

1. What is the proposed staged development approach for the FUN3 division within the NCRRL?

The proposed staged development approach aims to optimize player development by dividing the FUN3 division into two stages: Stage 1 and Stage 2. Stage 1 targets new players and those needing more time to acquire basic skills, focusing on fundamental skill development, including skating, passing, shooting, and game understanding. Stage 2 is tailored for players with more experience or advanced beginner skill levels, emphasizing refinement and advancement of fundamental skills.

2. What are the justifications for implementing staged development?

Implementing staged development allows for stage-appropriate athlete development rather than grouping solely by chronological age. It ensures that all participants receive appropriate support and opportunities for growth, thereby enhancing overall player experience and league quality.

3. Who is involved in this initiative?

This initiative is supported by Ringette Ontario and involves collaboration among NCRRL associations, ERRRA, and Ringette Canada. Each association within the NCRRL will actively participate in implementing and evaluating the staged development approach.

4. When will this staged development approach be implemented?

The staged development approach will be piloted in the 2024-2025 season within the NCRRL.

5. Why is this staged development approach being proposed?

The current structure of the FUN3 division presents challenges in catering to diverse skill levels effectively. By implementing stages, we can provide tailored programming to meet the developmental needs of all players, aligning with Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) principles and enhancing player engagement and retention. This staged model approach should also help with the transition from FUN2 to FUN3.

6. How will player assessments and team allocations be conducted?

Player assessments will be conducted by each association at the beginning of each season using a standardized Skills Matrix, similar to the FUN1 and FUN2 Assessment Tool on the Ringette Ontario website. This will guide associations in evaluating skill levels and assigning players to Stage 1 or Stage 2 teams.

Each association will attempt to achieve an equal number of teams at Stage 1 and Stage 2 to promote balanced competition and development opportunities, aligned with the Skills Matrix. Associations with an odd number of teams will attempt to prioritize a higher number at Stage 2 to promote development within the teams, while ensuring that the teams participating in Stage 2 align with other teams in the league, based on the Skill Matrix.

Associations are to ensure that if there are multiple teams in a Stage that they are balanced. (ie. If an association has 1x Stage 1 team and 2x Stage 2 teams, the goal would be to ensure that both Stage 2 teams are balanced).

7. How will NCRRL tournaments be structured under the staged development approach?

Associations hosting tournaments must clearly communicate which stages (Stage 1 and Stage 2) are offered. Whenever possible, associations should provide pools for both Stage 1 and Stage 2 to accommodate teams at varying skill levels. This ensures that all participating teams have appropriate competition and developmental opportunities aligned with their respective stages.

8. Can teams from the NCRRL attend tournaments outside of the league?

Yes, teams from the NCRRL are allowed to attend tournaments outside of the league. This provides opportunities for teams to gain exposure to different competition levels and environments, contributing to their overall development and experience in ringette.

9. Will players still have the opportunity to receive and accept friend requests under the staged development approach?

This is subject to approval and coordination by each respective association in accordance with their guidelines and policies on friend requests.

10. Will players still be required to rotate positions under the staged development approach?

Yes, the staged development approach encourages coaches to rotate player's positions, in accordance with the Ringette Canada FUN3 guidelines. This rotation helps develop well-rounded players and enhances their understanding of different roles within the team. It also ensures that all players gain experience and skills in different aspects of the game, promoting overall development within the FUN3 division of the NCRRL.

11. Will there be a dedicated goalie for each team under the staged development approach?

No, players will rotate through various positions, including goaltending, in accordance with the Ringette Canada FUN3 guidelines. This rotation helps develop well-rounded players and enhances their understanding of different roles within the team. It also ensures that all players gain experience and skills in different aspects of the game, promoting overall development within the FUN3 division of the NCRRL.

12. How do the Call up rules apply to the stage development approach in FUN3 for league games and tournaments?

All ERRA and NCRRL rules and policies with respect to call ups from both league games and tournaments will still apply to both Stages. However, Stage 2 will be able to call up from both Stage 2 and/or Stage 1, while Stage 1 will only be able to call up from Stage 1 and/or FUN2.

13. Can players move through stages throughout the season? Similarly, can players still move from FUN2 to FUN3 throughout the season?

In addition to the FUN3 guidelines from Ringette Canada, there are many aspects to consider including association size, team sizes etc. This is subject to approval and coordination by each respective association in accordance with their guidelines and policies.

14. Will coaches still be allowed on the ice during league games?

Yes, for Stage 1, if they choose, coaches will be allowed on the ice for the duration of the season for league games. For Stage 2, coaches may choose to stay on the ice for the first part of the season.

15. Will reseeding be required in FUN3 this season?

Yes, reseeding of teams within the Stages will take place in November.

16. What are the considerations for the staged development approach?

The staged development approach benefits both developing and strong players by providing appropriate challenges and support. It fosters a supportive and challenging environment that enhances player engagement and satisfaction, aligning with Ringette Ontario's goals for the FUN3 division.

17. What are the justifications for implementing staged development?

Implementing staged development allows for stage-appropriate athlete development rather than grouping solely by chronological age. It ensures that all participants receive appropriate support and opportunities for growth, thereby enhancing overall player experience and league quality.

18. How will the success of the staged development approach be monitored?

Regular check-ins with associations will assess the effectiveness of the staged development approach. These evaluations will occur before the end-of-season tournament and post-season to ensure ongoing refinement and alignment with league objectives. Coaches, Parents and associations will be able to provide feedback in order to adequately evaluate the success of the pilot.

19. What are the expected outcomes of this initiative?

- Enhanced player development through tailored programming and appropriate challenges for all skill levels.
- Improved player retention and satisfaction due to increased engagement and enjoyment of the game.
- Alignment with LTAD principles and adherence to Ringette Ontario and Ringette Canada guidelines for FUN3.