

2020 Annual Report



**RINGETTE
SASKATCHEWAN**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ▶ Message from RAS President
- ▶ Board of Directors & Staff
- ▶ Our Vision, Mission, and Values
- ▶ Strategic Priorities of the 2020- 2024 Strategic Plan
- ▶ 2020-21 Membership Numbers
- ▶ Recognition and Technical Awards
- ▶ Organization Highlights
- ▶ Desired Outcomes for 2021-22 Season
- ▶ RAS Associations President Reports
- ▶ Provincial Office

Message from President of Ringette Saskatchewan



Leanne Walter

Starting with the abrupt end to the 19/20 season and the unknown going into the 20/21 season, which was plagued with a multitude of dramatic changes in provincial health and municipal restrictions, our associations were required to plan for the unknown in what was the most challenging year in the history of ringette in Saskatchewan.

Throughout a year of major disappointments and constant turmoil, I was awed by the capacity of our members and your willingness to adapt to the roadblocks that were constantly being imposed. I was inspired by your dedication to go above and beyond to provide any semblance of a normal season for our athletes. You demonstrated, again and again, the best of what this sport represents, and that is the dedication of this entire community that strives to give our athletes the best experience possible. The words THANK YOU hardly seem adequate.

And despite all of that, we were able to work with our associations to make a great stride in strengthening our provincial program. The first building block was the province-wide implementation of the Childrens' Ringette program. This program focuses on skill development and athlete-centered progression instead of progression based on chronological age. We believe that skill development of all players in the early stages is the most essential component of a successful provincial program. We have to ensure athletes are proficient in the basic skills of skating and ring control before they can be effective and confident playmakers.

Looking forward, we will be working on development pathways as recommended in the Competition Review with the hopes of developing a program that supports each participant in seeking their level of personal excellence based on their definition of success. We will be working with our associations to determine the best way to strive towards this goal of developing even more athletes as they grow and remain in our program into their adult years. Ultimately, a stronger base of players in all levels will contribute to our success of a strong program locally and will also improve our standings in intraprovincial and national competition.

I am looking forward to seeing our athletes back on the ice this fall. And despite the potential unknown complications that COVID-19 could still bring upon us into the coming season, I feel great reassurance knowing that our community remains strong and will continue to provide the best season possible for our athletes. Again, THANK YOU for your dedication and perseverance.

Yours in sport,

Leanne Walter

President, Ringette Association of Saskatchewan

WHO ARE WE?

Board of Directors & Employees



Leanne Walter



Stephanie Karpan



Aaron Armstrong



Shea Mooney



Tara Clemett



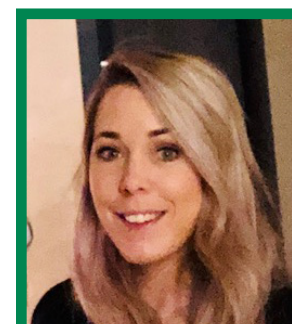
Bre McAdam



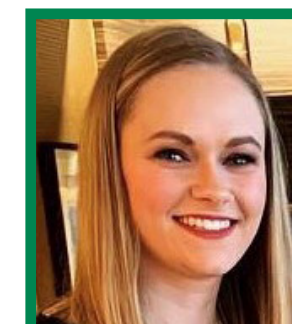
Paul Benson



Abbie Treslan



Ruchelle
Himmelspeck
Executive
Director



Carrie
Livingstone
Technical
Director

Thank you to Stephanie Karpan for serving on our Board for the last six years and missing one meeting in all that time. In the last six years Stephanie made an impact on marketing initiatives including brochures, banners, posters, social media strategies, website, and campaigns to just name a few. Over the last six years staff could always call Steph with any marketing question, and she was always so helpful and graceful.

Thank you also to Bre McAdams who served on our board for the last two years. Bre not seeking a second term was a difficult decision. Bre was an expert in communications and was used a time or two during the pandemic for her professional and calming advise.

RAS will miss working with you two as board members, but we will be staying in touch as we might need some marketing and communication help in the future!!!!



Our Mission

Ringette Saskatchewan governs, promotes, and develops Ringette for all athletes, coaches, officials and Associations providing leadership that fosters a positive sport experience, lifelong participation, and opportunities for the pursuit of excellence.



Our Vision for the Future

Ringette is the most popular sport among females in the province because it is an inclusive community focused on athlete-centred programming, the growth and development of athletes, and the development of future leaders.



