

Red Deer Ringette Working Instruction: Evaluations and Team Builds			
Location:		Owner	RDR Evaluations Committee
Date of Issue	2018.AUG.31	Revision Cycle	Annually

Revision	Content	Approved By	Date
0	2018/2019 Season Initial Issue	RDR Executive	2018-08-21
1	2019/2020 Season Revision	RDR Executive	2019-08-31
2	2023/2024 Season Revision	RDR Executive	2023-07-04
3	2024/2025 Season Review	RDR Executive	2024-08-16
4	2025/2026 Season Review	RDR Executive	2025-08-14

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the 2025-2026 ringette season! RDR has compiled this information to outline the general principles and procedures behind the 2025-2026 evaluations. The primary goal of evaluations is to fairly and consistently evaluate athletes for placement on teams with players of similar ability. This process will also assist Red Deer Ringette in forming competitively balanced teams where there is more than one team at a given level (i.e. U10 Step 2). The manual will be reviewed annually and updated if required in keeping the document evergreen for continuous improvement. This document provides general level information as well as division specific details.

General Information:

Timing: Evaluations usually start the first week of September, with the intent of forming teams as early as possible while still maintaining a fair and open process. Athletes are encouraged to come to evaluations conditioned and ready to go.

Number of Sessions: For U10/U12&U14, one ice slot will be the timed drills: Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA). The total number of ice sessions will be based on player registration numbers. All players will take part in evaluation games to assess their abilities in game play. To ensure fair and accurate placement, each player must participate in a minimum of two games.

Release of Rosters: The team rosters will be posted once all evaluations are complete and all data has been analyzed.

Evaluators: The evaluators are qualified ringette players with AA and national experience, coaches/parents with multiple years of ringette experience and will be:

- be assigned to an age group to maintain consistency and fairness, where possible.
- work with the Evaluations Director for each session.
- give a rating in every category for any athlete assigned to them as well as a tiering level (overall rating compared to the group); and
- give the raw data results to the appropriate Evaluations Director for compilation of results.

Injury/Inability to Attend: Athletes are expected to attend all their designated ice times, as absences will have a significant impact on final placement. If unable to attend, a written explanation by filling out

the exemption form from the athlete or parent/guardian. This must be completed prior to the start of the evaluation sessions. [2025-2026 Evaluations Exemption Form](#)

It is understood that certain unavoidable factors may contribute to an athlete being unable to attend an ice time, and for these situations, the Evaluations Committee will conduct a review to determine the appropriate team placement. This review may include input from the previous season's coach, normalizing of their scores against their peers and any skill or game evaluations they are able to attend.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Evaluations Committee

To maintain the integrity of evaluation policies, processes and decision making, RDR uses division specific Evaluation Committees (U10 and U12+). The objective of the Evaluation Committees is to provide final review and subsequent approval of recommendations prior to implementation of these decisions. The Evaluations Committee is the final authority.

Membership of the Evaluations Committee should be comprised of at least 5 members. This will be made up of the following people:

- Evaluations Directors
- President
- Vice President Operations
- Coaching Director
- Ad Hoc directors, board members and/or past coaches as required or applicable

Evaluations Directors: Responsible for organizing player skate groups and facilitating evaluations. Responsibilities include coordinating the schedule, volunteers, evaluators, officials, other tactical execution tasks and communication with the players and parents. The Evaluation Director(s) is also responsible for collecting, tabulating and ranking of the player score data as provided by the Evaluators. A second individual from the Evaluations Committee will review and validate the data before final ranking to ensure it was entered correctly.

UAA Evaluators: Responsible for execution of the tasks associated with the UAA time drill testing such as timing, set up, and recording of times. They provide the raw data to the Evaluations Director for data entry.

Game Play Evaluators: Responsible for evaluating the players in game play settings. Parents and coaches may not evaluate any game sessions in which their child or children they may coach take part. RDR will strive to utilize independent evaluators for game play evaluations, if they can be arranged.

For instance, where association members may be required (ie. shortage of evaluators), they will be scheduled to evaluate two divisions removed from their child's division (U12 child, parent would evaluate U16/U19). If there are not enough evaluators, the Evaluations committee may approve them to evaluate one level removed from their child. They provide the raw data to the Evaluations Director for data entry.

Coaching Director: Responsible for recommending head coaches to the Evaluations Committee on applications received. The Coaching Director will also assist the committee in identifying possible coaches if no applications have been received for a division.

Ice Allocator: Works with the Evaluations Directors to establish the ice schedules for evaluations.

President, Vice President Operations: Responsible for supporting Directors and providing guidance and direction as needed.

