

# Edmonton Ringette Club

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## Evaluations Welcome Letter August 2021

Welcome to the 2021-2022 season of AA Ringette with the Edmonton Ringette Club (ERC)!

We know it will be another great season for all 5 ERC teams, 4 of whom will go through an evaluation process for selection this season. We wish everyone good luck and great skill through evaluations.

For the minor team (U14/U16 & U19AA) There is a non-refundable evaluation fee of \$100 which must be paid online by August 29, 2021 (before the first evaluation skate).

**At this time, we are planning for a complete season, without restrictive COVID guidelines, however we will adapt our schedule to follow any changes that may be introduced by the Alberta Government, Ringette Alberta, or any other applicable jurisdiction (for tournaments).**

We want to give you information on our Evaluations Policy, team formation and size, league play, tournaments, fundraising, volunteer commitments and policies for the Edmonton Ringette Club.

### 1. Team Selection

The Team Selection Policy is on our website under Resources, [Team Selection Policy \(rev. July 2019\)](#).

ERC team size for U14AA, U16AA, and U19AA is a **minimum of 13 to a maximum 15 skaters and up to a maximum of 2 goalies (revised July 2019)**. If circumstances result in the possibility of the team being a different size (for example due to numbers on the EFCLRA teams), we will update the families as the evaluations progress..

Elite Coaches are expected to choose Edmonton athletes that display AA aptitude and attitude at tryouts. Recommended team rosters are submitted to the ERC Board to ensure policy alignment and provide final approval.

The Board will endeavour to process recommended rosters as promptly as possible; we aim to have team rosters posted on the ERC website within 24 hours of the last evaluation skate for each level.

If an athlete is not chosen for the team, they will be contacted, either via email following evaluations at the email address provided during registration on the ERC website, or by phone. The Head Coach will provide constructive feedback for the athlete to continue to develop and improve skills needed to play at the AA level. Being released from a team can be an emotional event, however, the ERC encourages families and athletes to receive this information in a constructive way that creates a learning experience.

### 2. League and Tournament Play

**U14AA** will play in the Black Gold League U14AA division (14 games) and plays U14AA teams in tournaments.

**U16AA** will play in the Black Gold League U16AA division (14 games) and plays U16AA teams in tournaments.

**U19AA** will play in the Black Gold League U19AA division (14 games) and plays U19AA teams in tournament.

**Open A Elite Ice** will play in the Northern Alberta Women's Ringette Association (NAWRA), Open A division.

**The Edmonton WAM!** plays in the National Ringette League.

All ERC teams attend the Canadian Ringette Championships (this includes U16AA, U19AA, and WAM!) or the Western Canadian Ringette Championships (Open A, U14AA), if teams qualify.



### 3. Tournaments

Elite U14AA, U16AA, and U19AA have a tournament focus. We expect that the teams will coordinate with each other respecting tournaments. There are approximately 5 to 6 regular season tournaments per year at these levels. In addition, attendance at Provincials, Westerns (U14, Open A) and the Canadian Ringette Championships (U16, U19 and WAM!) is a required part of club play and that commitment is a pre-requisite to being offered a position on the team.

Popular tournaments for ERC teams are the following:

1. U14AA: Zone 2 Rusty Ring (Cochrane): September 17 – 19, 2021
2. U16AA & U19AA: Ring it On (Calgary): September 24 - 26, 2021
3. Turkey Ring (St. Albert): October 8 – 11, 2021
4. Bernadette Price (Saskatoon, SK): November 12 – 14, 2021
5. ERC Wood (Leduc): December 3 – 5, 2021
6. Esso Golden Ring (Calgary): January 14 - 16, 2022
7. AA Provincials (Location TBA): February 25 - 27, 2022
8. \*Western Canadian Championships “Westerns” (Regina, SK): March 31 – April 3, 2022 (U14, Open A, if the teams qualify\*).
9. \*Canadian Ringette Championships “CRC” (Calgary, AB): April 3 - 9, 2022 (U16, U19, WAM!, if the teams qualify\*).

**\*ERC teams will attend Westerns (U14AA, Open A) or CRCs (U16AA, U19AA, and WAM!) either by way of winning your way in, or by qualifying for a wildcard position. Attendance is mandatory.**

**Non-parent coach travel & accommodation costs are covered by the team.**

**Athletes are expected to attend all tournaments.** In addition, teams may choose other tournaments such as the Platinum Ring (Sherwood Park), Sweetheart Tournament (Spruce Grove), Pacific Ring (Richmond, BC), Voyageur (Winnipeg, MB), and the U19AA team may apply and participate in a tournament in eastern Canada. Attendance is subject to discussion with the team staff and team support.

At the U16 and U19 level, it is possible that all or almost all Alberta teams will qualify for CRCs. In 2018, 6 of 9 Alberta U16AA teams and 4 of 9 Alberta U19AA teams attended at the CRCs. At the U16 and 19 levels, attendance at the CRCs is mandatory and the season and budget should be planned accordingly.

