



WORA Communication to Members

August 2020

Message from the Board



We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their patience and positivity as we work diligently through this difficult and unprecedented situation.

The landscape for us is changing constantly and quickly but as we move through this we hold the following objectives

- 1- Ensure our children can return to the ice safely
- 2- Ensure we follow all guidelines provided to us by the Province, City of Ottawa, Ringette Ontario and ERRA
- 3- Try to ensure the season and its formation fairly addresses our memberships needs as a whole, not specific to an age group or level of play
- 4- Ensure that West Ottawa is financially stable and viable for 2020/2021 and beyond

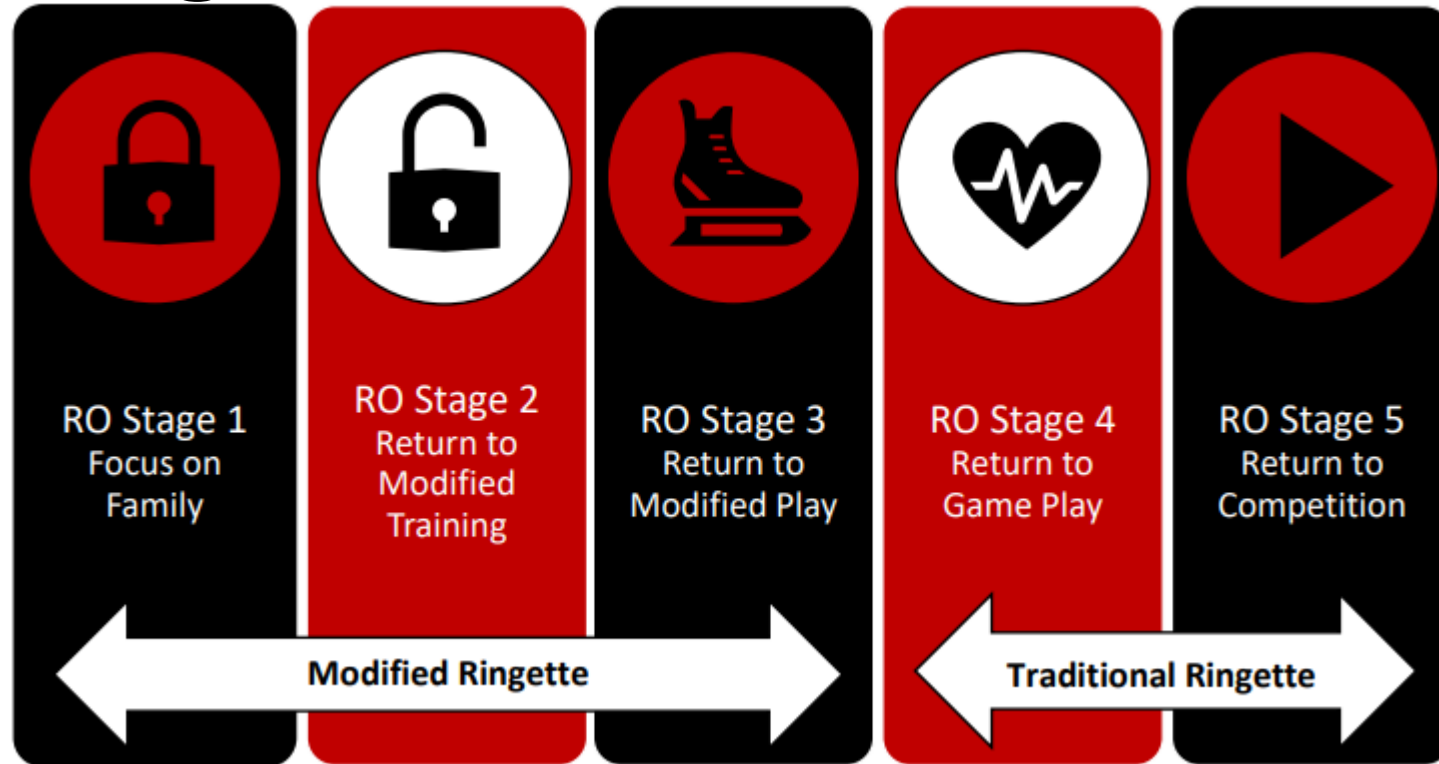
At this time we are tentatively targeting a season start date of September 21st but this is dependent on approval from the RO of our RTR package, as well as ice availability through the City. Once confirmed we will communicate accordingly.

