



North West Vancouver Ringette Association

NWVRA.CA

End of Season Newsletter – April 2021

This has been an exceptional season for our association, with many unique challenges due to COVID-19. None-the-less, we were pleased to provide the opportunity for many players to get out on the ice and stay healthy and connected with team mates this season, even if it was not with the usual benefit of games and tournaments. We are pleased to report that none of our players or volunteers was diagnosed with COVID this season.

Our association supported 71 players this season:

- 60 players on Club teams from FUNdamentals to U16
- 11 players on Zone teams at the U16 and U19 levels

A small number of players did not return this season, most for reasons associated with concerns related to COVID. Our experience was not dissimilar from other associations across the province and country, many of which lost a higher percentage of players due to COVID than we did. We are hopeful that many of the players who took a COVID break will return for 2021-22, when we fully expect to be back to games and some sense of normalcy.

This season we had 1 former member selected to BC's National Ringette Team – congratulations to Kailey Magrath. Kailey was also a coach with us and was selected as our Optimist Award winner for contribution of a youth to the association.

As a result of some ice refunds and unspent referee budget, our association is giving all returning members a COVID credit of \$100 next season, which will be applied to next year's registration fee.

Thank You!



Thank you to all our members who returned to ringette this season. We appreciate your confidence in our program and in our ability to keep your players safe, healthy and connected with teammates. We are happy to report that none of our players or volunteers was diagnosed with COVID this season and, despite the weirdness of the season, there were a lot of sweaty and smiling faces out there on the ice.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, for everything you did this season to keep us forging forward. These are the volunteers who schedule ice, handle registrations, manage our funds, support our coaches, managers, and safety officers, and more.

Thank you to our Coaches, Safety Officers and Managers for your constant presence for your teams – especially in this very strange season. You are the face of our association and we appreciate all that you do for the players and their families.

Thank you to all parents who stepped up and put in your volunteer time, especially those who helped lighten the load by doing more than the minimum.

Team Reports & Awards



Feel free to read all the team reports or scroll ahead to your team. For the Club teams, our annual Coaches Choice Award winners are announced below. We will endeavor to get a photo of each winner with the trophy when that becomes possible. In the meantime, we have had names engraved for the trophies and you'll be able to see them in the trophy case at Karen Magnussen in the Fall.

FUNdamentals

It was great to see a keen group of kids in FUNdamentals this season, including a number of new players! Medals were handed out to all our FUN players and we look forward to seeing you next season!

U10 – The Polar Bears

The Coach's Choice Award was given to the entire team – way to go! We look forward to seeing you next season!

U12 – The Feisty Hamsters (Submitted by Coach Shane)

The 2020/21 season was a season like no other. It had great challenges, moments of disappointment, lots of laughs and fun, but most of all bonding. Amazingly through all of the uncertainty, lack of games, no dressing room time or off ice training; this team came together and bonded with one another like none I have seen before. It was the adversity of covid rather than competitions with other teams that was the fuel for this and I could not be prouder of this group for the way in which they dealt with it.

The coaching staff was made up of Miki Smith, Lise Walsh and myself. We had a great dynamic as a group with everyone contributing and fully committed to ensuring a positive and fun environment while still focusing on skills development. With no games or even scrimmages for the bulk of the season; our biggest challenge came from keeping the kids from getting bored or losing interest. I believe one of our greatest triumphs came in succeeding at doing this with creative socially distanced competitions dividing the group into two teams partially fulfilling their desire for games.

We were lucky enough to be one of the only two teams this season to have a game with our combined squad game with the U-10 team.

The scene at our last practice was absolutely beautiful and a good summary of the year. Every member of the team was in attendance and fully engaged. When we were down to our last 5 minutes all of the kids spontaneously formed a chain with their sticks connecting one another. They proceeded to finish the practice off like this skating laps and laughing and talking to each other. I think this shows that this season was not just a success but a triumph.

U14 Predators (Submitted by Coach Carrie)

The u14 NWV Predators had an interesting season, like everyone else, but we are very proud to brag about our amazing athletes and their commitment. We didn't have a single practice all season with less than 10 players!! The Predators were a pretty great team, they were an amazing group and were a pleasure to coach, and a major thank you to all our parents for making that commitment happen.

As coaches, we were left with a very difficult decision to make in choosing one player for our Coaches Choice Award. It definitely took a bit to whittle it down because we have such great gals on our team. But we did, and this player showed amazing commitment, we never had to get after her, she was always focused, listened, and was keen to learn. Even when we had free time, she would keep practising her shot. She is very determined, and for all those great qualities we want to let you all know that the Coaches Choice Award for the U14 Predators is LAURA JANE NORTH!!! Congratulations!!!