Our Values

- Teamwork** we believe in working collaboratively in the spirit of good sportsmanship
- Athlete-centered** we support our athletes and strive to provide them with a positive, fun and developmentally appropriate experience
- Excellence** we believe in the pursuit of excellence at all levels for all athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, board and staff
- Honesty** we are open, transparent and accountable for what we do
- Respect** we respect and trust each other as individuals, and we respect the sport and our organization
- Fairness** we are inclusive and supportive and believe in fair play in everything we do
- Life-long friendship** we believe Ringette is more than a game, it is a community

Our Strategic Priorities

These four Strategic Priorities are as follows:

1. **Athlete Pathways**
2. **Coaches and Officials Development**
3. **Growing Ringette**
4. **Leadership and Organizational Excellence**



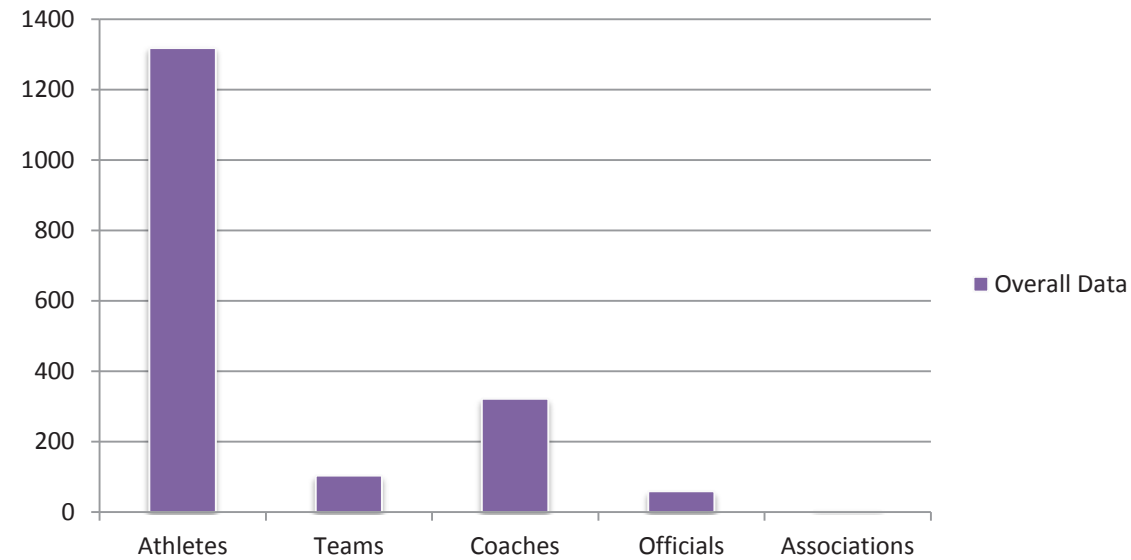
Key Performance Indicators

- An annual increase of **4%** to the **conversation rate** for **Come Try Ringette**
- By **2024** we have a total **1590** registered athletes in Saskatchewan.
- The overall **coaches demographic** by **2024** to be **64% female**.
- Improve our standings annually** at the **Western Canadian Ringette Championship**, the **Canadian Ringette Championship**, and **Canada Winter Games for 2023**

