

MANITOBA LADIES RECREATIONAL RINGETTE LEAGUE (MLRRL) CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

(Amended 2025)

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The organization shall be known as the “Manitoba Ladies Recreational Ringette League”.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. League – the Manitoba Ladies Recreational Ringette League
- 2.2. City Teams – those teams which originated within the city of Winnipeg
- 2.3. Rural Teams – those teams which originated outside the city of Winnipeg
- 2.4. Day Teams – those teams which have ice primarily between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm
- 2.5. Night or Evening Teams – those teams which have ice primarily between the hours of 6:00 pm and 1:00 am
- 2.6. Recreational Player – any female 30 years of age and older who has not played organized ringette or hockey in the 15 years prior to joining MLRRL and who has never played above Community Club level. “Community Club” includes A, B, C. “Above Community Club” includes AA, District, and equivalent in Manitoba or any other province. Complete eligibility rules are as outlined in Section 7 (Registration) of the By-Laws.

3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. To encourage and promote the sport of ringette for ladies in the province of Manitoba following Ringette Canada rules.
- 3.2. To operate and to decide all matters that may be in dispute within the League.
- 3.3. To form any special rules and working policies required for the proper functioning of the League and the MLRRL Tournaments.
- 3.4. To assign a host team for the MLRRL Year End Tournament.

4. PHILOSOPHY

MLRRL offers a unique philosophy towards the sport of ringette.

- 4.1. Sportsmanship (e.g. stopping the play when a player falls down or gets hurt, even if the referee has not blown the whistle)
- 4.2. Lack of rough play and respect for both teammates and opponents
- 4.3. Playing ringette for the exercise and friendship more than for the competition
- 4.4. Not keeping score during the season
- 4.5. Allowing new, inexperienced players to participate in the game by passing the ring to them if they're a teammate and, if they're an opponent, by allowing them to skate with the ring and giving them a chance to pass to another player before checking them
- 4.6. Accepting referee's decisions without hassles or profanities

5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1. The Executive
All members (ie. teams comprised of recreational players 30 years of age and over by December 31st of the current playing season who have registered with the League.

6. MEETINGS

- 6.1. There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the membership on the date determined by the Executive that shall be no later than June 1st of each year, for which at least 4 weeks written notice of the AGM has been sent to the membership.
- 6.2. Special meetings of the League may be called at the discretion of the Executive, provided written notice is sent out to the membership.

7. ATTENDANCE and VOTING AT THE ANNUAL, SPECIAL AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

- 7.1. Each Executive member shall be entitled to attend and cast one vote at all Executive, Annual and Special meetings.
- 7.2. All members (ie. teams) will have representation present and shall be allowed two voting delegates at the Annual and Special meetings.
 - 7.2.1. Failure to have representation at the Annual meeting will result in a team fine of \$50 for the first offence and \$100 for all subsequent offences. Fees will be added to a team's registration fee at the start of the following season.
- 7.3. There shall be no proxy votes.
- 7.4. Suspended teams will lose their votes for the duration of the suspension.

BY-LAWS

1. EXECUTIVE

1.1. The League Executive shall consist of:

- 1.1.1. President
- 1.1.2. 1st Vice President
- 1.1.3. 2nd Vice President
- 1.1.4. Past President
- 1.1.5. Secretary
- 1.1.6. Treasurer
- 1.1.7. Scheduler
- 1.1.8. Member at Large (2 positions)

And the following appointed members

- 1.1.9. Representative for the team hosting the MLRRL Tournament
- 1.1.10. Referee Liaison
- 1.1.11. Social Media and Publicity Liaison

2. NOMINATIONS AND TENURE OF OFFICE

2.1. Nominations for the elected members of the Executive shall be at the AGM.

Where no nominations for a position are given the following process will take effect:

- 2.1.1. The existing Executive will determine what teams have not had representation on the board for the past 5 years. These teams will be responsible to provide a volunteer.
- 2.1.2. If none of the teams as outlined in 2.1.1 provide a volunteer, a random draw selection from those teams will be made to submit a person to fill the open board position. A special vote from all teams will still be required to officially elect an individual.
- 2.1.3. The selected team will have until September 1 to put forth a volunteer.
- 2.1.4. If the selected team does not put forth a volunteer, the team will be unable to register/be added to the game schedule for the year and subsequent years until the team does provide a volunteer.

