



NEPEAN RINGETTE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

August, 2009

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 regular season, your team Manager will keep you up to date.

REGISTRATION 2009-2010 SEASON – Fees for the upcoming season are \$210 for the Bunny program and \$490 for all other players. Cheques can be made out for \$245 dated now and \$245 dated October 1, 2009.

Please note that there will be a \$30 NSF fee applied to each cheque returned by the bank.

In person registration: Wednesday, September 2, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Nepean Sportsplex Rink 2

Online: Complete the registration form from the website and mail it, along with your cheques, to the NRA Registrar. The mailing address is listed on the registration form. Mailed registration must be received no later than Wednesday 02-Sep-2009.

Late registration fees: For any returning players who have not registered by 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, a late registration fee of \$25 will apply.

NOTE – if you are turning (or have turned) 18 years of age between Dec. 31, 2008 and Dec. 31, 2009, or you are joining ringette in Ontario this year for the first time (including Bunnies), you will need to bring a copy of your birth certificate to the in person registration or send a photocopy with your registration form.

Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for eligible players by February 28, 2010. This will be for the registration portion of your ringette expenses as this is the only portion that is eligible. There will not be a need to contact the registrar or treasurer as they will be done automatically.

COACHES – You could be one!! 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! The NRA can help you develop your coaching skills and knowledge through our new mentoring program. This is also an excellent opportunity for high school aged players to fulfill some of the community service hours required for graduation. Nepean Ringette Association pays the cost of training all coaches, trainers and managers.

If you're interested in coaching, please contact our VP of Operations Terry Fahey at 613-223-2958 or fill in an application form available on the web site and email it to coach2009@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. If you are currently a level 1 official and are interested in taking the Level 2 clinic that will be held this fall, please contact referee@nepeanringette.ca.

EXECUTIVE VACANCIES – We still have some openings on the executive – Bunnies Division Director, Director Recreation Division, Coaching Coordinator, VP Admin, Fundraising Coordinator, Webmaster and Referee-in-Chief. Please contact Gord Stringer (613-825-7433 or nra_president@nepeanringette.ca), or Terry Fahey (613-223-2958 or 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.

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 are just like cash (and should be taken care of the same as you would cash). Locally these can be used at Loblaws, Your Independent Grocer, Super Store and Valu Mart as well as at an additional eleven store chains throughout the country. Please contact Debbi Giroux or Lori Marcotte to purchase gift cards. You may contact them by e-mail (nra_fundraising@nepeanringette.ca) or by phone : Debbi at 613-220-2921 (preferred) or 613-823-8454 and Lori at 613-825-3343. Participating teams will receive their 3% Loblaws profit cheques twice during the year. With a little effort teams have raised enough money to pay the registration fees for at least 2 tournaments during the year.

RONA will give every parent of the NRA a discount card which will give 10% off purchases – 6% at the time of purchase and 4% to the NRA to help with Association fundraising. This applies to the Rona Home & Garden, Nepean store. There are certain conditions that apply and details are available on the website <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 Gord Stringer (613-825-7433 or nra_president@nepeanringette.ca).

Additional details on fundraising will be discussed in early October at the annual Coaches and Managers' meeting.

NEPEAN RINGETTE 22nd ANNUAL TOURNAMENT – The Nepean Ringette Tournament will take place from November 19 – 22, 2009. We will again be requiring every player's parents to volunteer hours (parents, as a rule of thumb, expect to volunteer three to four hours for each son/daughter in the Association). These few hours help us reduce the tournament costs which helps us generate income for the NRA to pay for ice and keep registration costs low. Every family will be required to provide either a dozen muffins or some type of packaged, nut free food snack. Further details will be distributed at the Managers meeting in early November. As well, each team will donate an item for the silent auction. If you have any extra time and would like to help further with the tournament, please contact Gord Stringer (613-825-7433 or nra_president@nepeanringette.ca) or Kim Noxon (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 - Fall conditioning will be held starting Wednesday September 2, 2009 and continuing through the Labour Day weekend. The Fall conditioning schedule is less regular than in past years due to available ice from the City this year, see <http://www.nepeanringette.ca> for current details. Interested players will be divided into three groups of approximately 25-30 players each based on age and skill level. This approach is taken to balance the size of the sessions and maximize the number of players we can accommodate.

Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Pre-registration is important for these sessions as there will be a limit to the number of skaters on the ice at any time. Online registration is available or contact Terry Fahey at conditioning@nepeanringette.ca. The fee is \$15 per hour for the first 3 hours attended and \$10 for the final hour if attended. The schedule and sign-up details are posted on our web site. You will be notified as to which sessions your child should attend.

