




# ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



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# Message from the President of Ringette Saskatchewan

Cheers to an amazing season for all of Ringette Saskatchewan!

Wow, what a season! As we wrap up the 2023-2024 chapter, I can't help but feel a huge wave of pride and excitement for everything we've achieved together. From dazzling plays to heartwarming moments, this year has been one for the books!

First up, let's talk about the B Provincials in Saskatoon! We kicked things off with a lively Opening Ceremony, setting the stage for some seriously thrilling competitions. Our U14, U16, and U19 stars lit up the Skills Competitions, showing off their jaw-dropping talents. With 18 teams battling it out, the energy was electric and the talent on display was nothing short of inspiring.

Our Open Provincials were just as epic, with 13 teams going head-to-head in the A, B, and C categories. It's clear we're keeping our older players in the game, giving them a fantastic platform to stay competitive and passionate about ringette.

Another groundbreaking accomplishment was the University of Regina Cougars ringette team, which is a first for Saskatchewan! This fantastic initiative gives our more senior players yet another reason to stick with the sport they love. And guess what? They snagged Gold on the consolation side at the University Challenge Cup! Way to go, team! The University of Saskatchewan is following suit, expanding even more opportunities for our athletes.

This season, we also rolled out our new strategic plan for the next four years. This comprehensive plan is a significant achievement and sets a clear vision for the future growth and success of ringette in Saskatchewan. It will guide us in our efforts to enhance the sport, support our athletes, and strengthen our community.

Saskatchewan had an amazing presence at the Western Canadian Ringette Championships (WCRC's), showcasing top-notch skills and sportsmanship, and our U19A and 18+A Team Sask. brought home silver medals! We're also extremely proud of our athletes who received invitations to the Ringette Canada National Programs. With 6 athletes selected for U17, 2 in U18, 2 in the Junior National Team (JNT), and 4 in the Senior National Team (SNT), we're seeing our stars shine brighter than ever on the national stage.

The Heat hub event in Saskatoon was another highlight, packing in fans who cheered like crazy and collected autographs from their favorite players. The community's support was overwhelming and made for an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Looking ahead, I'm so excited for what's to come. Our love for ringette and our community spirit are the engines driving us forward, and I know we'll keep reaching new heights together.

A massive thank you to everyone who made this season so special. This sport is full of amazing behind-the-scenes supporters, fans, moms and dads who drive their kids to early morning practices and tying skates, coaches, volunteers, referees, managers, treasurers, board members and most importantly, players. Your dedication and support are the heart and soul of the success of this sport.

Catch you at the rink!

*Paul Benson*  
President  
Ringette Saskatchewan.

# Board of Directors and Staff

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- PAUL BENSON, PRESIDENT
- TARA CLEMETT, VICE-PRESIDENT
- AARON ARMSTRONG
- ABBIE WILSON
- LORELEY CHEKAY
- SHEA MOONEY

## STAFF

- ANDREA KOZAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- CARRIE LIVINGSTONE  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR







### Our Mission

Ringette Saskatchewan governs, promotes, and develops Ringette for all athletes, coaches, officials and Associations providing leadership that fosters a positive sport experience, lifelong participation, and opportunities for the pursuit of excellence.



### Our Vision for the Future

Ringette is the most popular sport among females in the province because it is an inclusive community focused on athlete-centred programming, the growth and development of athletes, and the development of future leaders.



### Our Values

- Teamwork** we believe in working collaboratively in the spirit of good sportsmanship
- Athlete-centered** we support our athletes and strive to provide them with a positive, fun and developmentally appropriate experience
- Excellence** we believe in the pursuit of excellence at all levels for all athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, board and staff
- Honesty** we are open, transparent and accountable for what we do
- Respect** we respect and trust each other as individuals, and we respect the sport and our organization
- Fairness** we are inclusive and supportive and believe in fair play in everything we do
- Life-long friendship** we believe Ringette is more than a game, it is a community



## Our Strategic Priorities

These four Strategic Priorities are as follows:

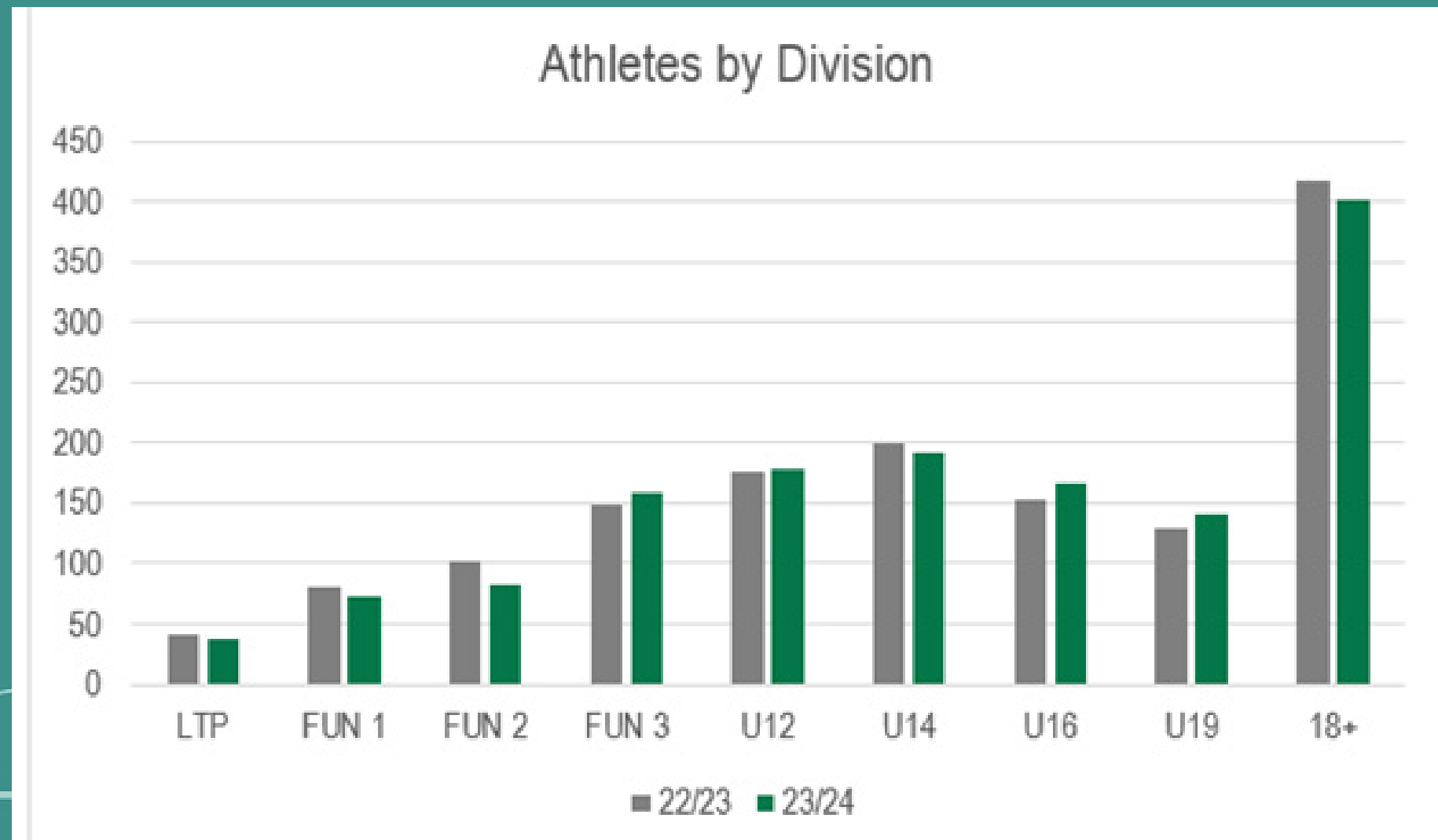
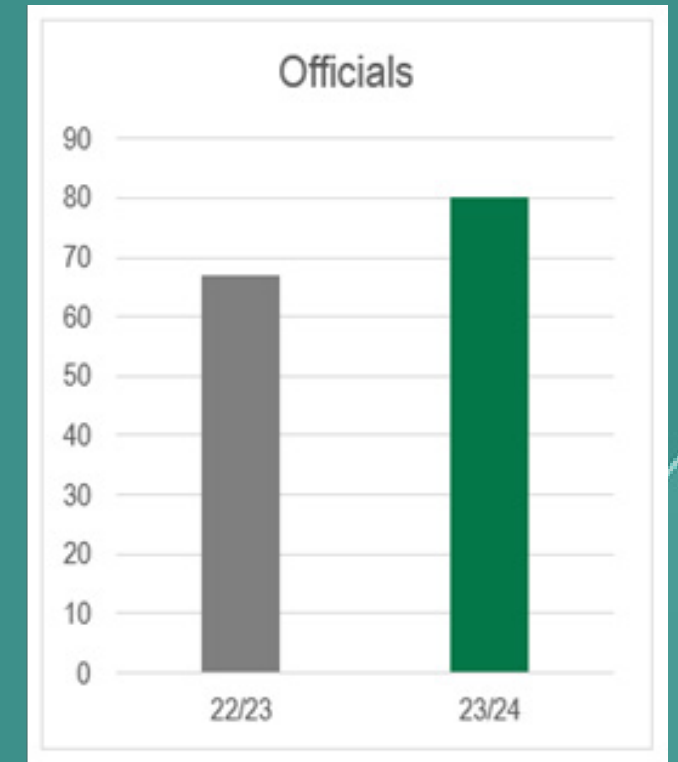
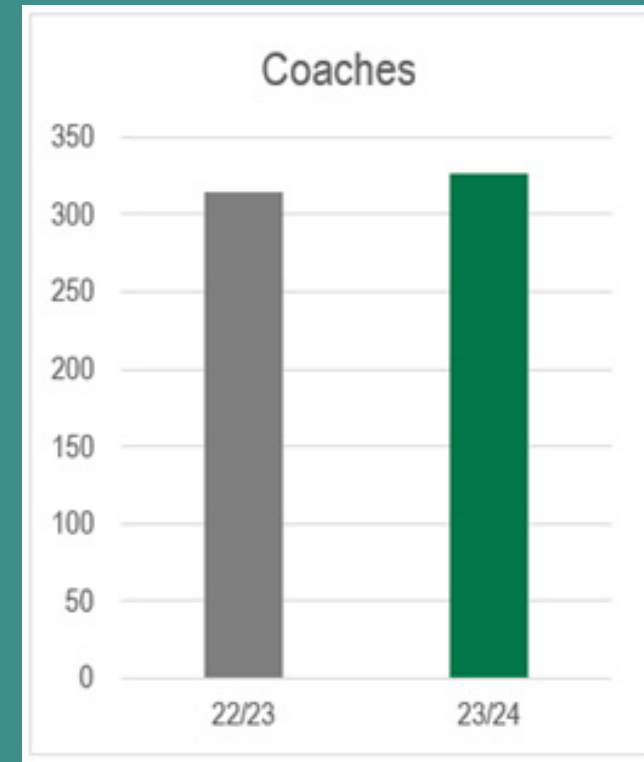