2.2. All elected positions will be for a 2 year term with the exception of Past President and Members at Large which will be for a 1 year term. Elections will take place as follows:

- 2.2.1. President, 1st Vice President, and Treasurer to be elected in even numbered years.
- 2.2.2. 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Scheduler to be elected in odd numbered years.
- 2.2.3. Members at Large to be elected each year.

2.3. The appointed member to be a representative from the team hosting the year end tournament during that particular playing season.

- 2.4. The Executive shall not hold the same office to which they are elected or appointed for more than 4 consecutive terms.
- 2.5. No person shall be a member of the Executive, exclusive of the Past President, for more than four consecutive terms.
- 2.6. No member of the Executive may hold more than one Executive position.
- 2.7. No team shall have more than one elected representative on the Executive with rural representation strongly recommended.
- 2.8. These provisions may be suspended by a majority vote at the AGM.

3. QUORUM

- 3.1. For Annual and Special meetings, quorum shall be one half of the voting delegates as stated in the Constitution Article 7.
- 3.2. For Executive meetings, quorum shall be four members.

4. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE

- 4.1. The Executive shall:
 - 4.1.1. Administer and conduct the business of the league.
 - 4.1.2. Mediate over problems throughout the season and at all tournaments.
 - 4.1.3. Authorize operating expenses.
 - 4.1.4. Fill any vacancies which may occur.
 - 4.1.5. Receive registrations of all teams and players.
 - 4.1.6. Appoint committees as may be required to carry on business of the League.
- 4.2. The President shall:
 - 4.2.1. Preside at all meetings.
 - 4.2.2. Exercise the powers of the Executive in case of emergency.
 - 4.2.3. Be in charge of the general management and supervision of the affairs and operation of the league.
- 4.3. The 1st Vice President shall:
 - 4.3.1. In the absence of the President, or in the event of her inability to act, have and exercise all powers of the President as delegated.
 - 4.3.2. Together with the Past President, prepare any changes to the Constitution and By-Laws as well as the Rules and Policies.
- 4.4. The 2nd Vice President shall:
 - 4.4.1. Work with the 1st Vice President in any delegated duties or on specific committees.
 - 4.4.2. Assist the MLRRL Tournament with the Sportsmanship award.
 - 4.4.3. In the absence of the President and the 1st Vice President, or in the event of their inability to act, have and exercise all powers of the President or 1st Vice President as delegated.
 - 4.4.4. Act as the Registrar

- 4.5. The Past President shall:
 - 4.5.1. Advise and assist the President on all matters pertaining to the functioning of the League.
 - 4.5.2. Together with the 1st Vice President, prepare any changes to the Constitution, By-Laws and Special Rules.
 - 4.5.3. Shall chair the nominating committee which consists of two other registered players and shall present a slate of officers at the AGM.
- 4.6. The Secretary shall:
 - 4.6.1. Record and distribute minutes of all Executive, Annual and Special meetings to the membership.
 - 4.6.2. Issue notices of all meetings.
 - 4.6.3. Conduct the official correspondence of the League.
- 4.7. The Treasurer shall:
 - 4.7.1. Keep and preserve full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the League.
 - 4.7.2. Prepare a financial statement of the current past year for presentation and distribution at the AGM.
 - 4.7.3. Pay all accounts, not exceeding \$50.00 without prior approval of the Executive.
- 4.8. The Scheduler shall:
 - 4.8.1. Procure from the members (ie. teams) any information (such as ice times) necessary for the drawing up of a schedule.
 - 4.8.2. Draw up an effective schedule.
 - 4.8.3. Distribute the schedule to the membership.
- 4.9. The MLRRL Tournament Representative shall:
 - 4.9.1. Attend all Executive meetings.
 - 4.9.2. Report the proceedings of the Tournament to the Executive.
- 4.10. The Referee Liaison shall:
 - 4.10.1. Attend all Executive meetings.
 - 4.10.2. Act as a Liaison between the Referees and the governing body.
 - 4.10.3. This position has no voting power.
 - 4.10.4. Ensure all referees are informed of the league's unique philosophy on sportsmanship, lack of rough play and respect for both teammates and opponents as outlined in the Constitution 4. Philosophy - 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3.
- 4.11. The Members at Large shall:
 - 4.11.1. Attend all Executive meetings.