At U14, the top 2 Alberta teams at Provincials automatically qualify for Westerns (and typically 3 or more Alberta teams in total qualify). At U14, attendance at Westerns is mandatory and the season and budget should be planned accordingly.

*If a team that finishes ahead of Edmonton Elite opts not to attend CRCs or Westerns, and if Edmonton Elite is the next place team, then the Elite team will still be considered to qualify for that event.*

**If you do not intend to attend CRCs or Westerns (regardless of the position in which the team qualifies) please notify the head coach during evaluations, as that player cannot be offered a position without that commitment to attend.**

#### 4. Commitment / Ice Times

The ERC recognizes that athletes have lives. We expect family and school to take priority over ringette. However, the Edmonton Ringette Club is a competitive AA ringette program, and we expect athletes to have a commitment appropriate to this level of competition.

If this is not possible, please discuss this with the team head coach during evaluations.

Throughout the season, it is anticipated that there will typically be 3 ice times per week for practices and games and one dryland session. There will likely be power skating once a week for 10 weeks at the start of the season for U14AA and U16AA.

#### 5. Coaching Staff

Coaching staff are selected by the ERC Board of Directors. Prospective assistant coaches who have athletes evaluating for any U14AA, U16AA, or U19AA team shall not be selected until teams are formed. The Head Coach is the CEO of the team. The Head Coach is responsible for selecting their team from athlete evaluations.

During the season, team decisions made by the Head Coach are to be both respected and honored. The ERC thanks athletes, parents, and team staff in advance of the season for their support of these head coach decisions. These may include decisions on positions, lines, strategy, exhibition games, tournament attendance, skill development, dryland, additional training, player hotel rooms, and nutrition.

**The ERC encourages athletes to discuss any issues directly with their coaches.** We expect all parents to observe a 24-hour wait period before discussing issues with coaching staff. This gives everyone time to gain perspective and have more productive discussions.

Coaching staff will outline their coaching philosophy at the beginning of the season, including philosophy on playing time. The ERC supports the Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model.

#### 6. Club Fundraising

One person for each athlete will be required to staff 1 or 2 bingo shifts at Fort Road Bingo Association per year and a casino if it is a casino year. This is a casino year (every other year); we are scheduled for December 2, 2021 at the Starlight Casino (WEM).

This is a mandatory requirement of ERC membership. The Club collects a \$200 volunteer cheque to ensure member attendance and participation. The cheque may be cashed if the athlete's family does not complete at least 1 bingo in a non-casino year, or at least 2 shifts (bingo/casino) in a casino year, as well as other club fundraiser(s), such as ERC raffles. This amount does not compensate the Club for potential lost revenue from AGLC, but we hope is a significant enough value to encourage families to participate.

The ERC also hosts the Gayle Shaw Memorial Fun Day where the athletes collect pledges for the Alberta Cancer Foundation. Every ERC AA athlete attends this event and is expected to raise funds. We are proud of this event and look forward to another great Gayle Shaw Memorial Fun Day on Saturday, October 23, 2021, from 10 am to noon at the Ice Palace rink at West Edmonton Mall.

#### 7. Individual/Team Fundraising

**Grocery Card Program** - grocery cards may be ordered 1 month in advance of payment to give all families the opportunity to market and sell the cards. The return on sales goes directly to the account of the player's family and is generally 5% for Sobeys/Safeway and 7% for Save-On Foods. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this program.

Other Fundraising - examples include raffle tables at the Wood Tournament, bottle drives, liquor or other raffle baskets, and sponsorships. We ask that all teams refrain from organizing any team silent auctions or raffle baskets until after the Wood Tournament.



**Any fundraising activity that requires an AGLC license to operate must be directed to the ERC Board for approval and license processing.**

## 8. Volunteering

In addition, each team requires many behind the scenes volunteers to make the team a success. The team manager will work with the parents and athletes to assemble volunteers for team duties.

**Every family is required to volunteer for team activities and club activities – no exceptions. Please be prepared to volunteer. Remember... “Many hands make light work”.**

Team duties include, but are not limited to the following: manager, treasurer; uniform parents; tournament coordinators; food coordinators and food parents; Wood tournament reps for ERC committee; Wood Tournament fundraising for team; Wood Tournament operations (control table, and minor officials at ERC & all medal games); Gayle Shaw Memorial Fun Day for Cancer; 2 bingos, 1 casino; team fundraising planner; team fundraising; team apparel; team photos; grocery cards; team video; ERC Board rep; minor official duties; year-end banquet, ERC open house, etc.

## 9. Food at Tournaments

The head coach, or if the head coach chooses, the head coach and parents together make decisions around food during tournaments. The ERC Travel Committee arranges accommodations with kitchenettes or group rooms so meals can easily be prepared by parents. For team development reasons, the ERC recommends athletes eat together wherever possible. Of course, all food service is expected to comply with then applicable COVID guidelines – it is the team’s responsibility to educate themselves in order to ensure compliance.

Where accommodations provide a suitable opportunity for teams to cook, the ERC recommends food be prepared by parents as these meals are: generally more nutritional, allow for addressing allergies and individual food needs; reduces the cost of tournaments making the cost of the season more affordable for all families; increases free or rest time at tournaments, and provides each team an opportunity for team building.