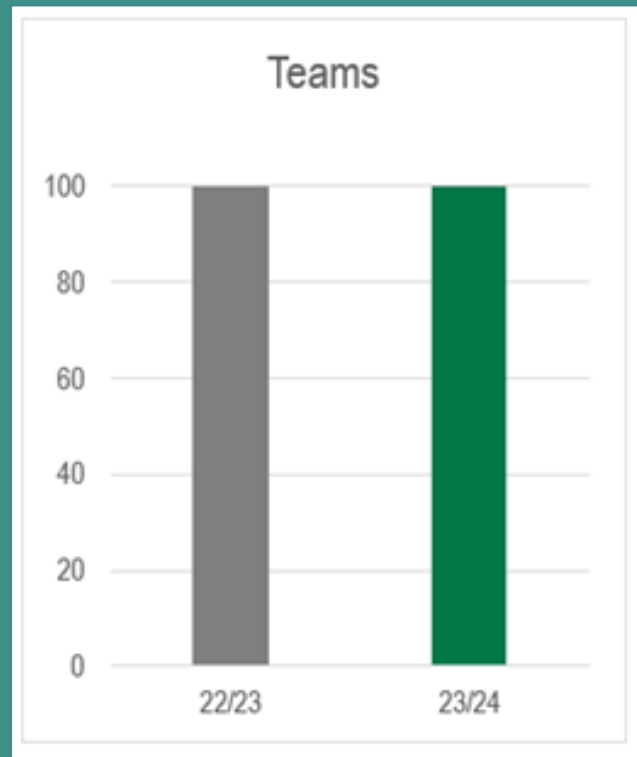
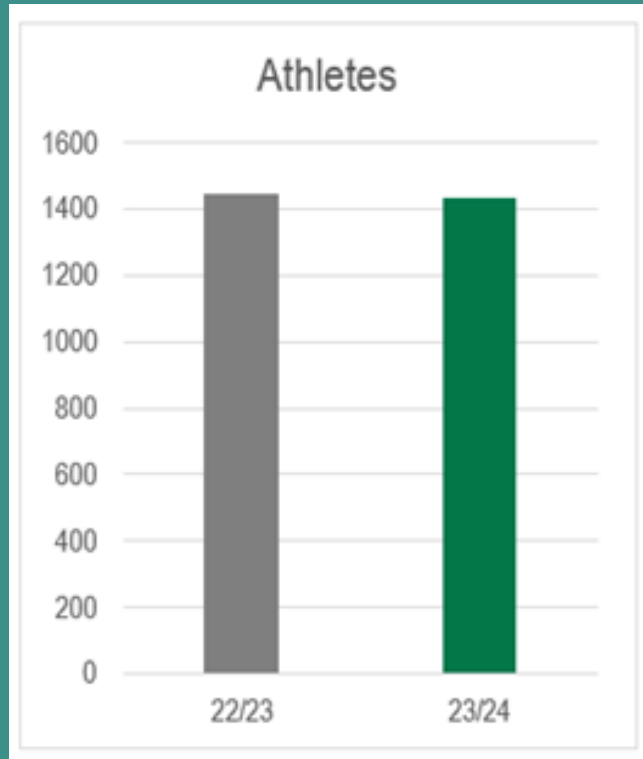
1. Athlete Pathways
2. Coaches and Officials Development
3. Growing Ringette
4. Leadership and Organizational Excellence