- 4.11.2. Provide recommendations and insight to the Executive for decision making.

4.12. The Social Media and Publicity Liaison shall:

- 4.12.1. Attend all Executive meetings.
- 4.12.2. Maintain the League Website, provide presence on Social Media platforms, and engage in any publicity or media relations as benefits the League.
- 4.12.3. The League shall pay for, and/or reimburse the Liaison when necessary, all reasonable costs related to publicity and social media, as approved in advance by the Executive.

5. FEES AND RENUMERATION

- 5.1. No member of the League shall receive any remuneration for her services.
- 5.2. Reasonable expenses incurred by any member on pre-authorized League business shall be reimbursed.
- 5.3. League fees shall be set by the Executive as deemed necessary for the proper function of the League.

6. MLRRL YEAR END TOURNAMENT

- 6.1. The hosting team shall plan and coordinate the Tournament while complying with the Constitution and By-Laws in the spirit of the MLRRL.
- 6.2. The host team shall retain all profit from any raffle, silent auction or other optional fundraisers.
- 6.3. The Rules for the Tournament shall be:
 - 6.3.1. All games will be played according to current Ringette Canada rules and MLRRL rules, with MLRRL rules having precedence over Ringette Canada rules.
 - 6.3.2. Only MLRRL registered teams and players may play in this tournament. In this tournament, a player is eligible to play only on the team with which she is registered for the current season. Exceptions will be permitted as outlined in this section.
 - 6.3.2.1. Where a team is without a goalie for the entirety of the tournament or a goalie is injured and unable to complete the tournament, a team may request a substitute goalie that is a registered MLRRL player. The substitute goalie's first priority will be to the team they were registered with for the regular season.
 - 6.3.2.2. Where a goalie is unable to play without notice within 2 hours of a game and no member of the Executive is available for written authorization of a substitute goalie, the opposing team's approval is required for using a substitute MLRRL goalie from a different team by sign off on the game sheet.
 - 6.3.2.3. Where a team is not entering the tournament but a player(s) wish to play in the tournament, teams may put forward a request to

have a player(s) rostered with their team for the tournament. The additional player(s) must be clearly identified on the entering team's roster with their tournament registration. Teams/players must respond honestly to inquiries by the Executive as to the change in skill level with the player(s) added to their team so that the teams are seeded as fairly as possible.

- 6.3.2.4. All additions of players to the team's regular season roster for the tournament must be approved in writing by the Executive. Executive approval for an exception does not transfer to a secondary player or goalie.
- 6.3.2.5. Use of an ineligible player will result in a \$100 fine for each infraction as well as forfeiture of any games played with an ineligible player.
- 6.3.3. Each team must have a minimum of 7 players.
- 6.3.4. Should a team who has defaulted one game for insufficient players, have insufficient players for a second game, that team shall be disqualified from the remainder of the tournament, but shall play the remaining games.
- 6.3.5. Each team is guaranteed 3 games. Each game will consist of two 18 minute, stop-time periods.
- 6.3.6. The first team listed is the home team. In the event of sweater color conflict, the visiting team will change into sweaters or pinnies approved by the Host Committee.
- 6.3.7. All teams must be ready to go on the ice 10 minutes before scheduled game times. Any team which fails to appear on the ice one minute after the game official's call, shall be assessed a two minute bench penalty, & failure to appear after five minutes will result in forfeiture of the game.
- 6.3.8. In the event a player is ejected from the MLRRL tournament, that player will be immediately suspended from the tournament and will serve the consequences in the MLRRL Rules and Policies #7.
- 6.3.9. Any grievances or protest arising from a game must be presented in writing to the Host Committee within one half hour of the end of the game, complete with a \$25.00 fee. The fee will be refunded if the protest goes in favor of the protesting team. The decision of the Host Committee shall be final. No protest will be entertained over a game official's decision.
- 6.3.10. The Host of the Tournament must obtain approval of the MLRRL executive for the format of the tournament.
- 6.3.11. That there shall be a tournament guideline booklet provided to the host teams containing information from rules to budgets.
- 6.3.12. Game sheets from the tournament shall be submitted promptly to the Executive following the tournament.
- 6.3.13. The maximum number of goals which may be scored by a player per game in the tournament is 3. If a player scores 4th of subsequent goal, the goal will be disallowed.

