.

Wildcard Placement

Determining the placement of the wildcard teams is the responsibility of BCRA and falls to their discretion. The format used to allocate the wildcard placement in each division/caliber will be as follows.

- 1st Wildcard: The winner of the previous season's Sportsmanship Award (association then league).
- 2nd Wildcard: The winner of the previous season's Provincial Championship (association then league).

If an association who is awarded the Wildcard position does not have a team in that division/caliber, the wildcard is awarded to the second highest placing team in that same league (as the first team wins as the league representative).

It is to be noted that the structure of our current Sportsmanship award will be altered to consider not only sportsmanship rankings for each team but also by each team. In other words, a team who chooses to award all other teams with low sportsmanship scores in an attempt to win the position themselves will have this work against them.

Practicalities of Hosting

Incentive & Benefit to Hosting

As the hosting association is able to field a team in each division, it is expected that this will be incentive to host the Provincial Championships. If the host association is unable to field a team in a specific division, that position will go to the league of the hosting association to declare (next highest ranking team after provincial qualifiers).

Hosts will not have to deal with the uncertainty of how many teams will attend, as the leagues will declare eligible teams per division early on, allowing BCRA to determine the wildcard standings. The schedule will be available early in the season, as it will be made up as soon as the ice times are known (based on league representatives). When looking for ice to potentially host Provincials it will always be the same ice requirements. This would be the same for officiating requirements in terms of how many officials and hotel room bookings.

Ice Requirements

Based on this proposal each Championship (A, B, or C) would require the following ice sheets. This is ice sheets and not ice times, not including slush ice, ice floods (15 minutes between each game) or mini-game ice.

5 teams per division = 13 sheets of ice

Round Robin (Thursday/Friday) ice = 10 sheets (5 per day)

Semi-Final (Saturday) ice = 2 sheets

Final (Sunday) ice = 1 sheet

5 teams per division x 4 divisions = 52 sheets of ice

Round Robin (Thursday/Friday) ice = 40 sheets (20 per day)

Semi-Final (Saturday) ice = 8 sheets

Final (Sunday) ice = 4 sheet

This is significantly less than the previous format, allowing smaller associations to host either A, B, or C or a combination thereof. Larger associations may choose to host all three calibers or multiple divisions. When possible it is preferred to stay with the existing format of an association hosting the A's together, and the B/C's together for all divisions.

BOD Motion #4: “That the Provincial Championship re-structuring proposal is adopted and the following policy amendments are made to reflect the new structure, including conflicting policy deadline dates:

1. Section D 2 Registration Procedure: New: (c) Registration deadline for all new and returning players is Dec 1st in U10 to 18+ age divisions. U9 and Masters are exempt and may register at any time within the respective Association registration deadlines. Note this will require renumbering this section.
2. Section D 2 (e) and (g): Delete: (exception: those players registering for AA...)
3. Section D 2 (g) and (h): add "counter" after (4) and replace "in" with "with".
4. Section D 3.1 (d, e & f): Move to Tiering.
5. Section D 3.1 (f): Change Feb 15th to Jan 15th.
6. Section D 4.2 (c): Delete "(any player.....grandfathered and considered permanent".
7. Section D 4.2 (h): DELETE
8. Section D 5.1: Add "counter" in front of "league games"
9. Section D 5.1: Revise last sentence to read: "If the player plays with the same or another higher age division/level of play team in and additional tournament or fourth league counter game, the games will be forfeited by the team. The player will not have the right to become a member of that team and must return to their original team.
10. Section D 5.3 (a & b): Revise to read:" Player/team found to have played at the wrong age division or competitive level without Association, League and BCRA approval".
11. Tiering: Revise the Retreat and Advance deadlines to Dec 15th from Jan 1st.
12. Delete: Combination Team Policy

(LMRL/Officiating) (Carried)

10. Reports

As submitted

11. In-Camera Session

12. Adjournment