

NEPEAN RINGETTE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

August, 2010



Hi Everyone!

I hope you have all had a good summer so far. Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about the upcoming ringette season. Remember to check the web site regularly at <http://www.nepeanringette.ca> for news and announcements as well as last minute changes to the tryouts and other schedules. During the try outs, the Division Directors will keep you posted as to what is happening. During the season, your team Manager will keep you up to date.

REGISTRATION: 2010-2011 SEASON – Fees for the upcoming season are \$530 for Novice through Belle players and \$230 for the Bunny program. Cheques can be made out for \$265 dated now and \$265 dated October 1, 2010. Please note that there will be a \$30 NSF fee applied to each cheque returned by the bank.

In person registration: Thursday, September 2, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Nepean Sportsplex Rink 1 (Yzerman)

Mail or Drop-off: Complete the registration form from the website and mail (or hand carry) it, along with your cheques, to the NRA Registrar. The mailing address is listed on the registration form. Registrations must be received no later than Thursday 02-Sep-2010.

Late registration fees: For any returning players who have not registered by 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 2, 2010, a late registration fee of \$25 will apply, subject to space being available.

Players turning (or who have turned) 18 years of age between Dec. 31, 2009 and Dec. 31, 2010, or who are joining ringette in Ontario this year for the first time (including Bunnies), need to bring a copy of their birth certificate to the in-person registration or send a photocopy with their registration form.

Registration fee receipts for tax purposes will be issued for eligible players in late February 2011.

2010/2011 SEASON CHANGES - As with every new season, there are always a couple of small changes to be aware of. This year, the ORA has made shoulder pads mandatory for all players under 19 years of age. There have also been some changes to the competitive ranking system and provincials, details of which are available on the ORA web site.

2010/2011 TEAMS - As is the case every season, which teams we field will depend on final registration numbers, sort-out results and the divisions available in the NCRRL. Our current expectation is:

- Novice: 4 or 5 teams seeded B, C and Rec
- Petite: 5 teams seeded Prov. 1, Prov. 2, two B and C
- Tween: 3 teams seeded AA, A and B
- Junior: 4 teams seeded AA, A, B1 and B2
- Belle: 4 teams seeded AA, A and two B teams.
- Open: 2 teams seeded A and probably B1 in GAARA

The makeup and seeding of our B and C division teams will depend on the above factors and we will attempt to find the best possible fit for each team. In cases where we have a non-obvious choice (such as 2 teams in a pool), we may delay announcing those teams until the league seeding meeting scheduled for Tuesday 21-Sep-2010. Division directors will have the most up-to-date information as we move through the process.

COACHES NEEDED – Every year we look for coaches in September to make sure that every girl in Nepean who wants to play ringette has the opportunity. Moms, Dads and older players are encouraged to volunteer for one of the most rewarding experiences in minor sports. If you have experience working with children and would like to learn more about coaching ringette, we have an opportunity for you! We can help you develop your coaching skills and knowledge through our mentoring program. This is also an excellent opportunity for high school aged players to fulfill community service hours. Nepean Ringette pays the full cost of training all coaches, trainers and managers.

If you're interested in coaching, please contact our Coaching Coordinator, Paul Richards at 613-489-2566 or fill in an application form available on the web site and email it to coach@nepeanringette.ca.

REFEREES REQUIRED – Looking for a part-time job? Wouldn't it be nice to have one where not only do you get paid, but yet get exercise and a whole different perspective of the game you love? Challenge yourself! We're looking for anyone 14 years or older. If you or anyone you know would be interested in becoming a referee, please contact referee@nepeanringette.ca. Current Level 1 officials interested in taking the Level 2 clinic this fall, should also contact referee@nepeanringette.ca.

EXECUTIVE VACANCIES – We are in particular need of a volunteer to become Treasurer. We also have other openings on the executive: Bunnies Division Director, Belle Division Director, Fundraising Coordinator, Publicity Coordinator, and Webmaster. Please contact Fred Black (613-823-6017 / nra_president@nepeanringette.ca), John Packman (613-823-1990 / nra_vpadmin@nepeanringette.ca) or Terry Fahey (613-223-2958 / nra_vpops@nepeanringette.ca) to donate your time to a very worthy cause. If you would like to help on any of the committees – fundraising, publicity, tournament, recruitment – the NRA could certainly use your help. No experience necessary, just a willing attitude!

FUNDRAISING – Fundraising is very important for the Association and its teams. Again this year, the teams will keep all proceeds collected via sponsorships. One important note is that by Ontario law, any sort of raffle requires a municipal license. Any Nepean team holding a raffle or draw is expected to obtain the required license. Additional details on fundraising will be discussed in early October at the annual Coaches and Managers' meeting.

Loblaws gift cards will continue to be sold with 3% of the face value of the cards sold going directly to the team and 2% to the Association. These cards can be used at Loblaws, Your Independent Grocer, Super Store, Valu Mart and several related smaller chains. Please see the "Fundraising" section on www.nepeanringette.ca for contacts to purchase gift cards. With a little effort, this program has allowed past teams to raise enough money to pay the registration fees for 2 tournaments during the year.

RONA will give every NRA parent a discount card which will offers 6% off most purchases at the time of purchase and a further 4% to the NRA to help with Association fundraising. This applies to the Rona Home & Garden, Nepean store. Conditions and details are at <http://www.nepeanringette.ca>.