Food duties are not overly burdensome when shared amongst all families.

## 10. Fees, Team Budgets and Finances

The ERC registration fees for the 2021-2022 season are \$975.00 for all AA teams.

Edmonton Residents evaluating at U14/16/19 (ERC Elite) must be registered both for the AA skate with the ERC (via the ERC website) as well as through the EFLCRA (payment of basic registration fee and evaluation fee). Both of these fees must be paid in full on or before August 30, 2021. If selected for the team, a top up fee will be collected by the team for ERC.

Any out of zone athletes evaluating for ERC Elite (see Team Selection Policy for eligibility) must register for the AA skate with the ERC. If the out of zone player then earns a position, the family must arrange for the transfer of their home association fee to the ERC and pay any top up to the ERC fee.

Team budgets are prepared by the team treasurer in consultation with the head coach and manager at the beginning of each season.

The amount of your cash calls will depend on a number of factors including the following: the number of tournaments; food choices at tournaments; team apparel; dryland activities; additional ice; team building activities; and the amount your team is prepared to finance team activities. As stated above, individual families can offset their ringette costs by selling grocery cards.

For athletes evaluating for the Edmonton WAM!, the ERC evaluation fee must be paid prior to the first skate. A cheque for registration fees can be provided prior to the first evaluation skate which will be cashed only if the player earns a roster position on WAM!

Elite Ice Open A fees are \$575.00 per athlete for approximately 25-30 games (possibly 1-2 practice slots per season). For more information, please contact Teneal Kuczowski at [OpenA@edmontonringetteclub.com](mailto:OpenA@edmontonringetteclub.com).



## 10. Apparel /Equipment/Fan Packs

All ERC Elite athletes are required to wear full equipment including shoulder pads.

Team jerseys are supplied by the club to the team and are returned at the end of the season. The club collects a mandatory \$200 jersey deposit after teams are formed.

Game pants are mandatory for U14AA to U19AA. Elite team game pants are not supplied by the Club. The cost for Elite game pants is \$145.00 including GST. The Open A team may also choose to purchase Elite game pants for the same price.

For U14AA to U19AA, black helmets are mandatory and for WAM! blue helmets are mandatory. These are not supplied by the Club. Black gloves are recommended for Elite; blue or black for WAM!.

Each new player at U14AA, U16AA or U19AA will receive an Elite winter jacket and equipment bag compliments of the ERC. New coaches will also receive a winter jacket.

Standard team apparel (one dry fit/warm up shirt and hoodie) is mandatory for all athletes. Black leggings or joggers are acceptable. The total cost for the mandatory ERC apparel will be about \$100 - \$120. Optional and fanwear apparel is also available, which includes sweatpants, sweatshirts, long sleeve dry fit shirts and more. Only athletes are permitted to wear black apparel options, but are welcome to wear fanwear options offered in grey and blue. Apparel will be coordinated immediately after teams are formed. A group order will be submitted in September. Do also note that Teams often purchase other apparel during the course of the year (such as the Wood Tournament t-shirts, or apparel from Provincials/Westerns/CRCs). This is a team-by-team decision.

## 11. AGM / Board

Attendance at the AGM is mandatory. The AGM this year will be held October 10, 2021 at 7:00PM via Zoom. A link will be sent to all members 30 days prior to the meeting.

The club requires a \$200 deposit to ensure AGM attendance, payable at the outset of tryouts. The \$200 cheques will be returned or destroyed after confirmation of attendance at the AGM. Failure to attend the AGM will result in cashing of the AGM deposit cheque.

The club is a small group (5 teams including WAM! and Open A). Participation on the board or in the other volunteer roles or committees is vital to the ongoing operation of the club and team success.

Please consider coming forward for the ERC board or for volunteer roles or committees. Full details will be provided respecting opportunities to volunteer.

## 12. ERC Policies

The ERC has adopted a comprehensive set of policies. These directly align with Ringette Alberta required policy. See the ERC website [www.edmontonringetteclub.com](http://www.edmontonringetteclub.com), Resources tab for more details. In addition, the ERC is governed by by-laws and has adopted additional operating policies including the Evaluations Policy, Hotel & Travel Policy, and Team Selection Policy.



The ERC sincerely thanks each family and athlete for attendance at these evaluations. The Club is committed to providing AA opportunities and we cannot do that without your participation. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to:

President, Lynne Gurba at [president@edmontonringetteclub.com](mailto:president@edmontonringetteclub.com)

Vice-President, Candace Klein at [vicepresident@edmontonringetteclub.com](mailto:vicepresident@edmontonringetteclub.com)

Good luck!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynne Gurba".

Lynne Gurba  
President, Edmonton Ringette Club

*"To uncover your true potential you must find your own limits - and then you have to have the courage to blow past them." Picabo Street*

*"Somewhere behind the athlete you've become and the hours of practice and the coaches who have pushed you is a [child] who fell in love with the game and never looked back... play for [them]." Mia Hamm*