We are also working on an FAQ to publish and keep updated on our website. If your questions were not answered in this communication please look for the FAQ in the weeks to come.

Please remember the association is comprised of volunteers and everyone is working hard to achieve the objectives above so please be kind.



Ringette Ontario Return to Play



- West Ottawa is strictly bound to operate within the guidelines set out by our governing bodies(Ringette Ontario, ERRA, and NCRRL)
- Ringette Ontario has defined various stages for us to move through to return to traditional play
- Based on Ringette Ontario we are currently in **Stage 1** and **applying for Stage 2** followed shortly by stage 3

[https://ringetteontario.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/RO-Return-to-Ringette-](https://ringetteontario.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/RO-Return-to-Ringette-2020-Updated-August-10.pdf)

[2020-Updated-August-10.pdf](https://ringetteontario.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/RO-Return-to-Ringette-2020-Updated-August-10.pdf)



Ringette Ontario Return to Play



- We strongly encourage all members to review the links provided below to get an understanding of the protocols and changes currently being incorporated into our season
- As part of the RTR package we must submit for approval to the RO a dedicated page on our website will be developed to provide all relevant communications (FAQ etc) and Covid 19 protocols to the membership
- More details on this to follow

<https://ringetteontario.com/rtr-covid19/>



West Ottawa Return to Play



- ❑ PLEASE NOTE – IT IS NOW OUR EXPERIENCE THAT INFORMATION IS CHANGING DAILY AND SOME OF THE INFORMATION PRESENTED HERE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
- Before we can step on the ice we need to complete a comprehensive Return To Ringette (RTR) package on how we are going to organize and manage Covid 19 protocols. This package requires inputs from our local health authorities and facilities
- Our current guidance is the we must form ‘bubbles’ of up to 50 players. Anyone within this bubble is not allowed to play/participate in any other bubble
- Based on the latest update from City of Ottawa we are only allowed to put 25 skaters on the ice at one time (this includes coaches/trainers) ** there are no spectators allowed**
- We have not yet determined how the bubbles will be formed but these bubbles should **not** be viewed as teams.
- There is currently no team formation allowed and when we are allowed to form teams we will hold tryouts and sort outs as we have in the past
- With a very short timeline we had to appoint a Covid Safety Leader – this position has been filled by our Association's Training Coordinator for the last 2 yrs, Penny MacGregor





Covid 19 Related Forms and Waivers Requirements

Pre-season at time of registration:

- Informed Consent & Assumption of Risk Agreement
- Waiver of Claims & Indemnity Agreement

During season:

- Health Attestation prior to ringette activities (this will either be filled out via the facility or through WORA). More details to follow
- Contact tracing form or submission through RAMP Player Application
- COVID-19 Facility Use Waiver
- COVID-19 Declaration of Compliance

<https://ringetteontario.com/rtr-covid19/return-ringette-resources/>





Ringette Ontario Participation Protocols

The following is a list of items that each participant should carry with them. Some are mandatory and some are highly recommended. As many of these are facility specific so this list is subject to change.

- Masks are mandatory (this is required at all times when not on the ice)
- Skate guards that can be used to enter and exit the arena (i.e. the hard plastic type)
Parents should practice with the athlete at home to ensure they can put their guards on themselves
- Their own water bottle, labeled with their first and last name in large letters. No sharing!
- A small bag specifically for their helmet and gloves this bag should be machine washable – i.e. pillowcase, fabric bag, drawstring bag). This may be necessary only if there regular/large equipment bags are not allowed (currently Ottawa **is allowing** equipment bags)
- Other items that are recommended to include in the players ringette bag include, disposable gloves, hand sanitizer
- Backup ringette stick (this is recommended as the participant will not be allow to use anyone else's stick)



Why did we ask for a Non-Refundable Deposit?



