



Evaluations Welcome Letter August 2020

Welcome to the 2020-2021 season of AA Ringette or Open A Ringette with the Edmonton Ringette Club (ERC).

We normally do not have evaluations for our Open A team but this may change depending on interest and numbers.

Evaluations this year will be somewhat modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. We are working through our plans at this time and will be using physical distancing for evaluations.

We wish everyone good luck and good skills in evaluations.

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

1. Team Selection

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 smaller size (for example due to numbers on the the EF-CLRA teams) we will update the families as the evaluations progress. There is a non-refundable evaluation fee of \$100. Please register by August 15, 2020, to assist us with planning.

However, at this time, we are uncertain on the number of ringette athletes who will return to ringette in light of the COVID-19 pandemic situation and what the consensus might be among AA associations and BGL on team size. Our preference would be to make similar size teams, one at each division, as we normally would. It may be that we will need to make smaller teams, but depending on numbers, hopefully 2 smaller teams that would continue to practice at the same time and remain in the same cohort all season.

The Team Selection Policy is at a link at the bottom of the Evaluations Page on our website.

Elite Coaches are expected to choose Edmonton skaters at tryouts. Recommended team rosters will be submitted to the ERC Board for final approval.

The team selection will be posted on the ERC website within 24 hours of the last evaluation

skate at that level.

If an athlete is not chosen for the team, she will also be provided an email following evaluations at the email address provided on the AA registration on the ERC website. 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 players to receive this information in a constructive way that creates a learning experience for any released player. Players are encouraged to come back to tryouts in subsequent years and many have been successful in making the AA team as they continue to develop skills.

2. League and Tournament Play

Normally, each of the **U14AA, U16AA, and U19AA teams** play in the Black Gold League in their respective divisions (14 games) and play in tournaments as well. Last year, the U19A teams also played the U16AA teams in a U16AA/U19A division.

At this time, due to COVID-19, no tournament play or travel outside the Edmonton health region/zone is permitted. This may possibly change if the province moves to stage 3 of the relaunch.

As well, this year, there will be mini-leagues consisting of 50 persons total including coaches and referees forming a cohort. Depending on team size, this means that the team will play the same 1-3 teams for a session and then have a 14-day break during which the team can continue to practice before playing different teams in a new mini-league/cohort. Again at the team sizes and duration of sessions have not yet been agreed upon by the AA associations and BGL. If Alberta moves to stage 3 of the relaunch, the size of the cohort may change allowing for more varied competition in a cohort.

Open A Elite Ice will play in the Edmonton Open A league. *We understand that the team is to be limited to 16 players.*

The Edmonton WAM! normally plays in the National Ringette League. *Due to COVID-19, it seems that games against other NRL teams will be limited to either only Alberta teams or only between the Edmonton teams. This is currently being finalized.*

Normally, all ERC teams attend the Canadian Ringette Championships (CRCs) (this includes U16AA, U19AA, and WAM!) or the Western Canadian Ringette Championships (WCRCs) (U14AA) if teams qualify. *At this time, due to COVID-19, the current status is that there will not be any provincials, CRCs or WCRCs. It is possible that later in the season a decision will be made to proceed with these competitions.*

Tournaments

The following applies for a normal year and is provided for your information for the normal program. As indicated above, tournaments/travel outside the Edmonton health

region/zone are currently not permitted.

Elite U14AA, U16AA, and U19AA have a tournament focus. We expect the teams 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) 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
(2019-20 dates provided for reference):

1. *Zone 2 Rusty Ring Cochrane U14AA - September 20-22, 2019
2. *Calgary Ring it On Icebreaker U16AA/U19AA - September 27-29, 2019
3. St. Albert Turkey Ring – Thanksgiving weekend
4. *Bernadette Price (Saskatoon) - November 8-10, 2019
5. *Wood (Edmonton) – November 22-24, 2019
6. *Lacombe Icebreaker – December 13-15, 2019
7. Calgary Golden Ring – January 17-19, 2020
8. AA Provincials - Spruce Grove - February 28 to March 1, 2020
9. Western Canadian Ringette Championships – March 27-30 in B.C. (U14 only, if team qualifies).
10. Canadian Ringette Championships - April 5-11, 2020 Ottawa, Ontario (U16, U19, WAM!) only, if the teams qualify**

* Denotes expected 2019-20 ERC tournaments before Provincials. Gloucester has been the Eastern tournament for U16AA/U19AA in February 2017-2019. Last year U19AA went to Waterloo, Ontario and U14AA and U16AA attended the Pacific Ring in Richmond, B.C.. ****All ERC teams will attend CRC's (this includes U16AA, U19AA, and WAM!) and Westerns (U14AA), either by way of winning your way in or by qualifying for a wildcard position. Attendance is mandatory.**

Players are expected to attend tournaments. In addition, teams may choose other tournaments such as the Platinum Ring, Sweetheart Tournament, Pacific Ring (Richmond), Voyageur (Winnipeg), Regina, or a variety of tournaments in eastern Canada. Attendance is subject to discussion with the team staff and team support. The board strongly discourages tournaments that require flight for U14AA, except for the Pacific Ring and Westerns.

