

SWIRL Meeting
Sunday, September 15, 2019, 2:00 PM
Finkle Street Tap & Grill
450 Simcoe Street, Woodstock, ON

Call to order: Chair called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm.

Roll Call:

Present: Ayr, Dorchester, Guelph Cougars, **Guelph White**, Kitchener Bandits, Kitchener Nites, Kitchener Rebels, Kitchener Wild, London Storm, London Strike, London B, Mitchell, North Dumfries Cougars, Royal City Ravens (TT), St. Clements, St. Marys, St. Thomas, Stratford Stingers, Stratford Thunder (TT), Tillsonburg, **Tillsonburg (TT)**, Waterloo Fury, Waterloo Immortals, Woodstock, Woolwich Beez, Woolwich Legends.

Absent: Waterloo C

Arrived late: Cambridge Coyotes (TT)

New teams: SWIRL voted to accept the entry of a new Tournament Team: Vipers (B).

Note: Two existing teams have changed their names: Guelph White is now "Guelph 568" and Tillsonburg TT is now "Southern Ontario Fury". Guelph 568 is also now exclusively a tournament team.

Departing teams: Waterloo C (and Guelph White from SWIRL game schedule).

Agenda Additions: The Chair added a question re proxy voting under "New Business".

Review of January 2019 Minutes: Moved by Woodstock, seconded by Kitchener Nites to accept the minutes as presented. Carried.

Executive Committee Elections for 2019-2020

Chair: Laura Pfanner

Vice Chair: Tori Wood

Treasurer: Connie Sanders

Secretary: Lindsay Julian

Discipline Chair: Jane Larkworthy (Jane advised that this will be her final season in this position)

Scheduler: Brenna Veats

Statistician: Michelle Bryant

Web Site Manager: Brenna Veats

Registrar: Tammy Mast

Motion to accept 2019-2020 Executive Committee: Moved by St. Thomas, seconded by Waterloo Immortals. Carried.

Executive Committee Reports

Chair's Report [Laura Pfanner]

1. Updated policies are posted to Ringette Ontario's (RO's) website. Laura reminded the membership that if SWIRL does not have a specific policy in place we follow RO policy.

2. RO Codes of Conduct (athletes, bench staff, spectators, etc.) have been updated and posted to RO's web site. Laura requested that teams review these Codes of Conduct with their players, team staff and spectators as SWIRL will be adhering to these documents for League play, especially as they relate to sportsmanship, profanity and respect (for everyone involved).
3. RO's "Responsible Coaching Movement" (NEW): Involves three key areas: "Rule Of Two", Background Screening and Ethics & Respect Training. See RO web site for details.
4. The deadline for Coaching Qualifications has been moved up to November 30 (from Dec. 15). The deadline for CI Evaluation is January 15.
5. Concussion Codes of Conduct (NEW): All players under the age of 26 years are required to sign the Athlete Concussion Code of Conduct. Bench staff of teams with players under the age of 26 years are required to sign the Bench Staff Concussion Code of Conduct. RO has requested that all of our adult teams, regardless of whether their roster includes players under 26 years of age, sign and submit the Bench Staff document.
6. Safety Officer (NEW): Every team must designate a "Safety Officer" for each game (trainer, team staff member or player). The Safety Officer must be noted on the game sheet (as "SO") and is responsible to ensure that the applicable injury paperwork is completed within 10 days of the incident. See RO web site for details.
7. ADP manual/changes: The ADP manual is currently under review and is not available at this time. SWIRL was informed that there were no policy changes (i.e., those requiring RO Board approval) this year. SWIRL will advise when the manual is available and/or whether there are any changes of note.

Vice-Chair's Report [Tori Wood]: Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report [Connie Sanders]

1. SWIRL's current bank balance is \$1,386.64.
2. SWIRL's membership fee was \$25 last season. Moved by Connie Sanders, seconded by the Nites to charge the same amount this season. Carried.
3. Teams turned in their (\$50) bond cheques and (\$25) membership fee cheques.

Registrar's Report [Tammy Mast]

1. Team Staff fee increased from \$24.50 to \$26.50 this year.
2. Player Fee increased from \$39.00 to \$41.00 this year.
3. RO dues increased from \$3 to \$4.25 this year. Insurance fee remains \$2.
4. RO has moved to a new on-line Membership Registration System. Tammy will advise teams of the details once she has an opportunity to speak with RO staff.

Statistician's Report [Brenna Veats]

1. Brenna requested that all teams verify their contact information with her. She also advised that team contacts will be posted to our web site which is password protected. The password will be sent out to the team contacts with their registration package. Teams were reminded that our contact list/information is confidential and is to be used only for SWIRL business. E-mails sent to more than one person are to be blind (vs. open) copied to protect those e-mail addresses.
2. Concerns/complaints about sportsmanship must be documented in order for us to follow up. Please e-mail concerns to Jane so that she can document them and follow up, as required. Fully served penalties, Majors, ejection penalties must be entered on SWIRL's the game results page.

3. Last year was the best for compliance (e.g., submitting game sheets and game results on-line). Please keep it up!
4. A reminder that the HOME team is responsible to submit game results on-line and submit game sheets to SWIRL. For tournament and exhibition games, both the home and visiting teams must submit their game sheets to SWIRL.