## Key Performance Indicators

- An annual increase of **4%** to the **conversion rate** for **Come Try Ringette**
- By **2024** we have a total **1590** registered athletes in Saskatchewan.
- The overall **coaches demographic** by **2024** to be **64% female**.
- Improve our standings annually** at the **Western Canadian Ringette Championship**, the **Canadian Ringette Championship**, and **Canada Winter Games for 2023**

# 2023-2024 Membership Statistics



# 2024 Championship Results

## 2024 Ringette Saskatchewan Provincial Champions

A/AA – Regina

U14AA – Saskatoon Saints

U14A – Saskatoon Blues

U16AA – Regina Stingers

U16A – Regina Attack

U19AA – Regina Bandits

B – Saskatoon

U14B – Buffalo Plains Force

U16B – Buffalo Plains Outlaws

U19B – Regina Ravens

18+ – Regina

18+A – Regina Elite

18+B – Saskatoon Comeback Queens

18+C – Regina Honey Badgers

## 2024 Western Canadian Ringette Championships – Calgary, AB

U14AA – Team Saskatchewan – Saskatoon Saints – 6th Place

U14AA – Buffalo Plains Rush – 5th Place

U16A – Team Saskatchewan – Regina Attack – 4th Place

U19A – Team Saskatchewan – Regina RIPT – 2nd Place

Silver Medalists

18+A – Team Saskatchewan – Buffalo Plains Grit

2nd Place – Silver Medalists



## 2024 Canadian Ringette Championships – Dieppe, NB

U16AA – Team Saskatchewan – Regina Stingers - 9th Place

U16AA – Saskatoon Selects - 16th Place

U19AA – Team Saskatchewan – Regina Bandits - 14th Place

U19AA – Saskatoon Blazers - 16th Place

NRL – Saskatchewan Heat - 13th Place

## 2023-2024 Awards and Scholarships

### Head Coach of the Year

Graham Lauten – Regina Ringette

### Assistant Coach of the Year

Michelle Correia – Saskatoon Ringette

### Senior Official of the Year

Abby Paterson – Buffalo Plains Ringette

### Junior Official of the Year

Taleah Fisher – Regina Ringette

### Volunteer of the Year

Eric Sanderson – Saskatoon Ringette

Regan McMillan – Saskatoon Ringette

### Outstanding Achievement of the Year

University of Regina Cougars Ringette Club

### Ringette Saskatchewan Scholarship Recipients

Sara Degenstein – Regina Ringette

Hannah Romanski – Regina Ringette

Emma Benko – Regina Ringette

Janey Tremblay – Regina Ringette







## Organizational Highlights

### Athletes

- 19 Come Try Ringette Events were held in 5 communities throughout the season, with 298 registered participants.
- Children's Ringette continued to be implemented at the Fundamentals 1, 2, and 3 levels. There were 313 athletes and 28 teams registered in Children's Ringette throughout the province.
- 3 Saskatchewan athletes were invited to Ringette Canada's Senior National Team Camp – Madison Ryan (Saskatchewan Heat), Jenna Carter (Saskatchewan Heat), and Holly Kozan (Saskatchewan Heat).
- 2 Saskatchewan athletes were invited to Ringette Canada's Junior National Team Camps – Taylor Johnston (RRA) and Brianna Shupe (RRA).
- 1 Saskatchewan athlete was invited to Ringette Canada's U18 International Development Program – Ingrid Heerspink (RRA).
- 5 Saskatchewan athletes were invited to Ringette Canada's U17 La Releve event – Natalie Seymour (RRA), London Clemett (RRA), Brigette Parks (RRA), Adria Thorson (RRA), and Scotia Waters (SRA).
- Ringette Saskatchewan and the Sport Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan Partnership distributed \$4,500 in High Performance Assistance Grants and sport medicine and science sessions.
- A/AA, B, and 18+ Provincial Championships took place in February and March 2024 in the communities of Saskatoon and Regina. A total of 642 athletes competed in 96 games over the two weekends.

### Coaches

- 41 coaches attended 3 CSI clinics throughout the province.
- 12 coaches attended 3 CI clinics throughout the province.
- 13 coaches received CI evaluations to become CI-Certified.
- 1 Saskatchewan coach was invited to Ringette Canada's Junior National Team Camps – Donnell Schoenhofen (RRA).
- 2 Saskatchewan coaches were invited to Ringette Canada's U18 International Development Program – Daina Seymour (RRA) and Holly Kozan (BPRA).
- A/AA, B, and 18+ Provincial Championships took place in February and March 2024 in the communities of Saskatoon and Regina. A total of 131 coaches and team staff participated in 96 games over the two weekends.

### Officials

- Total of 80 active officials throughout the province this season.
- 54 officials attended clinics throughout the province.
- 74 official evaluations were completed this season.
- A/AA, B, and 18+ Provincial Championships took place in February and March 2024 in the communities of Saskatoon and Regina. A total of 30 officials participated in 96 games over the two weekends.
- Blair MacGregor (SRA, supervisor) was selected to attend the 2024 Western Canadian Ringette Championships.
- Blair MacGregor (SRA, supervisor), Aaron Armstrong (SRA, on-ice official), and Darrin Kruger (SRA, shot clock operator) were selected to attend the 2024 Canadian Ringette Championships.