PLAYER SELECTION – Fall tryout sessions will begin on Friday September 10, 2009. It is important to be registered prior to this date because the Division Directors will be contacting registered players as to when their age group will be on the ice. The tryout schedule and fees are posted on the web site. Please check this site frequently for last minute changes which could be caused by ice conditions or a large number of players in some divisions

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

Tryout Process – For those who are interested, there will be a sample copy of one of the try out assessment sheets available at the registration desk during the try out process. This sheet will be one example that will be used. The sheet changes from try out to try out. 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 try out we will endeavour to have four evaluators, two assessing each colour 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). At no time will a parent evaluate their own child.

The players are ranked according to the group on the ice at the time based on a scale of one to five, one being the lowest and five the highest. An example would be accepting the ring. A player who catches the ring regularly with strength would get evaluated at a five and someone who never catches it would be evaluated at a one.

A Tryouts - The policy for “A” level out-of-Association players in all divisions except Open is that they must place in the top half of the rankings in order to make the team. We expect to field “A” teams in Tween, Junior (2 teams), Belle 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

Recreational Division Teams: The teams that we field for the 2009/2010 season will depend on both final registration numbers and sort-out results. Our current estimate is 5 or 6 Novice teams (B, C and Rec), 2 Petite (most likely B and C), 1 Tween, 2 Junior and 1 Belle team in the Recreation Division. The Tween and Belle teams in the Recreation Division will most likely be seeded “B”. The Junior teams will most likely be seeded B1 and B2. Actual team levels may also vary (B and/or C) depending on final registration numbers, player sort-out rankings and the divisions available in the NCRRL.

Sort outs for recreational teams are similar to tryouts except that no fees are charged. It is still important for all players to attend as the evaluation results are needed to properly seed the teams with the NCRRL.

ICE Costs: As with most things nowadays the cost of ice continues to rise year over year. This year the Executive built in an increase to registration fees to help offset the significant increase the City imposed on the cost of ice. At this point we are anticipating that this increasing cost being passed on by the City will be a continuing theme year over year for the foreseeable future. The Executive is committed to keep increases in fees to a minimum, however, increases are very likely to be a fact of life. We will be looking at our ice cost/operational cost and fees models with respect to all aspects of the NRA (i.e. Conditioning sessions, Goalie clinics, Try-outs, Sort-outs, Practice ice and Game ice etc) and some changes may be necessary in the future.

REFUNDS – After Wednesday September 2, 2009, 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**.

AA Provincials

We are proud to announce that the Nepean Ringette Association has been selected as Host for the 2010 Ontario Provincial AA Championships to be held 25-28 February 2010. Parents of AA and A team members will be expected to assist with 3 – 4 volunteer hours per player and parents of B, C and Rec team members are encouraged to help out as well. As with the tournament, every family in the association will be requested to donate a dozen muffins or a food snack. Each team will be donating towards a “basket” raffle. In the early fall there will be a competition announced for selecting a logo for the Provincials. Team managers will have details in early October.

NRA ON-ICE UNIFORM REPLACEMENT

Last season the NRA embarked on an on-ice uniform update initiative which culminated in a voting process at the year end banquet and the selection of a new jersey style and logo combination and standard. The NRA Executive and the On-Ice Uniform Committee used an RFP and selection process to choose a supplier for the new on-ice uniforms. As a result of this open, competitive process the NRA has granted the contract to Houle Sports to supply the new on-ice uniform for the 2009-10 season. The NRA Executive and the NRA owes a great vote of thanks to Art Marcotte, Gary Vrckovnik and the rest of the On-Ice Uniform Committee for the incredible work, and dedication of time and effort they all put into this very important project to update the look of Nepean Ringette for the foreseeable future. **Keep an eye on the website for news regarding a new NRA Ringette on-ice pants design as well which will be available for this coming season and will complement the new jersey design.**

As a result of this significant expenditure by the NRA the Team Deposit policy was revisited and each team will be required to post a \$300 deposit (raised from \$250 last year). \$250 of this deposit will be refunded to a team at the end of the season providing that the team and/or their Coaching/Bench staff has no outstanding fines levied against them AND all their new jerseys, and other equipment on loan to them, are returned in the condition they were received. Exceptional circumstances may arise (i.e. the necessity for an EMT to cut a jersey off an injured player) and in those cases the team/player/parents will not be penalised, however, anything beyond the “exceptional” and normal wear will result in the end of the season Team Deposit refund of \$250 being reduced accordingly. Please ensure proper care of the new jerseys, leaving them in equipment bags with skates and other equipment is NOT a good idea.

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.

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!

Gord Stringer, President
Nepean Ringette Association
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<http://www.nepeanringette.ca>