- 6.3.14. A first responder (certified by a recognized emergency first aid organization) should be in attendance at every tournament game to correctly handle and be responsible for all injuries.
- 6.3.15. The Referee Liaison shall ensure all referees are informed of the League's unique philosophy on sportsmanship, lack of rough play and respect for both teammates and opponents as outlined in the Constitution 4. Philosophy - 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3.

7. REGISTRATION

- 7.1. All registration is to be done on line by October 15.
 - 7.1.1. Team contacts must notify the Registrar when their roster is completed on line. Team contacts should e-mail their roster to the Registrar so that the Registrar can ensure all players have registered on line. Teams will be invoiced no later than October 20th. Payments are to be sent to the Registrar by October 31 completing registration. All payments will be forwarded to the Treasurer no later than November 7th for deposit. *Any team registered late will be assessed a \$50 late fee which must be paid to the MLRRL before the team will be registered. Registration Fees are Non-Refundable or Non-Transferable.
 - 7.1.2. Any new player must first register on line before participating in any games. I.e. if they join a team in November after the October 31 deadline, they still must complete the registration, prior to playing their first league game.
- 7.2. All teams must be registered by October 31st.
- 7.3. Players must be 30 years of age and over by December 31 of the current playing season. All new players must submit proof of age (birth certificate, baptismal certificate, citizenship papers or other government documentation) with roster submission.
- 7.4. Additions and deletions to team rosters must be submitted to the acting Registrar of the MLRRL by January 15th.
- 7.5. Any female 30 years of age and older who has not played organized ringette or hockey in the 15 years prior to joining MLRRL and who has never played above Community Club level may be accepted into the league. "Community Club" includes A, B, C. "Above Community Club" includes AA, District, and equivalent in Manitoba or any other province.
 - 7.5.1. Eligibility will be determined just once – the first time a player joins the League.
 - 7.5.2. Any female 30 years of age or older, whose combination of age and consecutive years absent from ringette or hockey prior to joining the league equals a minimum sum of 45, shall be accepted into the league with no special permission required, provided the player has never played above Community Club level (as described in Item 7.5 above). For these purposes, an otherwise eligible player who is still playing ringette or hockey outside of MLRRL may continue to do so.

- 7.5.3. Where a team is without a goalie who meets the criteria in Article 7.5, the team may register a player who has participated in "Above Community Club" with permission from the Executive. The player must meet the age qualification, complete a player information sheet, and must only play in goalie position. This player's eligibility will be reviewed for approval on an annual basis.
- 7.5.4. If a player is or older than (55 for the new season) and has played Above Community Club (ie: AA or District) but has not played any division higher/or including Open 1. With permission from the executive and completion of a player information sheet register on a year to year trial basis up to and including their first 5 years in the league.
- 7.6. Each new player has to complete a player information sheet. If the player document is fraudulent, the player is immediately suspended and the team will continue to play. If any other players on the team were aware of the fraudulent act, the team will be suspended from all MLRRL sanctioned on-ice functions, including sparing, for the balance of the current playing season, and for the next complete season.

8. CONSTITUTION AND BY LAW AMENDMENTS

- 8.1. The Constitution may be amended by a majority of the voting membership present at any properly constituted AGM.
- 8.2. The By Laws may be amended by a majority of the voting membership at any properly constituted AGM or special meeting.
- 8.3. Amendments must be submitted in writing to the MLRRL Secretary 30 days prior to the AGM and such amendments distributed to the membership at least 14 days prior to the AGM.
- 8.4. If amendments to the By Laws are made at a Special meeting, such amendments must be distributed in writing at least 15 working days prior to the Special meeting and such amendments distributed to the membership 10 days prior to the Special meeting.

9. DISSOLUTION

- 9.1. In the event of dissolution of the League, all remaining assets, after payment of its liabilities, shall be divided equally among the members (ie. teams) of the League during the same season.