### Organizational Excellence

- Allocated \$49,400 from Sask Sport's Member Assistance Program Grant to local associations.
- Continued using the registration database RAMP under Ringette Canada.
- Continued collaboration with the Saskatchewan Heat regarding financials and team management.

# 2023-2024 Season Desired Outcomes

## Athlete Pathways



- Continue to evaluate and further develop the Children's Ringette program.
- Continue to promote athlete-centred Provincial Championships for all levels
- Continue to provide high-performance funding through Sport Medicine and Science Council partnership and funding entry fees.
- Sustain support and interest in the Saskatchewan Heat NRL team.
- Continue to support university ringette in Saskatchewan.
- Continue to implement Safe Sport policies and procedures.

## Coaches and Officials Development

### Coaches



- Develop a program dedicated to the ongoing recruitment and training of coaches at all levels which will provide potential coaches with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to succeed in their roles.
- Support training one to two new Coach Learning Facilitators
- Create opportunities for members to connect, collaborate, and to share information and resources.

### Officials



- Develop a comprehensive plan that focuses on the active recruitment, retention, and support of officials including strategies for attracting new talent, retaining existing members, and providing ongoing support to ensure their success.
- Continue the Green Armband Initiative - providing armbands to all officials under the age of 18; emphasizing that these are young individuals officiating games.
- Continue to support High-Performance officials attending Western Canadian Ringette Championships, Canadian Ringette Championships, and elite tournaments including the National Ringette League
- Create opportunities for members to connect, collaborate, and to share information and resources.

## Growing Ringette



- Create a working sub-committee to oversee ongoing opportunities for programming and services for the membership with a focus on growth.
- Continue supporting associations in the hosting of Come Try Ringette events.
- Maintain our dedication to providing Gym Ringette programs in partnership with local associations and community organizations.
- Continue to leverage social media to enhance widespread awareness of the sport of Ringette.
- Continue to recognize excellence and remarkable achievements through awards and recognition programs.



# RAS Associations Presidents Reports

## Buffalo Plains Ringette

**President – Amanda O’Donnell**

As the 2023/2024 season draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the season we’ve undertaken as a local board. It has been a season marked by highs and lows, strategic planning sessions, and many unforeseen challenges.

The season was undeniably eventful, there were moments of great resilience and moments of sobering setbacks. Our teams faced tough opponents at the rinks, showcasing their skills, talent, and determination throughout the season. From thrilling victories to heartbreaking defeats, each game served as a testament to the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie that defines our association.

In the fall of 2023, the board convened for a strategic planning session aimed at charting a course for the future. However, despite our best intentions, unforeseen issues arose, leaving us with limited time to implement the takeaways from our discussions. While this presented challenges, it also highlighted the need for adaptability and resourcefulness in navigating the ever-evolving landscape of sports administration. During the offseason we hope to have focus in these areas previously identified and create strategies around these for the 2024/2025 season.

Looking ahead to the upcoming 2024/2025 season, the U14AA coach selection process is complete, and the team selection process will take place at the end of April, serving as a trial run to see if this will help speed up next season plans for team sizes and coaches needed. This will also allow the team to get a jump on fundraising to help with significant costs associated with AA Ringette. At the end of the season the board will review the season and determine if this will be a precedent going forward for future years.

I would also like to extend our heartfelt support and encouragement to our Montreal travel team, the Surge, as they prepare to compete in May. Their dedication, perseverance, and teamwork will represent the values that lie within our organization, and we have every confidence in their ability to represent us with pride and distinction on this larger stage.

As the season draws to a close, I want to extend my gratitude to all board members for their unwavering commitment, tireless efforts, and invaluable guidance throughout the year. This year has been tough, and you have proved how dedicated you are to the growth of our athletes. Your dedication has been instrumental in shaping the success and sustainability of our organization, and I am extremely grateful for your contributions. As we bid farewell to the 2023/2024 season, we do so with a sense of accomplishment for the memories made, lessons learned, and bonds forged along the way. Though our journey may have been marked by twists and turns, challenges, and triumphs, we emerge stronger, more resilient, and more united. As we look ahead to the future, let us carry forward the spirit of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and community that defines us, knowing that together, there is no limit to what we can achieve and grow.

