

Summary & Interpretation of SARL Survey Results (Zone #1 and Zone #2) April 30 2009

Overview

An online survey consisting of 14 questions was sent out to the membership of the Ringette Associations in Zone 1 and Zone 2. The purposes of this survey were as follows:

- 1) To determine if the Membership of Zone 2 wants to continue participation in SARL;
- 2) If the answer to #1 is yes what changes need to be implemented to improve it; and
- 3) obtain some insight from the Zone 1 membership as to 1) and 2).

From April 2 to 27th a total of 76 surveys were completed. The level of participation is broken out as follows:

Zone	Association	Total
Zone 1	Bassano	2
	Lethbridge	34
	Unknown	1
Zone 1 Total		37
Zone 2	Airdrie	11
	Rockyford	1
	Cochrane	9
	Strathmore	17
Zone 2 Total		38
Grand Total		75

Note: One survey was not included due to lack of information.

Of the people participating in the Survey the following is a breakdown of the participants by whether they participated in SARL or not. 73% of the respondents participated in SARL for the 2008-09 season.

Zone	SARL	Total
Zone 1	Non-SARL	15
	SARL	22
Zone 1 Total		37
Zone 2	Non-SARL	5
	SARL	33
Zone 2 Total		38
Grand Total		75

Note: There have been 12 more participants after April 27th, 88 in total, all being from Zone 1, primarily Medicine Hat but their results have not been included in this analysis as I am not redoing all this work because they were late getting on it. Their responses are included in the other documents.

Suggested Recommendations: *(These are mine based on Survey Results)*

- ✓ Zone 2 will continue to participate in SARL at the Petite and above levels with the following modifications:
 - S.A.R.L. will be changed to consist of “scheduled exhibition games” between Zone 1 and Zone 2 teams. No SARL league champion will be declared thus eliminating the need for equal amount of games between each team. “Competition Games” will be limited to inter-zone play, playoffs, and tournaments. The primary purpose of SARL will be to provide an organized schedule of a variety of similar level teams to play with No emphasis on determining a SARL champion.
 - As a result of the above no pooling/re-pooling will be required. This will allow for a more consistent schedule to be made. Inequities in skill levels amongst teams will be compensated by the fact that teams will only play each other a “few” times due to the larger number of teams.
 - The scheduling should try to match “comparable” teams and in the event a team is unexpectedly weak/strong the rescheduling process should be able to handle this. Since there will be no “SARL champion” there is no requirement that teams play each other an equal amount of times.
 - Games between Zone 1 and Zone 2 Teams will be either back to back or preferably in a mini tournament format at a “halfway” facility. Zone 1 can get there “true” home games in when they play other Zone 1 teams.
 - Games between Zone 1 and Zone 2 teams will be scheduled “primarily” prior to Christmas.
 - Post Christmas scheduling will be reserved for primarily inter Zone 2 games such that Zone 2 standings can be established and the season concluded prior to Playoffs.
 - Scheduling will be done such that teams do not have to leave home before to 8 am to arrive 45 min prior to game time and do not arrive home later than 8 pm on a school night and 10 pm on a non-school night.
- ✓ Put in place a standard process for rescheduling games similar to RCL and implement fines for those that do not abide by it.
- ✓ Many comments from Zone 1 indicated that we have to get/force Zone 2 and Zone 3 (Calgary) to fully commit to a Southern Alberta Ringette League. **This is not feasible** as just like Zone 1 wants what is best for their players so does Zone 2 and Zone 3 and this usually doesn't include traveling a lot to play Lethbridge, Med Hat and Brooks. Most people in Zone 2 and 3 are willing to commit, Zone 2 more than Zone 3, some time to assist the Zone 1 teams but it is not their first priority. Very few “lay” people with kids participating in Ringette have the “big picture” in mind with respect to Ringette in Southern Alberta and this is Not Likely to change. The big difference between Black Gold and us is that Calgary is 3 times (1200+) the size of Edmonton Ringette (300+) and therefore it was much easier to convince Edmonton to join a “Northern League” as they had a lot less options than Calgary does.

