



The following is an update on the latest information on COVID-19, ringette, facilities, and this fall. As we have stated in the past all information is based on what we know today. If Ringette Alberta (RAB) or Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidelines change or are updated, we will update you as quickly as we can on how those changes affect anything we are doing.

Here is what we know today:

Bust the Dust: Plan is to there will be 2 one-hour ice slots to each age division. Cost will be \$100 per player which will include instructors. All skaters will be in their age division for Bust the Dust so they will be able to continue onto evaluations directly after Bust the Dust. Bust the Dust tentatively will begin September 9, 2020.

Ringette Season: Plan is to start Evaluations on Sept 13th for U19 and U16. All other divisions will start shortly after that date. We may require coaches of some divisions to be available during the evaluation process.

League play: League play will be very different. Teams will be placed in mini leagues with three teams in a cohort (likely for 3 to 4 weeks) then a two-week quarantine will take place between games. Once the quarantine is complete the teams will be shuffled, and a new cohort of teams will play their mini league. All teams will be local to Zone 3 or the Calgary zone for U12, U14, U16 and U19. U10 cohorts will be playing in their usual Zone 2 (Airdrie, Strathmore, etc).

Dual or Multi Sport Players/Coaches: Based on the Cohort definition from AHS it is asked that ALL players decide on ONE cohort or sport this fall. If your secondary sport allows individuals to maintain social distance (ex singles tennis) then the single cohort rule will not apply to that individual. We understand this may force a decision on your child's involvement in Ringette this season if you choose ringette as their secondary sport **please talk with our Administrator Theresa Dietz** for a full refund before August 30th as Cochrane Ringette. As an Association, we cannot allow you to play ringette if you are involved in another sport or group activity as defined above.

Perspective coaches, same rules apply. If you play ringette, rec hockey, etc., you must also choose one sport this fall. It is also unlikely coaches can be on a roster for two teams unless those two teams are in the same cohort. Coaches that typically coach two teams may not have this option in September. Based on AHS rules we cannot allow coaches to play a sport and coach. RAB is talking with AHS on clarification of this rule as we understand the affects this can have. More information to come on this.

Player Affiliation: Player Affiliation policy is null and void for this year. Based on the cohort rules it makes affiliation impossible to manage. Cochrane Ringette will not have affiliates for any teams this upcoming season.

Junior Coaches: Junior coaches can participate in practice but not games as long as they maintain physical distancing during practice.

Cohort Rules/14 Day Quarantine: For those not familiar with these I recommend you visit the RAB or AHS website(s) for a better explanation. Essentially, we will be putting players on teams and with a cohort group of no more than 50. That cohort will then likely be together for 3 to 4 weeks. Typically, there will be three teams in a cohort. Each time we switch a cohort there is a 14-day quarantine period. Teams can still practice during this quarantine there just won't be any games for those 14 days.

Evaluations: Evals will be very different this year, with facility guidelines, 14-day quarantine, and cohort rules it is making our normal evaluation process difficult to manage. We will not be completing UAA evaluations for the 2020 season. We are working to find an efficient way to handle this and minimize disruption from playing. More information to come later in August.

Refunds: As we have stated beforehand, our normal refund policy will be enforced once the evaluation/draft process starts. I recommend that if you have any doubts for your child(ren) participating this year that you ask for a refund before Aug 30. Full refunds will be provided if the request is made before Aug 30. If the season is cut short, we will look into a prorated refund for families once we have our expenses allotted for.

Tournament: Currently it looks like we will not be able to have our tournament in 2020. All proceeds from Bust the Dust will help supplement this loss of income for the CRA.

Declaring a lower division: With evaluations just around the corner, we are trying to plan now. With that in mind, and a lot of unknowns currently around how we will evaluate (amount of evaluators, tighter timelines, amount of people allowed in rink at one time) if your player would like to declare to play on the lower level team in their division this year please let us know. This will help us streamline evaluations and limit detailed evaluations of declared players. You can make your declaration on the form here: <http://www.cochraneringette.com/form/4412>

Proposed Tiering for the 2020 Season

U10

- Step 1 (1)
- Step 2 (2)
- Step 3 (1)

U12

- B (1)
- C (1)

U14

- B (1)
- C (1)

U16

- A (Combined with Airdrie)
- B

U19

- A
- B (possibility of two B teams if numbers and ice time allow)

It is recommended you review some of the info on the RAB website as it may help with understanding some of the issues presented to us.

<https://ringettealberta.com/return-to-ringette/>

Cochrane Ringette Board of Directors