PLAYER EVALUATION PROCESS:

General Information:

The general evaluation process for each division is as follows (more detail is provided in the following pages):

Active Start (4/5/6 year olds):

- No formal evaluations

U10:

- Universal Athlete Assessment will be completed – 70% of overall player assessment
- Game play scrimmages – 30% of overall player assessment
- Players will be placed based into 1 of 3 levels (Step 1/2/3) based on overall assessment
- The number of teams needed to provide a reasonable variety in game play throughout the season will be a large consideration when determining number of teams in each level. The number of teams at each level in Lacombe Ringette will also be a consideration.

U12:

- The U12 division is still considered Children's Ringette by Ringette Alberta. This will be an athlete's first experience of playing within tiered divisions. To determine player placement, a consistent evaluation process will be utilized to allow for an impartial assessment of the player's total ringette skillset. For the process to be effective, players must attend the evaluation times they are assigned.
- Universal Athlete Assessment will be completed – 50% of overall player assessment
- Game play scrimmages – 50% of overall player assessment
- Teams within this division may include A, B or C or any combination thereof.
- Players will be placed on teams based on overall assessment however, requests can be submitted to evaluations@reddeerringette.com if a parent would prefer their child not be considered for a higher level team.

U14

- Universal Athlete Assessment will be completed – 20% of overall player assessment
- Game play scrimmages – 80% of overall player assessment
- Teams within this division may include A, B and C levels.

- Players will be placed on teams based on overall assessment however, requests can be submitted to evaluations@reddeerringette.com if a parent would prefer their child not be considered for a higher level team.

U16/U19:

- Teams within these divisions may include A or B or C (U16 only) any combination thereof.
- Teams are chosen based upon the Ringette Alberta tiering policy. [Ringette Alberta Tiering Policy](#)
- Where there is more than 1 team at an age division, 100% of player assessment will be done using game scrimmages to place athletes.
- Athlete history will be used to determine the seeding of the initial game play.

For players that at U12 maximum 75% and U14-U19 that wish to be evaluated as a part-time or full-time goalie, see the last section of this document

Detailed Information:

Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA)

- Developed by Ringette Alberta, these are repeatable, timed skill measurements which do not require independent Evaluators. All U10, U12, and U14 athletes will be required to attend an UAA ice session. Please see <http://www.ringettealberta.com/universal-athlete-assessment/> for more detailed information from Ringette Alberta.
- RDR will provide the opportunity for full time goalies to "opt out" of the UAA testing (U14 and Up)
- The UAA portion of the evaluations will be conducted by a UAA Assessment Team, made up of volunteers from the association. If a parent's child is on the ice during that session, the parent must remove themselves from the station where their child is evaluating and switch with another volunteer on the ice at the time.
- In U10, four timed drills will be used:
 - Forward Skate
 - Backward Skate
 - Ring Agility Weave
 - Start and Stop
- In U12 and U14, five timed drills will be used:
 - The previous four identified for U10
 - Butterfly
- Each skill session is designed to test a skating or ring handling skill specific to Ringette in an objective fashion. Players and parents are expected to familiarize themselves with the drills via the Ringette Alberta YouTube video. For clarification when viewing the video - The shooting and passing drills have been eliminated as per RAB 2015 AGM. Each drill will be explained (and demonstrated, if needed) to the group before proceeding.
- For U10, U12 and U14, results of the UAA will be used to determine groupings for the first evaluation game play session. Groupings for subsequent game play sessions will be determined by a combination of UAA results and evaluation results from prior game play sessions.

Player game score criteria:

- The players will be assigned a value between 1-5 for each of the following 5 facets of game play to give a score out of 25 relative to other players on the ice and in their division:
 - **Skating** – speed, edge control, agility, balance
 - **Ring Skills** – passing, shooting, receiving, ring protection
 - **Game Awareness** – positioning, decision-making, adaptability
 - **Positional Play** (where applicable)
- There is opportunity built into the process flow for players to move back and forth between the game play pools based on their scores to ensure they are being suitably challenged in their play and accurately evaluated (see flow charts online).
- Evaluation scores will be provided by the evaluators and compiled by the Evaluations Director. A second person will review the data to ensure it was entered correctly.
- U10 – U14 players will have a cumulative evaluation score based on game play and UAA scores.
- U16 & U19 players will have a cumulative evaluation score based on game play only.