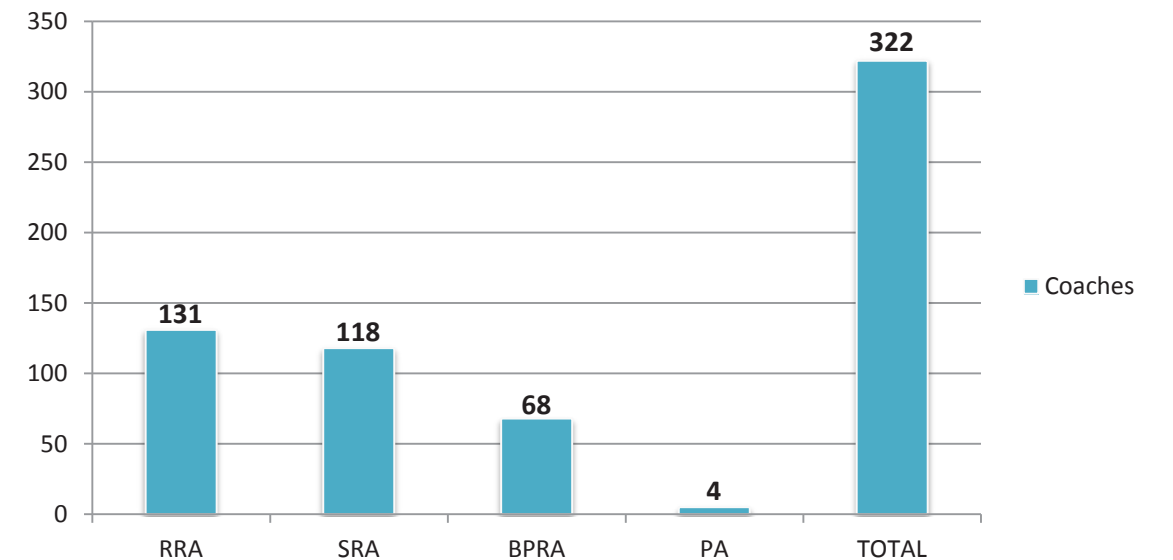
2020-2021 Memberships



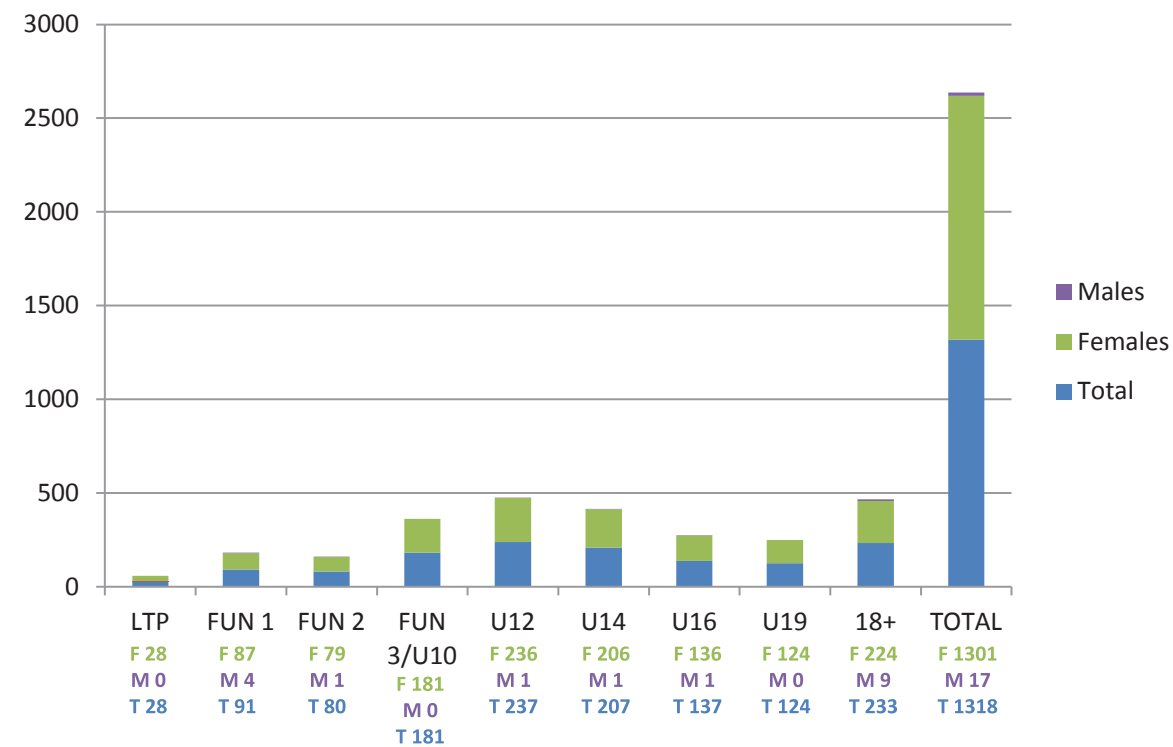
Overall Data



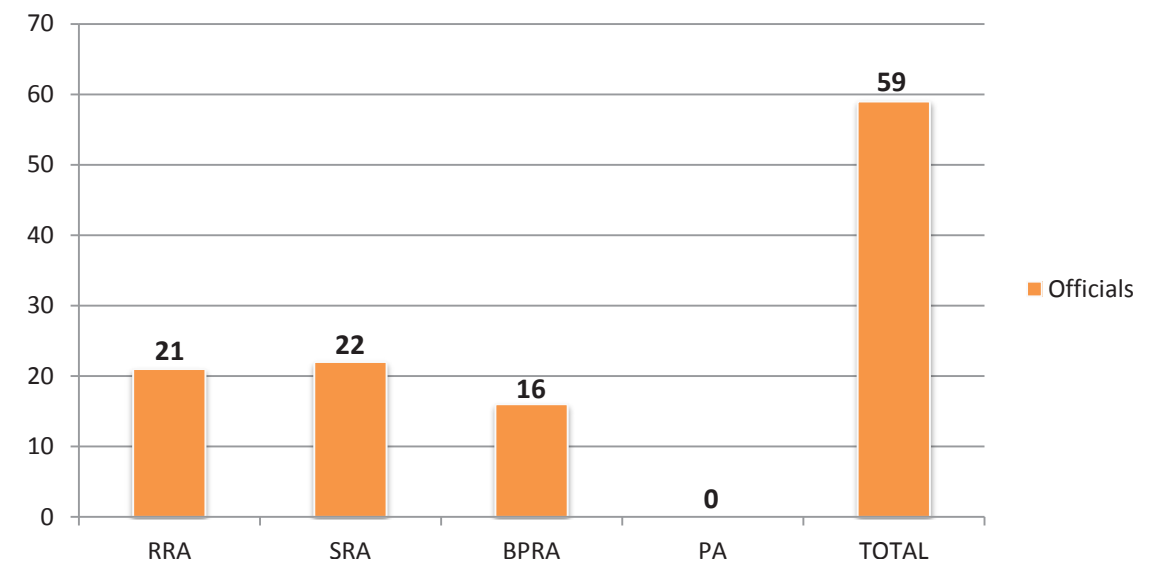
Coaches



Athletes



Officials



COVID - 19 Impacts Registration

- Season was suspended March 13th, 2020
- Season was able to go forward with minor delays in September
- League play suspended November 27th, 2020 – March 2021, participation reduced to training only in groups of 8 for 18 and younger.
- Impact result – Down 152 players from 2019-20 season

Award Winners

Celebrating our Award Winners:

COACH OF THE YEAR

Colleen Butz-Purdue – BPRA

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

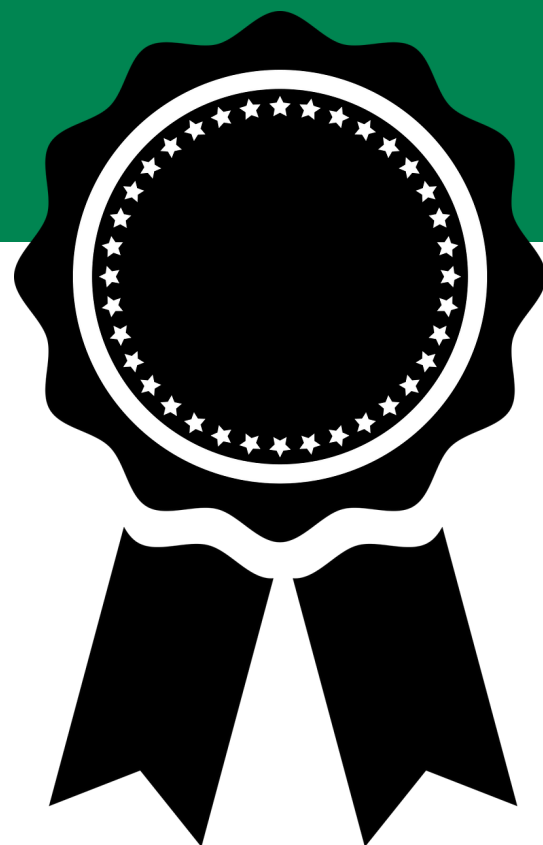
Stephanie Karpan – RAS/RRA

SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Chris Thiessen – SRA

JUNIOR OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Disa Lafontaine – BPRA



Organization Highlights

Athletes

- Season was able to start September with game play. Game Play was suspended November 27th, participation reduced to training only in groups of 8 for youth and adult sport was not allowed.
- Ringette Saskatchewan partnered with Ringette BC, Ringette Alberta and Ringette Manitoba to virtually host “Team Name May Madness” throughout the month of May to find the best team name in the West. We had a total of 39, 229 votes through 10 days of voting.
- 15 Come Try Ringette Events were held in 5 communities throughout the season with 207 registered participants.