Survey Summary:

The majority, 69%, of Zone 2 respondents indicated they want to continue to participate in SARL but 63% of those were only willing to participate if changes were made. The following Table summarizes the responses.

Zone	Association	N/a	No	Yes	Yes, With Changes	Grand Total
Zone 1	Bassano		1	1		2
	Lethbridge	3		24	7	34
	Unknown			1		1
Zone 1 Total		3	1	26	7	37
Zone 2	Airdrie		3	4	4	11
	Rockyford				1	1
	Cochrane	1	3	2	3	9
	Strathmore	2	5	3	7	17
Zone 2 Total		3	11	9	15	38
Grand Total		6	12	35	22	75

Based on survey results from the Zone 2 Membership, positive feed back was associated with:

- Scheduling
- Accessibility to information on the website
- Agreeable to more of a Mini Tournament format and back to back games.

Negative feedback was associated with:

- Travel time to games.
- Amount of games scheduled and consistency of the scheduling.

The following Table outlines the average Zone 2 score for each of the questions:

Average of Question 2: How did you find the level of competition in SARL this season? 1 = Not Satisfied 5 = Very Satisfied	3.03
Average of Question 3: How did you find the travel time to games? 1 = Way Too Much 5 = No Problem	2.69
Average of Question 4: How did you feel about how often you had to travel to more than 1 hour to a game? 1 = Way Too Much 5 = Just Fine	2.86
Average of Question 5: What did you think of playing back to back games? 1 = Hated It 5 = Great	3.70
Average of Question 6: What did you think of the amount of games you played this year in SARL? : 1 = Not Near Enough 5 = Way Too Many	2.71
Average of Question 7: What did you think of your schedule this year with respect to the spacing and timing of the games? 1 = Terrible 5 = Excellent	3.03
Average of Question 8: Would you like to see more or less of the "Mini Tournament" format for the upcoming SARL season ? 1 - No Mini Trnmnts 3 - 50% Mini Trnmnts 5 - All Mini Trnmnts	3.18
Average of Question 9: How accessible was information on SARL? (Website, Contacts etc...) 1 = Terrible 5 = Excellent	3.50
Average of Question 10: How easy did you find it to make schedule changes? : 1 = Very Difficult 5 = Very Easy	3.48

Overall average 3.13

On average the Zone 1 scores were 0.4 more positive. The following table summarizes the Zone 1 scores:

Average of Question 2: How did you find the level of competition in SARL this season? 1 = Not Satisfied 5 = Very Satisfied	3.75
Average of Question 3: How did you find the travel time to games? 1 = Way Too Much 5 = No Problem	3.89
Average of Question 4: How did you feel about how often you had to travel to more than 1 hour to a game? 1 = Way Too Much 5 = Just Fine	4.00
Average of Question 5: What did you think of playing back to back games? 1 = Hated It 5 = Great	4.30
Average of Question 6: What did you think of the amount of games you played this year in SARL? : 1 = Not Near Enough 5 = Way Too Many	2.51
Average of Question 7: What did you think of your schedule this year with respect to the spacing and timing of the games? 1 = Terrible 5 = Excellent	3.43
Average of Question 8: Would you like to see more or less of the "Mini Tournament" format for the upcoming SARL season? 1 - No Mini Trnmnts 3 - 50% Mini Trnmnts 5 - All Mini Trnmnts	3.26
Average of Question 9: How accessible was information on SARL? (Website, Contacts etc...) 1 = Terrible 5 = Excellent	3.45
Average of Question 10: How easy did you find it to make schedule changes? : 1 = Very Difficult 5 = Very Easy	3.00

Overall Average 3.51

The following is a summary of the written Feedback associated with each of the questions: (Note there were a significant amount of comments outside the scope of this Survey, e.g. need to revisit Ringette Alberta Tiering, need to do a better job of making equal teams in Bunny???)

Question 2: How did you find the level of competition in SARL this season?

Zone 2 – Unbalanced and variety of skill level too broad.

Zone 1 - Everything was good with the exception of a few teams being either too good or too weak.