- As our members are aware West Ottawa is a not-for profit organization and this season presented itself as being extremely financially risky for our association based on the following
 - Survey results showed a potential 30% drop in membership due to Covid 19
 - City ice contracts that needed to be signed August 1st which carried steep financial penalties for returned ice
 - Anticipated loss of other yearly revenue sources (tournament/grocery card programs etc)
 - Increased ice costs for 2021 (total of 5%)
 - Increased Ringette Ontario Member fees for 2020/2021
- As a board we believe it is necessary for our association to approach the season with a risk adverse stance in an effort to protect ourselves from financial hardship and ensure we were viable for 2020/2021 and beyond
- The non-refundable deposit is used towards members registration fees
- This approach has been supported and promoted as a recommended model by the Eastern Region and Ringette Ontario
- There have been concerns around us asking for the deposit with no clear vision as to what the season will look like. This has been an unfortunate result of the COVID 19 situation and beyond our control. The pre-registration notice highlighted the fact there will be no games our tournaments until January 1st 2021.



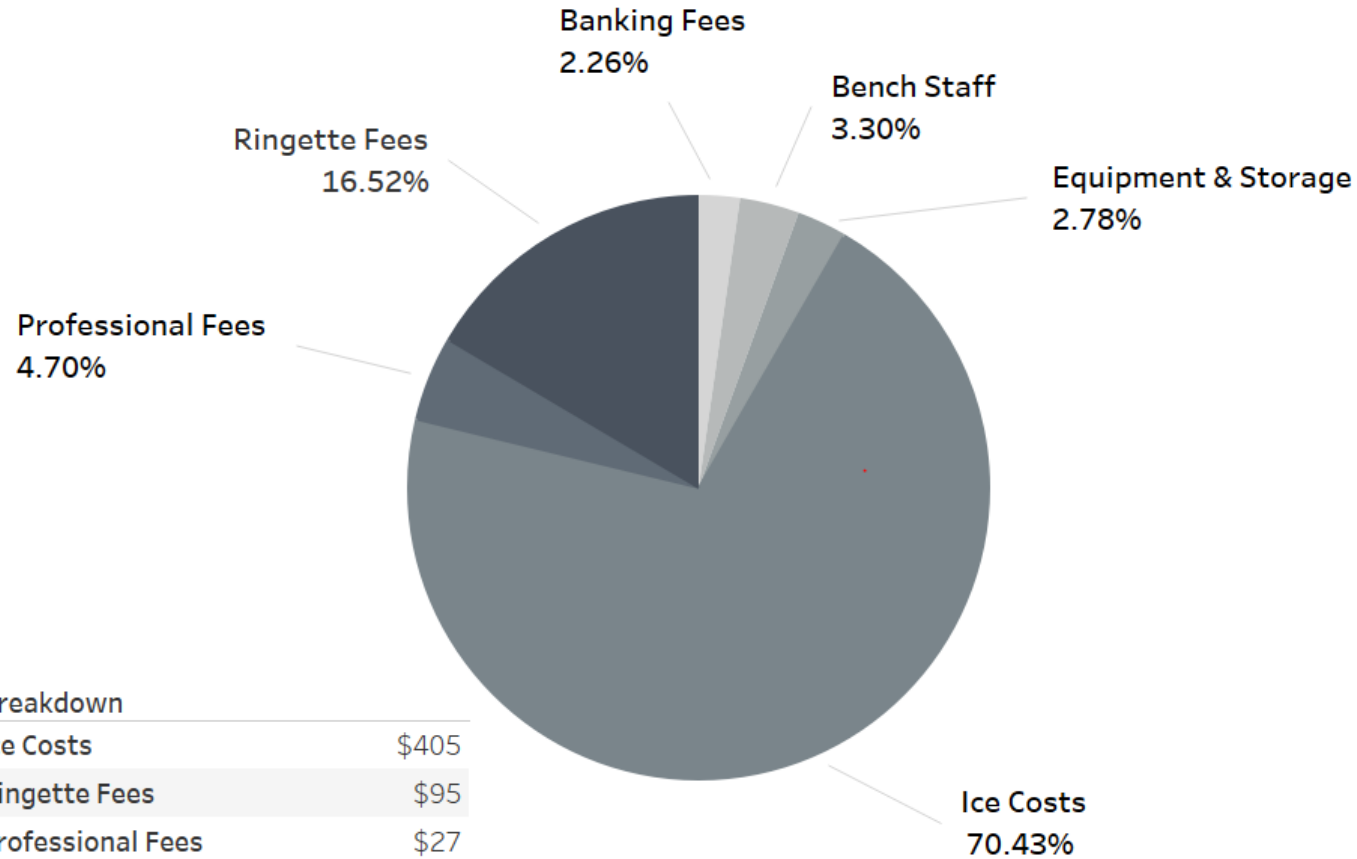
Registration Fees and Budget 2020/2021



- As a previous communication indicated we have determined the registration fees for all those who pre-registered this year to be approximately \$575 per player
- We have been able to reduce the fees from the anticipated \$700-\$800 by cutting all extra programs and incentives from our budget, as well as planning for 1hr of ice per player per week
- If in the second half a return to traditional ringette occurs and teams are formed there **will be a requirement for teams to pay a one-time fee to cover additional ice needs** (only ice costs will be in this fee)
- Registration fees cover the same amount of ice for every player in any given season regardless of if they participate in a competitive or regional program. Competitive teams receive more ice time by paying the association a team fee every year
- If groups collectively decide they want to have more ice time there will be an opportunity to purchase more ice through WORA at our contract rate (please be patient as we need to review details on this further) ***these groups must remain in their bubbles***



Registration Fee Breakdown



Breakdown	
Ice Costs	\$405
Ringette Fees	\$95
Professional Fees	\$27
Bench Staff	\$19
Equipment & Storage	\$16
Banking Fees	\$13
Registration Fee	\$575



Group/Bubble Formation



- We are still working with the region and other associations on a final approach to this
- It is our expectation that the groups will be formed based on similar skill sets and age groupings but there may be a requirement for some shifting to occur as we try to stay within the limitations set out to us by ERRA and the City