*Amanda O’Donnell*

**President**

**Buffalo Plains Ringette Association**



# RAS Associations Presidents Reports

## Regina Ringette

### President -- Jason Hoffart

The 2023/24 season kicked off in mid August with the start of the AA tryouts and has been going strong since then. This season we once again offered our preseason 3 on 3 tournaments in August and September. This is always a great way to get the players back into the season.

All teams were formed and ready to kickoff the season by the end of September.

We hosted three very successful tournaments - the Elite, the Jim Benning and the Queen City Classic. It was great to see all our local teams participating but also many teams that travelled to attend. More details can be found in the tournament report. We also hosted a jamboree for the FUN1/2 athletes in early March that was awesome to see so many young athletes with huge smiles on their faces.

RRA has continued supporting high performance ringette in the province of Saskatchewan with providing support to the both the newly formed University of Regina Cougars ringette team and the NRL Saskatchewan Heat.

Five RRA athletes and two coaches did an amazing job representing our association on various national teams. It is great seeing Regina being represented at this level. RRA was pleased to assist these athletes with financial support to make their dreams a reality.

This season we once again had a new scheduler in place. We had a few issues to work through but overall we were are pleased with how things have worked. We want to thank everyone for their patience as we know this season saw some challenges. We are always looking for ways to improve the scheduling process but also understand many complexities need to be consider when completing a schedule for dozens of teams. We will be adding a Director of Scheduling next season to take on the role as a go between the board and the scheduler.

Again, our registration numbers were strong this season and it is great to continue to see our numbers grow. We all know continued effort will be required to keep this growth. A more detailed breakdown of our registration numbers will be available in the registrar's report.

I want to say thank you to everyone for their support over the last year. I know it is a huge commitment to be involved in the sport we love, and we never will take that commitment lightly.

*Jason Hoffart*

**President  
Regina Ringette Association**



# RAS Associations Presidents Reports

## Saskatoon Ringette

### President – Nicole Pearson

As the 2023-2024 Saskatoon Ringette season draws to a close, there is always a mix of emotions among the players, coaches, officials, and fans. On one hand, there can be disappointment and sadness that the long journey has ended, the daily practices and weekend games are no more. Reflecting on the memories made conjures up feelings of nostalgia over the thrilling overtime wins, team dinners, and many moments spent at the rink. We will miss the camaraderie and bonds formed with teammates who have become like family over the season. On the other hand, there is a sense of pride and accomplishment. Regardless of the win-loss record, players have grown in their skills and sportsmanship. They have overcome injuries and adversity. Coaches feel a sense of pride in seeing the development in their players from the first practice to the final game, and although we are at the conclusion, we know that this excitement through the memories, lessons learned, and personal growth will carry forward long after the lights in the arenas go out and into the next season!

At the board level, the 2023-24 year was spent in review of our framework, with many hours put in working to expand on it by sharing and developing new ideas to strengthen our program and foster growth in all aspects of the association. Our board welcomed new members this season, filling up the vacant roles, which provided more diverse opinions and ideas. The newly introduced “President’s Roundtable” meetings organized by the new Executive Director from Ringette Saskatchewan, and attended by the other Provincial Association Presidents has been a great way for Saskatoon to have their voice heard, ideas to be shared and to build on the cooperation and shared planning for our sport throughout our province. As a board, we are always working from feedback, and learning from other associations to reach our goals in continuing to develop a stronger program for our athletes to enjoy.

SRA has continued to work with the Teamlinkt programming tools, which has seemed to be operating quite well with our communication and scheduling needs. There is discussion about looking into online game sheets for next season in conjunction with Ringette Saskatchewan and the other provincial associations.

Over the previous summer the board worked together to design, develop, and was very excited to debut an updated look and logo. We created an online storefront for items ready to be purchased with the new SRA logo which will be open and available year-round. This new look is on the jerseys that were provided to the fundamental teams this season and there are plans to purchase updated jerseys as needed for the remaining divisions in the 2024-25 season. Stay tuned for more information on all that is to come with the redesign!