Question 3: How did you find the travel time to games?

Zone 2 – Double headers good. Almost all comments were that travel to Med Hat and Lethbridge was too far.

Zone 1 – Sunday late games not good. Prefer more home games than at neutral site (i.e. Stavely). Morning away games not good. In general a lot more accepting of traveling than Zone 2, with the exception of a few.

Question 4: How did you feel about how often you had to travel to more than 1 hour to a game?

Zone 2 – Comments that Med Hat unwilling to travel to Cochrane. Otherwise similar to Question #3

Zone 1 – Similar to question #3.

Question 5: What did you think of playing back to back games?

Zone 2 - Thought it was better than not back to back from a travel perspective but there were several comments that it was too hard on the girls.. *(My Comment: Most of the comments of it being too hard on the girls was with respect to winning games rather than competing. Some commented that it was a waste of time to travel for a 1 hour game but in the next sentence said that two 1 hour games back to back is way to much for the girls.)*

Zone 1 - In general liked Back to Back much better. Saw it is a positive to condition the players. Couple suggestions asked us to look at going to one game with international rules (3 – 20 minute periods) vs. two games.

Question 6: What did you think of the amount of games you played this year in SARL?

Zone 2 – In general number of games was OK but became too few when cancelled games were not made up. Again comments on Med Hats lack of commitment to travel at the Petite level.

Zone 1 - In general would have like to see more games. Comment that Med hat didn't play their scheduled Petite games in Lethbridge. Negative comments about Juniors not getting more games in RCL.

Question 7: What did you think of your schedule this year with respect to the spacing and timing of the games?

Zone 2 – Before Christmas was good. After Christmas was bad due inconsistent scheduling (i.e. a whole bunch of games then long breaks) and conflicts with zone playoff's. Playing each weekend is the expectation.

Zone 1 – Similar to Zone 2 but in general happier than Zone 2.

Question 8: Would you like to see more or less of the "Mini Tournament" format for the upcoming SARL season ?

Zone 2 – Several comments saying they liked the concept. Lots didn't know what a mini-tournament was. Couple comments wanting out of SARL (Cochrane).

Zone 1 – Very big on mini tournaments. Consider including some Calgary teams.

Question 9: How accessible was information on SARL?

Zone 2 – Schedules and info were fine. Scores slow to be posted. Couple didn't use it. Would like to see standings by Zone as well.

Zone 1 – Similar to above but more positive. Would like to see info organized by, coach, manager etc...

Question 10: How easy did you find it to make schedule changes?

Zone 2 - In general SARL scheduling was good, difficulty was encountered in organizing re-schedulingt with the opposing team. Lack of available ice an issue. *(My Comment: Teams are being to picky when rescheduling games to get the "perfect time" more compromises need to be made and mandated by SARL)*

Zone 1 – Pretty much as in Zone 2.

Question 12: Please provide specific concerns or issues you had with the 2008-09 SARL season or the SARL concept in general?

Zone 2 – Commitment of Medicine Hat is suspect yet SARL was formed for them. Lack of Zone focus for smooth transition to playoff's. Inequity of teams. Too many away "weekends". Not all associations have same objective for Tiering.

Zone 1- Unbalanced schedule with regards to scheduling of games. More “true” home games. Include Calgary more. No accountability for teams canceling games.

Question 13: Please provide comments on what you liked/enjoyed about the 2008-2009 SARL season or the SARL concept in general.

Zone 2 – Back to Back games. The travel. The scheduling being done for them. Variety of teams to play. Nothing!

Zone 1 –Like the concept and playing more games against a variety of teams. Traveling helps the team bond. Nothing!

Question 14: Please provide specific and/or general suggestions as to how SARL could be improved from a Zone 2 perspective.

Zone 2 – Abandon SARL (3 comments Airdrie and 1 from Cochrane) . Demand commitment from Zone 1 teams. Include Calgary. Include Red Deer. Force teams to adopt similar Tiering. Games in the “middle”. SARL fundraising to offset travel costs (Bussing). Minimize travel for B & C teams. Better, earlier, game times on Sundays.