- These are not teams and should not be viewed as such
- There is a committee in place of non-parent coaches putting together practice plans to ensure all groups receive consistent training and development
- We do not foresee finalizing this until mid-September as more information becomes available



Ice Availability and City of Ottawa Arena Guidelines



- Phase 2 with the City of Ottawa will open 10 rinks as of September 8, 2020
 - Sandy Hill Arena
 - Bell Centennial Arena
 - Ray Friel Recreation Complex (2 Arenas)
 - Cardel Recreation Complex (2 Arenas)
 - Minto-Barrhaven Recreation Complex (1 Arena)
 - Tom Brown Arena
 - Fred Barrett Arena (2 Arenas)
 - Beckwith Recreation Complex is also open
 - Participants will have access to the facility 20 minutes pre- and post-booking
 - Participants will be permitted to change at the arena as long as they adhere to the reduced capacity in the change rooms and allow physical distancing
 - Masks are **mandatory** at all times except when on the ice, including in the change rooms
 - **Maximum** number of skaters permitted on the ice at any time is **25**
 - **Spectators are not permitted**
 - All individuals will need to complete an assessment prior to entering the facility.
- The following individuals are **not** permitted to participate in the rental:
 - Anyone who is sick or has any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, headache.
 - Anyone who has recently returned from traveling outside of Canada, in the past 14 days.
 - Anyone who has knowingly been exposed to or been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, in the past 14 days.



Power Skating



- Due to regulations put in place by Ringette Ontario regarding “bubbles” and cross over “bubbles” we are unable to host or promote power skating this year.
- Goulbourn Skating Club hopes to offer the traditional ringette specific programs and registration will be held through them. Please check their website for registration opening.
- To stay within Skate Ontario guidelines they will be having 22 skaters and 3 coaches per session

Goalie Programs

- Unfortunately, we will not be able to run our weekly goalie program as well this year due to cross over bubbles. We will have a focus on goalie training created by our goalie instructor, Syd Catlin, in our skills and player development manual for coaches.
- We will also have a video available that was made last year during one of goalie sessions. This will be passed along to the coaches to utilize the drills during practices.

Interested in Coaching?

- We are now accepting coaching applications at applytocoach@westottawaringette.com

Please watch for the release of our FAQ on the website with more details on the season!



If you have any further questions please contact any member of the board
<https://www.westottawaringette.com/association/association-contacts/>

Thank you!