- Children’s Ringette was implemented in Regina, Saskatoon, and Buffalo Plains at the Fundamentals 1 and Fundamentals 2 levels (previously U8 and U9). There was a total of 163 athletes registered in this brand-new program. We released Children’s Ringette Guidelines, Coach Resources, and Assessment Forms. We held a Children’s Ringette Town Hall with Ringette Canada on June 15th for parents, coaches, and administrators to learn more about Children’s Ringette.
- Provincially and nationally competitions were cancelled
- Provincials moved virtual this season. Ringette Saskatchewan held the “Link the Rink Virtual Provincials” on social media throughout January and February. We had a total of 14 teams competing to earn points by doing physical activity, giving back to their communities, and attend Sport Medicine and Science sessions. Winning teams were the U14B Regina Gators and the U16A Regina Rath. We also awarded 2 “Above and Beyond Volunteer Awards” to the 2 teams who had the most dedication to giving back to their communities throughout the competition. Winners were the U16A Regina Rath and U14B Regina Predators. Ringette.

Coaches

- Coaching clinics were completely virtual this season due to Covid. We held 4 CSI clinics and 3 CI clinics.
- 25 coaches completed the CSI clinic
- 23 coaches completed the CI clinic
- CI evaluations were put on hold this season due to Covid.
- Ringette Saskatchewan revamped our coach selection procedure and selected our 2023 Canada Winter Games coaches. For the first time in Ringette Saskatchewan history, it will be an all-female bench staff.

Officials

- No officials’ clinics were held this season due to Covid.
- We had a total of 59 officials who took to the ice this season.