Registration numbers showed a slight decrease to 507 for 2023-24, down from 525 for the 2022-23 season. SRA does remain focused on our objective to work hard by encouraging the retention of our existing athletes and families, while welcoming and introducing our sport to new members. Feedback from the membership is always used in our planning, as well as many “Come Try Ringette” events in Saskatoon and surrounding areas are booked to take place over the summer and into the fall.

With all the planning and developing, we need to take a moment to recognize and thank a key member of our association, Brenda King. THANK YOU, for your countless hours of hard work and dedication spent around the office supporting our members! To the board members and their committees, thank you for all that you do in volunteering and giving of your time and energy throughout the season. Thank You to all the coaches, managers, trainers, referees, parents, and volunteers without all your help and support our program would not operate; we could not do it without you! Finally, and of course, to all the Athletes – Congratulations on your Season! Thank you for all your hard work, passion and dedication throughout the season; early morning practices, late nights on the road, weekend games and tournaments. Looking forward to another successful and exciting season in Saskatoon next year!

See you around the rinks!

*Nicole Pearson*

**President**

**Saskatoon Ringette Association**





# RAS Associations Presidents Reports

## Saskatchewan Heat

### Head Coach 2021-2024 – Colleen Butz-Purdue

The past three seasons of the newly launched Saskatchewan NRL team The Heat has been one of consistent improvement and growth. There have been set backs along the way, typical of a new franchise, but this group of athletes, coaches and supporters hit every hurdle head on and it made our team stronger for doing so.

This team has seen athletes, coaches and management staff come and go, but there is a solid core group of original members, staff and athletes that have carried over into the third season and have formed a strong foundation for this incredible franchise to flourish. With the growth of this team, it is bringing recognition of our athletes on the National Stage with three of our members getting invites to Team Canada ID camps. This is truly exciting and something I think will be more common moving forward.

The Heat started this journey as small fish in a very large pond. It was pretty overwhelming at times, but the resilience, grit and determination of the athletes and staff took this team to a place of having meaningful, competitive games within three years and gained the respect of the more established teams in the league. On many occasions I had staff and families from other teams praise our fight and work ethic, our growth and improvement and I noticed it in the hand shake line in our opponents. This team is not just a free spot on the bingo card anymore. Any team that plays the Saskatchewan Heat better be ready for a fight because this team doesn't ever give up and will make you work for every inch. I am very proud of that and very proud of them.

The athletes on this team went from celebrating the small victories such as closing the gap to getting some wins, to having higher expectations because of their growth. They weren't ok anymore to just close the gap, they expected to win and that to me shows confidence and belief in themselves which is success to me. Can the Heat do better? Yes they can and I truly believe moving forward, now that the initial three years of growing pains have passed, this established franchise will sky rocket. They are right at the tipping point in many of their games. I have no doubt they will see the other side of that hill much more frequently going into their fourth year.

I am very proud to have been a part of this amazing team. I'm so very grateful that I was given this opportunity to help with the launch of this team and I hope I made a difference, even in the smallest of ways. Even though at the end of the third season Scott and I decided to retire, we will be loyal supporters and we look so forward to seeing what next year brings for The Heat. They have a strong foundation, an incredible coaching staff and management team and the support of an amazing provincial board and community. It has been a memorable three years and I will miss it.

Thank you so much for all of the support. I wish nothing but the best for this franchise moving forward. Go Heat!!!

*Colleen Butz-Purdue*

Head Coach 2021-2024  
Saskatchewan Heat



## Provincial Office

Mosaic Stadium  
300-1734 Elphinstone Street  
Regina, SK  
S4T 1K1  
306-780-9432  
306-780-9460

*Thank you.*

The Ringette Association of Saskatchewan would like to recognize the support of Sask Sport and Sask Lotteries. Through your support we can continue to offer opportunities for our members to participate, excel, and succeed.



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