At the U16 and U19 level, it is possible that anywhere from 2 to 6 Alberta teams qualify for CRCs depending on commitments, wildcards, location of 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 4 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. Currently, there no provincials, CRCs or Westerns are being planned but *the player must still be committed to attend as it is possible that these competitions will proceed this season.*

4. Commitment / Ice Times

The ERC recognizes that players 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 players to have a commitment appropriate to that 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. *At this time, we are uncertain if team dryland sessions will proceed.*

5. Team Staff

Coaching staff are selected by the ERC Board of Directors. Prospective assistant coaches who have daughters 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 his/her team from player evaluations.

During the season, team decisions made by the Head Coach are to be both respected and honored. The ERC thanks players, 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 players** to discuss any issues directly with their coaches. The ERC strongly encourages the use of a 24 hour wait period for parents to discuss issues with coach-

ing staff. This gives everyone time to cool down and more appropriately deal with any issues.

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. 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 and 4% for Superstore. 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. *These will likely be modified this year due to COVID-19.*

Any fundraising that requires the approval of Alberta Gaming also requires prior board approval.

7. Club Fundraising

One person per athlete will be required to staff 1-2 bingos per year and a casino if it is a casino year. We have a casino every 2nd year. We will likely have a casino during this season.

There may also be an additional club fundraiser such as a raffle that all families are expected to participate.

This is a mandatory requirement of ERC membership. The Club collects a \$200 volunteer cheque to ensure that attendance and participation. The cheque may be cashed if the athlete's family does not work at least 1 bingo in a non-casino year or at least 2 shifts at a bingo or bingos or casino in a casino year and and participate in any club fundraiser(s).

The ERC also hosts the Gayle Shaw Memorial Fun Day where the athletes collect pledges for the Alberta Cancer Foundation. Every ERC AA player 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 Sunday, October 25, 2020, from 10 am to noon at the Ice Palace rink at West Edmonton Mall. We also usually plan an intra-squad U16/U19 game after to showcase our sport. *This year we have not yet determined if this event will proceed.*

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 players 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; jersey parents; tournament coordinators; food coordinators and food parents; Wood tournament reps for ERC committee; Wood Tournament fundraising for team; Wood Tournament; 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. Generally, 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 players eat together wherever possible.

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 2020-2021 season are \$975.00 for all AA teams.

Edmonton Residents evaluating at U14/16/19 (ERC Elite) must be registered and pay the fee for evaluations with the ERC (via the ERC website). They should also register for the season on the EFLCRA website (payment of basic registration fee which is portion of ERC registration fee). Both of these fees should be paid in full on or before August 15, 2020. If selected for the team, a top up fee will be collected by the team for ERC.

Any **out of zone players evaluating for ERC Elite** (see Team Selection Policy for eligibility) must be registered and pay the fee for evaluations with the ERC (via the ERC website) and bring a cheque for the full registration fee on the first day of evaluations. The registration cheque will be cashed if the player is selected for the team.

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 fundraise to fi-

nance team activities. As stated above, individual families can offset their ringette costs by selling grocery cards.

For players evaluating for the **Edmonton WAM!**, the ERC evaluation fee must be paid prior to date - TBA. A cheque for registration fees must 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 TBA per athlete for approximately 25-30 games (possibly 1-2 practice slots per season). For more information, please contact Jessica Middleton at j.a.m22@hotmail.com

11. Apparel /Equipment/Fan Packs

All ERC Elite players 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 approximately \$155 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 U18AA will receive an Elite jacket and equipment bag compliments of the ERC. New coaches will also receive a jacket.

Standard team apparel (one dry fit/warm up shirt and hoodie) will be determined by the ERC and paid for by the athlete. Black leggings or club approved black pants are acceptable. The total cost for the mandatory ERC apparel will be circa \$100-\$110. Apparel will be coordinated immediately after teams are formed. A group order will be submitted in September each year. Teams often purchase other apparel during the course of the year (such as the Wood Tournament t-shirt). This is a team by team decision.

The ERC will also provide an optional apparel catalog for players and different apparel options for fans.

12. AGM / Board

Attendance at the AGM is mandatory.

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 one of the other volunteer roles or committees. The AGM will be in late September or early October. Full details will be provided respecting opportunities to volunteer.

13. 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 for more details. In addition, the ERC is governed by by-laws and has adopted other 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, Christine Kearney at 31chrisk2@gmail.com or call (780) 717-9332

Vice-President, Kelly Keylor at Kelly.Keylor@pcisupply.com or call (780) 717-2990

Evaluations Director, Jodie Mohr at jrmohr@telus.net or call 780-914-1628

Good luck!

Christine Kearney

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