High Performance

- Ringette Saskatchewan hosted 3 virtual Mental Training sessions with Mental Performance Consultant Lisa Hoffart in in September focusing on Goal Setting, Stress and Coping, and Developing Routines.
- Ringette Saskatchewan partnered with the Sport Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan 10 virtual Sport Medicine and Science sessions throughout the Spring. Topics covered were: Self Massage and the Athlete, Sleep & Performance, Injury Prevention & Care, Athlete Concussion

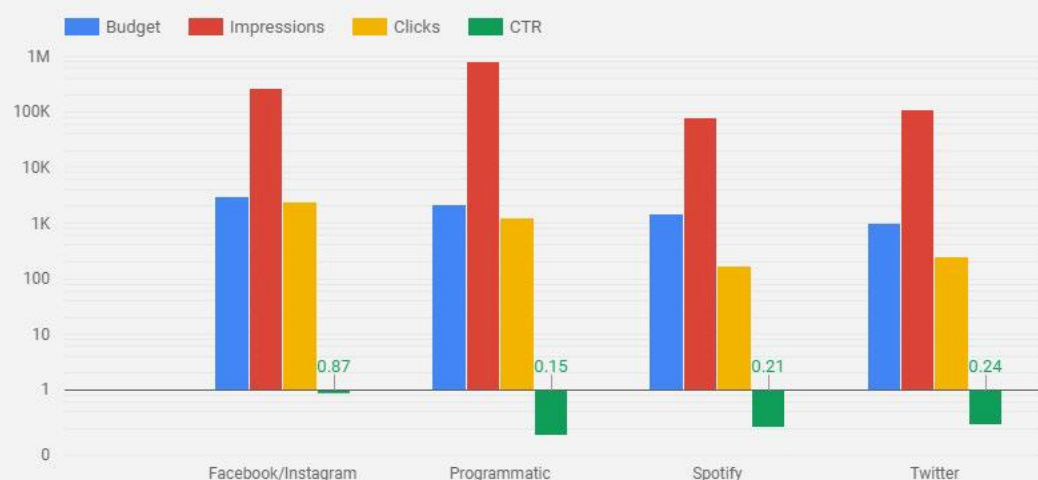
Workshop, Optimal Sport Nutrition, Parent/Coach Concussion Workshop, Sport Supplements, Mental Performance Imagery, Mental Performance Ideal Performance State, and Mental Performance Teams & Culture. We had a total of 270 participants attend these sessions.

- RAS sat on Ringette Canada Committee for Canada Winter Games planning

Marketing/Promotion

- We held our 3rd annual 12 Days of Christmas Giveaways on Facebook and Instagram. We had a total of 1,420 entries throughout the contest. Both our Facebook and Instagram followings grew significantly.
- Engaging our members on social media -Twitter followers 659, Instagram followers 959, Facebook Likes 1320.
- RAS invested in a Marketing Campaign with Bravo Tango that had a mix of paid, social, and online messaging while using a combination of display, video, and audio formats in multiple geographic locations. The purpose of the campaign was to increase awareness and engagement to increase registration for the 2021-22 season and bring back members lost to COVID. The campaign drove 4000 users to our website for more information.

Marketing Campaign Performance



Organizational Excellence

- Contingency Planning was ongoing – RAS provided critical support to Ringette Canada in establishing their National Return to Ringette Direction Document
- Ringette Saskatchewan Return to Ringette Plan was established and continuously updated with new information and resources to support our Associations and members.
- 18 communication pieces were produced and sent to Associations with timely updates on key issues with Return to Play details
- 8 resources were developed to support our Return to Play plans to assist in keeping our participants safe
- RAS provided leadership in bringing together the Business Response Team and various sport groups which resulted in rule changes and clarification to the rules and regulations in the Re-Open SK plan.
- Planning and Collaboration – RAS attended 27 Sask Sport meetings and 32 Ringette Canada meetings
- Significant effort was put into updating the RAS website, in particular the new COVID-19 Resource hub that resulted in more views on our website.
- Policy updates were Discipline and Complaints Policy, Alternate Dispute Resolution, and Appeal Policy
- RAS leads and sits on two committees with Ringette Canada i.e., Safe Sport and Alignment Committee

- Member Assistance Program we allocated \$48,780 to our 4 Associations
- RAS applied for and received the Minister of Canadian Heritage grant and allocated \$62,255 to our 4 clubs to help with COVID relief.
- Planning and Collaboration – RAS attended 27 Sask Sport meetings and 32 Ringette Canada meetings

DESIRED OUTCOMES FOR THE 2021-22 SEASON



Athlete Pathways

CHILDRENS RINGETTE

Implementing the Children's Ringette Framework that supports development of physical literacy and Long-Term Athlete Development - Fun1 Fun2 and Fun3 being fully implemented.

