

Information for U14-aged Participants

Ringette BC is pleased to announce changes coming for the U14 division as part of the new 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. Specific information regarding implementation timelines will be released shortly.

Background

The 2019-2023 Strategic Plan seeks to achieve Ringette BC's Vision, Mission and Values. As part of the implementation and road map for the next five years of the Strategic Plan, Ringette BC has released the *Athlete Experience Pathways* report, which provides background and explains the changes to the competition framework and athlete pathways.

Why the change?

Drop-out rates for athletes, especially female athletes, is high at U14. Ringette BC loses 40% of its athletes between those moving into U14 and those moving into U16. The current high-performance entry model at U14 is not sustainable and may, in fact, be contributing to the dropout rate by streaming athletes out of competitive play too early while limiting access to development opportunities. Too few athletes have access to high performance competition and training opportunities under the current model.

U14 Zone Representative Division

Ringette BC has created a new U14 Division that merges together U14A and U14AA into geographically-representative Zone teams.

Key Characteristics:

- ⦿ For U14-aged athletes who are seeking to play at a higher level and are in the late stages of the *Train to Train* stage of the Long-Term Athlete Development model
- ⦿ All U14 Zone teams will compete at the Provincial Championships with the goal of qualifying to compete at Western Canadian Ringette Championships.
- ⦿ All U14 Zone teams in the province will compete against each other throughout the season
 - Teams will be required to attend a minimum of one tournament in *each league* that hosts a U14 Zone team
 - Out of province travel is optional, with the exception of Western Canadian Ringette Championships
- ⦿ Zone teams will be roughly based on the BC Winter Games geographic zones
 - boundaries will be adjusted based on participant registration



How can I get more information? Visit www.ringettebc.ca to view the comprehensive guidelines, our FAQ page and the Athlete Experience Pathway report. **Questions?** Email your questions to strategicplan@bcringette.org.

- ◎ Teams will train and practice within their Zone
 - practices and games will be allocated proportionately based on where players are from
 - For example, if 45% of players come from Club Association A and 55% from Club Association B, each Club Association would allocate ice for practices and games following these proportions.
- ◎ Teams will be female only or male only
 - Vision is that BC will have male only teams to compete with each other at Western Canadian Championships
- ◎ Teams will have 2-3 team events per week
 - Individual training sessions (dryland or multi-sport training) are also encouraged
- ◎ Team costs that are not covered by registration fees are estimated at \$1,100 - \$1,250 per player.
 - A season budget will be prepared by the Team Staff
 - Budget will include items such as the cost of inter-league tournament registration and team apparel.

U14 Club

The Club Pathway is focused on long-term athlete development, sport for life, and building friendships.

Key Characteristics:

- ◎ U14 Community-based “Club” teams will be formed around skill and ability, friendships and age groups
- ◎ All teams are eligible to participate in Provincial Championships
- ◎ Competition is primarily regional with optional travel
- ◎ Teams will have two team events per week
- ◎ Additional development opportunities may be provided at the Club or Zone level
- ◎ Teams in the same age division within each Club Association will be balanced to create more opportunities for meaningful competition under the competition structure:
 - Teams are formed using evaluation criteria and Coach input OR by player draft between Head Coaches.
- ◎ Ringette BC will introduce a new, more flexible Player Pick Up policy for league play, tournaments and Provincial Championships to allow teams that wish to play and more an opportunity to do so, and to provide additional development opportunities to those players that are volunteering for extra games:
 - Players can now be picked up to play in five leagues games and one tournament; and
 - Teams may participate with 50% plus one rostered players provided that the players picked-up have similar ordinals to the players unable to attend.

