

Ringette BC Update

Friday, March 20th

Dear League and Club Association Presidents,

As you are all aware, all ringette-related activities in British Columbia were suspended until further notice per the directive from Ringette Canada on March 13th. Ringette BC will endeavor to send out communications as circumstance warrant during these unprecedented times. Today's update provides information on Annual General Meetings and Community Gaming Grants as well as a couple other items of note. A newsletter-style update for families will also be provided in the coming days.

At this time, the Ringette BC office on Roberts St in Burnaby is closed to the public. Ringette BC staff are available by telephone or email. Please continue to reach out and let us know how we can support you during this time.

Annual General Meetings

Ringette BC has reached out to the BC Registrar of Societies who has recommended that societies postpone Annual General Meetings. This recommendation was based on the limits imposed by the Provincial Medical Health Officer regarding gatherings of more than 50 people and coupled with the fact that the majority of municipal facilities are currently closed making it difficult for Club-Associations to host gatherings.

However, the [Societies Act](#) does require that all Societies host an Annual General Meeting within six months of their fiscal year end (Part 4, Division 2). Should we become aware of exceptions or changes to this requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will advise. In the meantime, we recommend that you review your individual Club Association Bylaws as they relate to Annual General Meetings.

Community Gaming Grants

The Community Gaming Enforcement branch has confirmed that applicants will not be penalized for the impact of the COVID-19 regulations on organizational spending. The Gaming Branch is requesting that applicants who are unable to spend all 2019 grant funds explain in detail in their cover letter why the funds are unspent. The Gaming Enforcement Branch will be posting updates to their [website](#), and are recommending that applicants frequently check the website for updates on 2020 applications.

Please review the [Community Gaming Grants 2020 Program Guidelines](#) in advance of your application to ensure that you have a clear understanding of what is required. At this time, there are no changes to the application period. Submissions are received from March 1st to May 31st. However, please note that the notification date for Sport Grants has changed to **September 30**.

Gaming has assured Ringette BC that Club Associations will not be penalized if they have not been able to hold an AGM prior to the 2020 application submission. Organizations will still need to provide all the required documentation in their application, which includes your 2019-20 financial statements and program statements, as well as an approved budget for 2020-21.

If a Club Association is not able to hold their 2020 Annual General Meeting prior to submitting their application, the applicant will be required to submit the minutes, Board of Directors list, and any other required documents from their most recent Annual General Meeting (i.e. 2019). However, if a Club Association has a note on their 2019 Award Letter from the Gaming Enforcement Branch related to their AGM, the Club Association will need to contact the Gaming Branch directly to ensure they receive direction from the Branch.

Gaming Contact information:

- Gaming Branch Website [click here](#).
- Phone: 250-356-1081
- Toll Free: 1-800-663-7867
- Email: communitygaminggrants@gov.bc.ca

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the global economy. As such, there may be less gaming money available for next season. Club Associations should prepare to not include gaming to cover your ice costs.

Resources Available to Club Associations:

All Leagues and Club Associations will be able to access Ringette BC's conferencing systems if they are seeking to host local Board meetings. To arrange to use the conferencing system, please contact Ringette BC at technicaldirector@ringettebc.org to request a date and time. As there is limited capacity on the conferencing line, times and dates will need to be reserved and are on a first come first served basis.

Other Items

Come Try Ringette and Gym Ringette are also activities that have been suspended under the directive from Ringette Canada. Ringette BC has created an [online signup sheet](#) for individuals who would like to be notified when Come Try and Gym Ringette Events are scheduled. In addition, cancellation notices have been created for Club Associations to use to inform participants of Come Try or Gym Ringette events. Please reach out to the office for the notices.

Ringette Canada has released a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Keep an eye on Ringette BC's [Latest News](#) section for further updates and our list of FAQ's.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. We are hopeful that this pandemic will be on the downward slide soon, and that life can get back to normal. Our thoughts are with you and all our ringette families.

Sincerely,

Dennis Callaghan,
Chair, Board of Directors
Ringette BC

Nicole Robb,
Executive Director
Ringette BC