EXCELLENCE

Working with Ringette Canada and Ringette Provincial Organizations to create a comprehensive framework for establishing excellence Ringette programming. This will help RAS align our high -performance pathway from U16 through to Canada Winter Games to the NRL.

Developing and providing technical and administrative support and oversight into our new NRL team in Saskatchewan.

Providing administrative support to the 2023 Canada Winter Games program.



Coaches and Officials Development

COACHES

1. FUN 1 FUN3 & FUN3 resources developed
2. Orchestrating Children Ringette Coach training
3. Providing support and assistance to the Canada Winter Games coaches for their Competition Development certification

OFFICIALS

1. Develop a plan to recruit, retain develop and advance officials at all levels



Growing Ringette

1. Continuing Come Try Ringette
2. Implement and expanding Gym Ringette
3. Continue to implement the sponsorship consortium while also seeking new sponsorship opportunities for Canada Winter Games and the National Ringette League teams.
4. Will be leveraging social media to create brand awareness



RAS Associations Presidents Reports



Regina Ringette

In the summer of 2020, with Covid19 restrictions in mind, RRA created a Back To Ringette document. The plan provided the membership with direction as they tentatively headed back to city rinks and the Co-operators Centre.

The November 27th SHA health order meant the season was officially over. To help coaches prepare for eight-player practices, RRA created a practice plan reference database.

In the fall of 2020, RRA and the Ringette Officials Association of Regina (ROAR) renewed their operating contract. The resulting document showed an improvement in official compensation and working conditions, but most of the discussion revolved around the training of officials. Recognizing the deficit in Level 3 and 4 officials, RRA agreed to work with ROAR to help match these officials to training opportunities; specifically, providing trainees with transportation to out-of-province tournaments on team busses.

In October 2020, RRA signed a lease for a new equipment room on McDonald street. The new space allows for the storage of all association equipment and a place to host board and team meetings. The installation of a large screen TV will enable coaches to review game video with players.

RRA's coach mentorship program, Coach The Coach, ran for its second year. Its emphasis was to provide support to U10 and U12 coaches. For 21/22, the program is expanding its focus on supporting Fun 1 - U12 coaches.

Marketing Director Darin Degenstein spearheaded the season-ending RRA Skills Competition. With Covid19 restrictions in mind, teams competed in various areas such as shot accuracy and fastest skater. It provided players with the chance to compete, which they crave, and it was a great way to end the season, such as it was.

After much lobbying, Regina Exhibition Association Ltd administration agreed to install ringette lines in Rink 6 at the Co-operators Centre. This act elevates the visibility of ringette within the community and it will allow the association to better showcase premier competitions. The timing for this development is perfect as RRA was awarded the opportunity to host Westerns in 2022.

In the interest of self-improvement, the board continues to work with Wayne Hellquist of Future Quest. In June, a Board Effectiveness survey was conducted. It showed that board members are keen to learn more about board operations and how to be more impactful. Next, in the fall of '21, Mr. Hellquist will lead a two-day strategic planning session.