Nepean Ringette is always interested in new corporate sponsorship programs. If you know of a business that would like to be a sponsor with the Nepean Ringette Association this season, please contact Fred Black (613-823-6017 or nra_president@nepeanringette.ca).

NEPEAN RINGETTE 23rd ANNUAL TOURNAMENT – Our Annual Ringette Tournament will take place from November 18 – 21, 2010. We will again be requiring every player's parents to volunteer a few hours (typically three to four hours for each player in the Association). These few hours help us to reduce the tournament costs and generate income that is applied to help offset ever increasing costs of ice for games and practices. Every family will be required to provide some type of packaged, nut free food snack. Also, each team will be required to donate one or two items totalling \$40 for our prize table. Further details will be distributed at the Managers meeting in early November.

If you would like to help further with our tournament, please contact Kim Noxon at 613-489-2653 or nra_tournament@nepeanringette.ca. Please come out and join us in planning this memorable event. Tournament meeting dates will be posted on the website.

FALL CONDITIONING - Conditioning sessions will be held starting Thursday 02-Sep-2010 and Friday 03-Sep-2010 continuing through the Labour Day weekend. Interested players will be divided into three groups of up to 25-30 players each based on age and level. Pre-registration is important to allow us to balance the number of skaters in each group and to maximize the number of players we can accommodate. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Players will be notified which session to attend. Questions may be directed to conditioning@nepeanringette.ca. The fee is \$15 for each hour attended. Please see <http://www.nepeanringette.ca> for the schedule and registration form.

PLAYER SELECTION AND TRYOUTS – The remaining tryouts for Belle AA will begin on Thursday 02-Sep-2010. “A” tryouts will begin on Friday September 10, 2010 and B/C sort-outs will begin as soon as possible following the “A” tryouts for each age group. Please see <http://www.nepeanringette.ca> for the tryout and sort-out schedule, and check frequently for any changes. Two of rinks included in our September ice are undergoing extensive renovations – should either of these projects run late it could impact our tryout schedule, potentially on short notice. Our ice times on these surfaces are September 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16. In addition to possible construction delays, unforeseen challenges such as ice conditions or the number of players in a division could require last minute changes.

Remember – no player will be allowed on the ice for any tryout session until they are registered or can provide a player try out release form from their home Association which has been fully completed. Also, a reminder that no player will be allowed on the ice without full equipment

A Tryouts (including Provincial Petite 2 and Novice B) - Our policy for “A” level out-of-Association players in all A divisions (except Open) and in Novice B is that they must place in the top half of the rankings in order to make the team. We intend to field one “A” team in each of the Tween, Junior and Belle age groups and a 2nd Petite Provincial team. Tryout fees are \$25 per player covering both of the first 2 hours and \$10 per player per hour for subsequent sessions. This year, we are asking players intending to try out to register their intentions in advance. An on-line form for this purpose will be available on our web site prior to tryouts. Please note that tryouts for Petite Comp. 2, Tween A and Junior A began in April and will continue with the same remaining players under consideration. Interested players who did not attend spring tryouts due to extenuating circumstances (injury, new to town etc.) should contact the appropriate Division Director.

B and C Sort-outs – Sort-outs for each B and C team will begin as soon as possible following the completion of tryouts for the preceding team in that age group (usually the following day or two, depending on ice availability). We do not charge for B / C sort-outs. Sort-outs are conducted in a similar fashion to competitive tryouts except that there are usually 2 ice times per level rather than the 4 usually used for an A or AA team. Attendance at sort-outs is important even if it is for only a single team as information gathered is needed to properly seed the team in the NCRRL.

Tryout Process – For those who are interested, there will be a sample copy of a blank assessment sheet available at the registration desk during tryouts and sort-outs. The exercises will vary based on age group, level and for each session. At the beginning there will be more emphasis on skating skills, however as tryouts progress and teams come closer to being finalized there will be more emphasis on game play through 3 on 3s, 4 on 4s, etc.

At each tryout and sort-out we try to have four evaluators, two assessing each colour. The players are ranked according to the group on the ice at the time and then the rankings are tabulated. For the most part, teams are chosen directly according to rankings established, however, with the final couple of choices or cusp players, the Coach(es) will be allowed to use his/her/their discretion to make the final choice(s), particularly for AA and A teams. As in the past, at no time will a parent evaluate their own child.

Notification – The Division Directors will provide details on the process for notifying players of results or continuation at each tryout.

REFUNDS – After Thursday September 2, 2010, refunds will only be available for medical reasons; other special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact your Division Director.

COMMUNICATION – clear communication is essential for everyone involved with the Nepean Ringette Association.

If you have a question, please contact your Division Director first who may, if necessary, direct you to a more appropriate person on the Executive. A listing of all Executive members is available on the website at <http://www.nepeanringette.ca/executive>.

The Division Directors have volunteered specifically to help clarify things for the people in their age group, so please help them to do their job – ask them questions! If they don't have the answer to your specific question, they will know, or will find out, where to get it.

Have a great remainder of the summer and see you in the arenas!

Fred Black

President, Nepean Ringette Association

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<http://www.nepeanringette.ca>