U16 Club – Team Venom (Submitted by Coach Andrea)

Andrea, U-16 team Venom coach extraordinaire here! I hope you are all doing well during this darn pandemic! I'm once again sad we weren't able to have our year end banquet. Fingers crossed we can do it next year!

As usual I would like to thank all of those who helped me out with Bethany giving her a rides home! In normal times she would have just hung out at the rink but not possible this year.

Thank you to our safety officers who braved the cold waiting for all of us to show up at the rink and for cleaning up after us!

Thank you to Craig for being my assistant coach extraordinaire! I know it wasn't as exciting as last year but having you there to help was always appreciated! Thank you to Brianna for being my other assistant coach extraordinaire and for once again being there to help your poor mama on the ice. Your presence and leadership on the ice was greatly appreciated! Side notes - both Craig and Brianna took the next step in their coaching careers by taking the CI coaching course this year!! Way to go!!

This was definitely an interesting year. Who would ever have thought that we would not be able to play games, tournaments or even scrimmage. Probably the easiest year to be a manager. It was a very challenging year with Covid and all the restrictions imposed on teams. But we soldiered on fine tuning their skills.

For our coach's choice award Craig, Brianna and I decided that in this crazy Covid year it was very hard to pinpoint and choose one player. So, with great pleasure Craig, Brianna and I would like to name TEAM VENOM as our choice for the Coaches Choice Award. The whole team work hard and together to make this year as special as they could. All made great improvements throughout the year

I would like to send a shout out to all the exec members. Thank you to you for taking time to make this association an awesome one! Fingers crossed we can get past this pandemic and are able to get back to playing games!

Thank you, Shane, for being the associations Safety Officer and collaborating with Ringette B and making sure we have the necessary equipment to keep the athletes safe!

A HUGE shout out to Rose our illustrious President who has worked tirelessly to make this year happen and be successful! And not to mention all the previous years! You have moved this association forward in leaps and bounds! Your shoes will be hard to fill in your absence. But within our great ringette family I know we have committed and dedicated members who can step up to the plate!

I wish everyone all the best, stay safe and I hope to see you at Spring Ring! Till next year!

U16 Zone - Team "Stingers" (Submitted by Coach Dani)

The coaches are incredibly proud of the team this year. Sure, we never won a single game this year (we also didn't lose any) but every athlete was a champion for continuing to show up at every practice with a great attitude and no shortage of hard work. We also found lots of different ways to have fun this year whether it was relay races, distanced games, virtual events or challenges. This is a fantastic group of athletes with a lot of potential to take everything they learned this year and put it to use next year and in years to come. Stay active and stay positive and when we hit the ice again and finally get to compete in some games, we will all appreciate it that much more. A big thank you to all our volunteers - to our amazing coaching staff, our awesome managers, and our dedicated safety officers, we could not have made it through this season without you.



We chose Madison Harasym for the Coach's Choice Award for U16 zone. Madison was a dedicated and valued member of the U16 Zone team this season. She came to every practice with a big smile and a positive attitude that was infectious to all those around her. Madison worked hard all year and was never afraid to try new things or push outside her comfort zone which led to an impressive amount of improvement in her skills. Congrats on a great season Madison.

2020-21 Optimist Award Winner – Kailey Magrath



The NWVRA Optimist Award is given annually to a youth who has contributed significantly to our association. This year's winner is Kailey Magrath. We think her nomination says it best:

Kailey gives back to her home association as an assistant coach on the U16 zone team. She also gives back to the sport as a whole in the province by coaching in the excellence program (virtually) this year which kept over 80 athletes from across the province engaged and developing during the first phases of the pandemic.

Despite this being a challenging year for everyone, Kailey has thrown herself wholeheartedly into making the year a positive experience as possible for the athletes on our team. She is busy with school, work, and her own competitive training but still always went the extra mile for her team. This year in particular Kailey helped organize virtual workouts for the team as well as virtual team building events. Towards the end of the season, she even organized a multi-team games night of fun trivia, activities and challenges that allowed all the zone teams in U16 to come together and have fun as a group after a long season of individual practices and no inter association competition.

Kailey is a talented coach, and aspirational role model for younger players in the association. She has been an excellent example this year of how an athlete can rise in the face of adversity and continue flourishing and more importantly find the time to make sure others flourish too. Kailey is a wonderful ambassador for NWVRA and the sport of Ringette.

See you Soon!

We look forward to seeing everyone at our **AGM on April 27th at 7:30 pm** (watch for your invite in Team Snap). We have some great door prizes, so please plan to attend - virtually of course!

Registration for next season will open in June. Watch for email through Team Snap and notification on our Social Media and website for updates.

Have a great off-season and see you in the Fall!