We are looking forward to a more normal and complete season in '21/'22

Sincerely,

Mike Wiens

Mike Wiens
President
Regina Ringette Association

Saskatoon Ringette Presidents Reports



Audrey Sanders

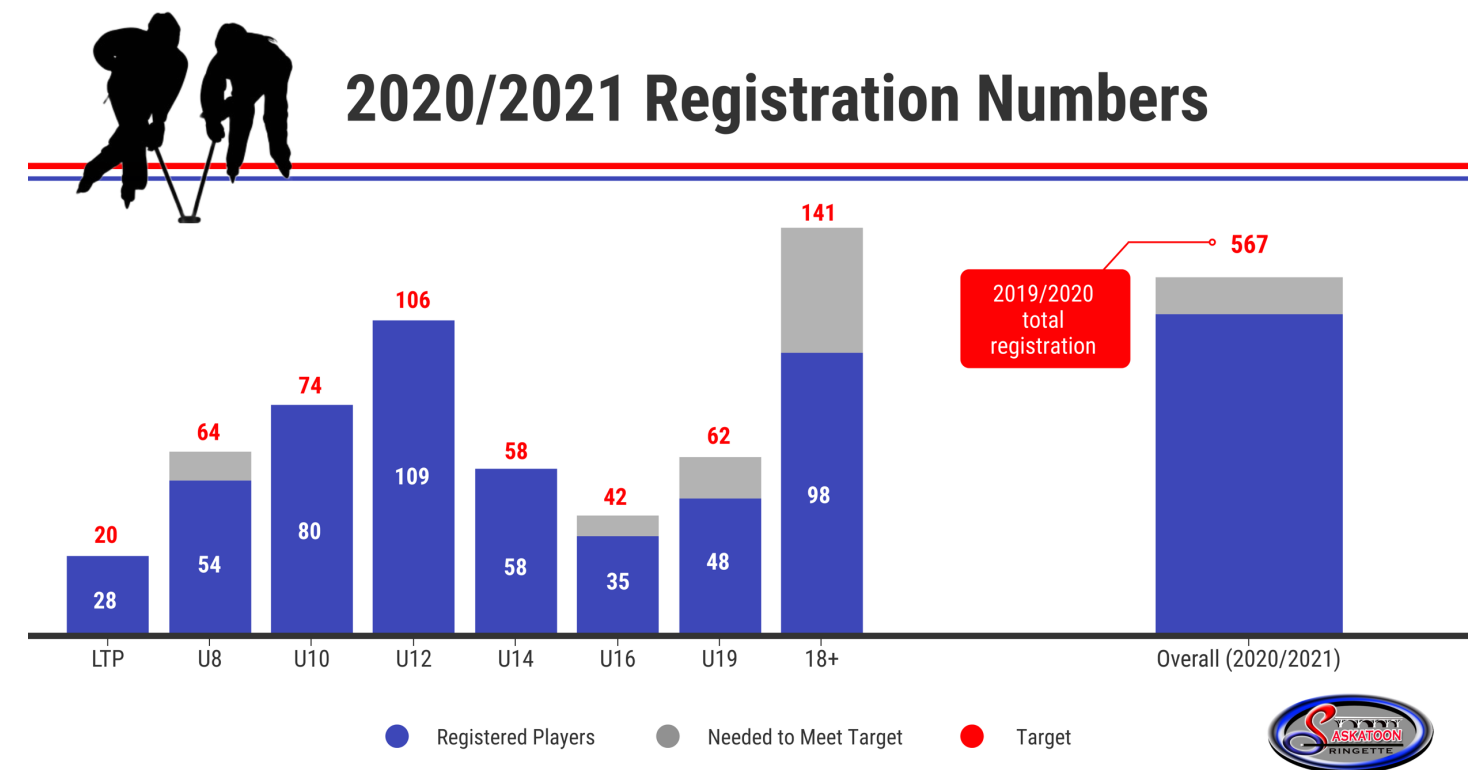
This past year has been challenging for all of our membership. Every SRA member was asked to do things differently so we could operate in a constantly evolving worldwide pandemic. Athletes were asked to physical distance on and off the ice. Parents were trying to dress their athletes as much as possible in the car. Coaches and managers were tasked with contact tracing and arranging practices with different numbers of people in the stands and on the ice. Referees were among the first who had to mask up on the ice. The board and office were trying to stay ahead of rink restrictions and public health orders with little to no notice. And I'm sure there were many more challenges for everyone. Through all of this change, all I kept hearing was how much our ringette community loves ringette. Seeing those smiles on the ice at the end of the year during the Skills Event shows the resilience and dedication of our community. Thank you for all your patience and assistance as we navigated through the changes and evolving restrictions this season.

SRA continues to work on our revised board and committee structure. Based on your feedback, we have made some changes which are reflected in the Terms of Reference and the newly approved board positions.

SRA has continued working with Ringette Saskatchewan on Children's Ringette with more improvement this upcoming year.

Thanks to our Referee Liaison, Anya Ostryzniuk and our Safety Officer, Steven Siciliano for their assistance this year. Thank you to Brenda King for her hard work and support in the office. And a final thank you to all the coaches, managers, trainers, referees, parents, volunteers and, of course, the players for your passion and dedication to our sport and community!

Last, my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the board members for their time and energy in supporting the work of SRA and hopefully the craziest season we will ever witness!



Saskatoon Ringette Presidents Reports *cont...*



Players stick with ringette!

(Even during a global pandemic.)

We're still going strong...

- We achieved 90% of our total registrants target and 95% of the target for our core divisions (U8 - U19).
- We met or exceeded our registration targets in 4 of the 5 younger divisions (U14 and below).
- Retention in our younger divisions (U8 - U14) was strong at 91%, and almost identical to our 2019/20 rate.
- The decrease in overall registration was largely driven by the 18+ division, which was uniquely impacted by mini league restrictions.

We cracked
100 players
in U12!



This is the first time a division other than 18+ has had more than 100 players.

Even though COVID restrictions limited our normal recruitment activities, we still welcomed 72 new players this year!



Thanks to:

Cara Hunchak - Treasurer,
Carmen Hesje – Fundamentals,
Kim Brown - Past President,
Lori Flamand – Active Start,
Mel Brockman - Athlete Development,
Michelle Correia - Coach Development,
Rachelle Zapisocki - Competitive, and
Susan Smith - Community.

