

Ringette Ontario Annual General Meeting – July 25, 2020
Report from the Athlete Director

Dear members,

Please find an overview of what has been accomplished during my first year as Athlete Director on the Ringette Ontario Board of Directors.

Working with the office, my key priority was to set up an Athlete Advisory Committee that would act as an advisor to the office on issues and policy as it pertains to the athletes as well as consult and share information directly with athletes. The committee is comprised of eight members (<https://ringetteontario.com/the-athlete/aac/>) who represent the five regions and span multiple age groups and levels of play (e.g., regional through high performance). Key activities of the committee have included consultation and feedback on:

1. Safe Sport. Members provided feedback that was important for understanding how policies were being implemented (e.g., whether coaches were taking injuries like concussions seriously) as well as how marketing around Safe Sport can be improved (e.g., what issues are important to athletes, how we can directly reach athletes).
2. Competition Review. Several members participated in the Competition Review Workshop and one member is serving as the Athlete Representative on the Competition Review Steering Committee.
3. Athlete Summit. Although the summit was cancelled, members consulted on the program and provided feedback that ensured the topics were relevant to a diverse group of athletes.
4. Promotion of athletes and the athlete voice via social media and outreach. For example, Instagram takeovers during tournaments and the UCCs, participating in the “Team Talk” series as interviewees and interviewers, joining the office at the RO Roadshows.
5. Resources during COVID-19. Members are consulting on an ongoing basis with office staff to ensure that resources developed meet athletes needs.

Looking forward, the committee will continue developing mechanisms to reach a wider group of athletes (e.g., athlete surveys, athlete roundtables) and ensure we continue to provide thoughtful feedback on a broad range of issues.

Ultimately, my goal as Athlete Director is to speak on behalf of as many ringette athletes as possible and to ensure that our voices are heard. Given that I am only one athlete, I believe it is crucial to continue developing the advisory committee to ensure that diverse perspectives are heard and considered. Processes surrounding how the committee operates and provides feedback have been developed and will continue to be refined, which is important for ensuring continuity when members and the Athlete Director turnover.

Yours in Ringette,



Christianne Varty