Scheduler's Report [Brenna Veats]

1. The goal is to make this year's schedule a live (i.e., dynamic) document that will reflect schedule changes, cancellations and so on.
2. Brenna reminded everyone to turn in their ice times before leaving the meeting.

Secretary's Report [Angela Kington]: Nothing to report.

Disciplinary Chairs Report [Jane Larkworthy]

1. A reminder that it is the home team's responsibility to supply off-ice officials and to ensure that they know how to properly fill out the game sheet and work the clock. If no one shows up to do that job a member of the home team (player or team staff member) will have to step in.
2. A reminder that each player must initial the SWIRL game sheet to the left of her name.
3. All names on the game sheet must be legible. Printing is preferred. If your team uses roster stickers, please ensure that changes/notations are made on all three copies.
4. Substitutions must be marked on the game sheet ("sub") with each player's original team noted (e.g., Stratford Stingers). Teams are responsible to ensure that subs are of an appropriate skill level for the level of the game.
5. Penalties and suspensions: The first half of the season was great. Unfortunately we had three ejections in the second half (two Misconducts and one team staff "removal from the bench" (which is treated as a Misconduct)).

Carry-over suspensions: The team staff removal from the bench was that individual's third Misconduct since 2015-2016, which placed that individual in SWIRL's (5-year) "repeat offender" category. SWIRL's Discipline Committee determined that that individual would be suspended from the first two scheduled SWIRL games of the 2019-2020 season. Jane will advise that team's opponents of the details once the schedule is finalized.

League Disciplinary Committee (2019-2020): Jane (Chair), Barry, Tori, Brenna, Laura (ex officio) + Brenda Brenner (independent), Renee Nash (London CC) and Sarah Pazzano (Guelph 586 TT).

Match and Misconduct penalty reporting process: See SWIRL Operating Manual.

Operating Manual Changes [Jane Larkworthy & Laura Pfanner]

1. Jane reviewed the edited policy (Section D, iv) para. 2) that was circulated in advance of this meeting. Moved by Vipers, seconded by St. Clements to adopt the edited version, as presented. Carried.
2. Section I i) of SWIRL's Operating Manual indicates that League games are to be played with two referees (one of whom must but at least 21 years of age). In the case of an "emergency" (i.e., a circumstance of which the home team is not aware in advance), games may be played with a single official - providing the visiting team agrees. If the home team knows in advance that there will only be one referee, they must contact their opponent prior to that team's departure for the game venue to advise of the situation. The choice is then that of the visiting team as to whether they wish to play the game or have it rescheduled.
3. Laura pointed out that ADP suggests that rosters consist of a minimum of 14 players. All teams, in particular those which register fewer than 14 players, were reminded that they must comply with SWIRL's substitution policy which includes using subs of a calibre similar to the level of play of that game and not using the same substitutes repeatedly. Failure of teams to comply with SWIRL's substitution policies may necessitate a tightening up of our substitution rules.

4. A suggestion came from the floor that teams make a list of players who are willing to sub for other teams. Woodstock agreed to collect that information and forward it to Brenna for posting/sharing.

League Format and Schedule: No Teams requested to change tiers this year. Teams indicated whether or not they were prepared to play crossover games (noted by Brenna).

2019-2020 Tiers

Tier 1 (B+): Guelph Cougars, Kitchener Rebels, Kitchener Wild, London Strike, North Dumfries Cougars, Woolwich Legends, Waterloo Fury.

Tier 2 (B): London B, Mitchell, Waterloo Immortals.

Tier 3 (B-): Dorchester, London Storm, St. Thomas, St. Marys, Stratford Stingers, Tillsonburg, Woolwich Beez

Tier 4 (C): Ayr, Kitchener Bandits, Kitchener Nites, St. Clements, Woodstock

New Business:

Current SWIRL policy requires that each member team send a representative to each of SWIRL's two yearly meetings (September and January). A question was brought to SWIRL's Executive Committee as to whether a collection of teams could send one representative vs. sending one rep/team. Discussion ensued as to the possibility of "proxy voting" in such cases. Concerns were expressed re the lack of opportunity to vote on motions from the floor, issues with dissemination of information to teams without representation, meeting attendance numbers and so on.

Moved by Woodstock, seconded by London to permit proxy voting. Defeated.

Western Region Meetings (usually scheduled for Spruce Lodge, Stratford, 7:00 pm start)

- **Wednesday, September 18/19** (Lion's Arena, Kitchener, 7 pm start): St. Thomas
- November 21/19: North Dumfries
- February 20/20: Royal City Ravens
- April 30/20: Kitchener Wild
- Sept. 2020: Waterloo Immortals

Announcements:

1. Tournaments: Check the RO web site for current listings.
2. Coaching & Officiating Clinics: Refer to Western Region web site (www.wrra.ca) for required qualifications, how to register for clinics and updates.
3. 2019 is a rule change year. All teams are required to send a member of their bench staff to a "Coaching Rules Course". ***Dates and locations of these courses are listed in the Sept. 18/19 WRRR Officiating Coordinator's Report. Note: If a team has a referee on their playing roster who attends an Officiating Refresher Clinic that meets the requirement for that team to attend a coaching rules course.***
4. Insurance coverage: See membership notices on RO web site.

Next SWIRL Meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 7:30 pm, **Finkle Street Tap & Grill (450 Simcoe Street, Woodstock)**

Adjournment: Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:05 pm.