A special thank you to two of our exiting board members, Michelle Correia and Kim Brown. Both of these women have been mainstays on the board and now must resign as they have reached their maximum number of years served. Thank you both for your years of dedication and work serving on the board. Thank you for being role models to our athletes. We won't see you on the board, but hopefully we will see you on the ice!

Yours in Ringette,

Audrey Sanders

Audrey Sanders, President

Buffalo Plains Ringette Presidents Reports

Cara Kirkham

The 2020-2021 season was filled with emotion and one we will never forget! The board met at least 2 times a month from the end of 2019-20 season right to the beginning of the 2020-21 to stay on track with the planning for what we expected to be a full return to play by early season. Our registration numbers were positive with the following team placements:

- Children's ringette – Fundamentals 1 and Fundamentals 2
- U10 had 3 full teams
- U12 had 2 full teams, as well as a U12A team
- U14B had 4 full teams, as well as a U14AA team
- 2 U16 teams
- 1 U19 team
- 0 open teams this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The season started with full team practices only, by November the Public Health order lifted some restrictions which allowed for games to be played. Unfortunately, this only lasted long enough for between 5 and 7 games to be played. BPRA decided to shut down for 2 weeks to process the changes that were required for our sport to continue for the duration of the season. After the 2-week hiatus, players & coaches returned to ice in groups of 8/full ice, a mandatory mask rule, and practices only while keeping 3m between all on ice participants. Despite these harsh, but necessary rules all teams forged ahead with positive attitudes with the coaches making it their mission to finish the season with development and fun and the forefront of their plans.

Clothing sales were handled differently this year with two online shops being developed: one with Allied Printing and one with 22Fresh. Both shops brought in more sales than in previous years, but still room for improvement with the ordering and delivery. The 2021-22 season will most likely still see the collaboration with 22Fresh, as well as an online clothing shop on Entripy called <https://bp.ra.entripyshops.com> which will allow for teams and individuals to order and have the merchandise shipped directly to them.

A huge thank you goes out to Regina Ringette who put together a skills competition that gave all teams in BPRA the opportunity for a little friendly competition this season. BPRA ended up with many individual and team victories, which proves that given the chance, we would have had a fantastic competitive season.

The BPRA Marketing sub-committee will be focusing on setting up 2-3 Come Try Ringette events through the off-season (Summer and early Fall) in hopes of driving the Children's Ringette numbers up for the coming season. It was discovered that there is interest for Ringette in Qu'Appelle and Indian Head, so we plan to target those communities as well as our current local demographic.

BPRA player profiles will continue to be posted on our social media platforms until all submissions have been portrayed. Keep your eye on these Social Media sites for contest announcements throughout the Summer, and please try to share these posts to help grow our presence and involvement in the surrounding communities.

Cara Kirkham

Cara Kirkham
President

Provincial Office

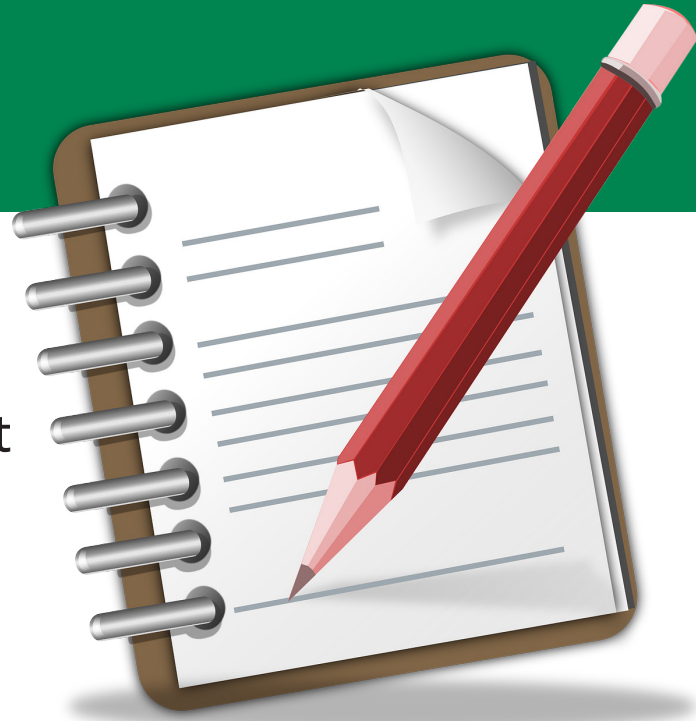
Mosaic Stadium

#300-1734 Elphinstone Street

Regina, SK S4T 1K1

Ph: (306)780-9432

Fax: (306)780-9480



Thank you.

The Ringette Association of Saskatchewan would like to take this opportunity to recognize the support of Saskatchewan Lotteries. It is through your support, we can continue to offer opportunities for our individuals to play, excel, and succeed.



SASK LOTTERIES



Connect with us

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