Evaluation Game Format Overview:

- Target team sizes for game play will be maximum 15 skaters per team. Any exception will be determined by the Evaluations committee.
- U10: Game play will consist of a series of “scrimmage games” in a variety of formats (cross ice, ½ ice, full ice, 3 on 3, 4 on 4 and/or 5on5) as determined by the Evaluations Committee.
- U12-U19: Game play evaluations will consist of a series of games. The ice time will consist of a warm-up followed by game play. The game format may be 3 on 3, 4 vs 4 and / or 5 vs 5 as determined by the Evaluation Committee. The game format will be indicated prior to the start of the game.
- The Evaluations committee may use a timed buzzer to initiate line changes at U10-U14 to ensure equal shift length for all players. At the sound of the buzzer or whistle the players will abandon the ring and leave the ice. The next line will rotate onto the ice.
- Players may be reorganized by the volunteers on the bench to prevent the same players from playing together on every shift. (**Note: Volunteers on the bench are not permitted to instruct or coach any player through the process**)
- A member of the evaluations committee will be assigned to maintain game flow and assist bench volunteers. Referees will be utilized as available.
- After each game session, the evaluations committee will review the data to determine player placement for subsequent evaluation games. Some players may not be required to continue evaluation games if deemed that enough data has been collected on those players. This is a necessary step to allow the remainder of the players additional ice time for the evaluators to determine the proper player rank.
- Players must play at least two evaluations games. If injury occurs during the games, see the above section for athlete exemption requirements.

Team Tier Level Determinations

- Minimum team level will be determined by relative team UAA scores for U10, U12 and U14 as per Ringette Alberta Guidelines and [Tiering Policy](#). Final levels are subject to change
- For U16/U19 age groups Ringette Alberta mandates the tier levels for any association with any number of teams.
- Team roster sizes will be dependent on the number of players registered in each division. The actual number will be determined by the Evaluations Committee and in accordance with Ringette Alberta Guidelines.

Team Builds:

- Players will be put into rank order based on their cumulative evaluation score.
- After reviewing the rank order list, the evaluations committee will determine the number and level of teams in each division
- Where **more than one team** is to be created at a division level, the evaluations committee will put the players in rank order and draft pools will be formed.
 - Coaches will then be selected based on the player pools.
 - Coaches will then “draft” teams by alternating first choice in each pool of players.
 - Upon completion of the draft the coaches will be asked to confirm they agree that the teams appear equitable.
 - The Evaluations committee will have final say on Team selection.
 - The coaches and Evaluations Committee will sign off completing the draft process and Team selection.
 - The teams will be posted

If there is more than one team in the same division and same level, an additional ice time may be used as an inter-squad game to ensure that the two teams are drafted into balanced groups within the division level.

Goalie Evaluations

- At U10, players will not be evaluated as goalies
- For U12+, goalies will be assessed by a goaltender evaluator
- U12 will only be allowed to play a maximum of 75% of the time as a goalie.
- If a U14+ player has chosen to be a full time goalie, they will be evaluated as a goalie during game play
- In addition to game evaluation, full time goaltenders will also have the opportunity, dependent on ice availability, to evaluate in a separate goaltender skill assessment. This skill assessment will be overseen by the goalie director and be worth 30% of their cumulative score.
- There will be several skills evaluated during these ice times and goalies will receive a score on each skill being evaluated.

The skills evaluated will be:

- Goalie Skating
- Goalie Positioning
- Goalie Ring Skills & Stick Work

- Goalie Mobility
- Number of goalies per team will be at the discretion of the Evaluations Committee. Applicable evaluation scores will assist in determining final placement in addition to ensuring each level has a goalie to make teams viable.

U10 Division Additional Information:

- The U10 division should not be considered tiered division but a development pathway. The “steps” have been created so that athletes of varying skill, experience and readiness can be successful. It recognizes the importance of the whole athlete, not just an athlete’s chronological age or skill set. This holistic approach is optimal for long-term athlete development.
- Athletes in the U10 division is divided into steps. They are:
 - Step 1 (approx. 0-2 years in ringette, 6-8 years old)
 - Step 2 (approx. 1-3 years in ringette, 7-9 years old)
 - Step 3 (approx. 2-4 years in ringette, 8-9 years old)
- Every child is an individual and therefore will not necessarily progress from one step to the next in a linear fashion. One athlete may repeat a step, and another may skip a step season to season.
- In the U10 division, the Evaluations committee may also consider the following in placement of athletes:
 - Overall assessment score
 - Fine and gross motor skills - skating / ringette;
 - Intellectual maturity.
 - Social-emotional readiness; and
 - Chronological age
 - Physical size
- Step 3 team(s) are selected first, followed by Step 2 team(s), and then Step 1 team(s). The selection process is monitored by the Evaluations Committee to make sure the process is followed, and the best interests of the athletes and the association are considered.
- Not all U10 Steps may not be offered in a given season depending on evaluations, registration, age groupings by year etc.

Dispute Resolution

In the event of a dispute regarding player placement within a division, the parent or player if of age can lodge a dispute to be heard by the evaluation committee. This dispute will need to be accompanied by a \$500 non-refundable fee. Disputes must be lodged within 48hrs of team formation.

Final UAA scores will be released upon request for a fee of \$100 to the parent/guardian of their athlete. No game scores will be released under any circumstances.

Contacts:

- Director of Evaluations: evaluations@reddeerringette.com

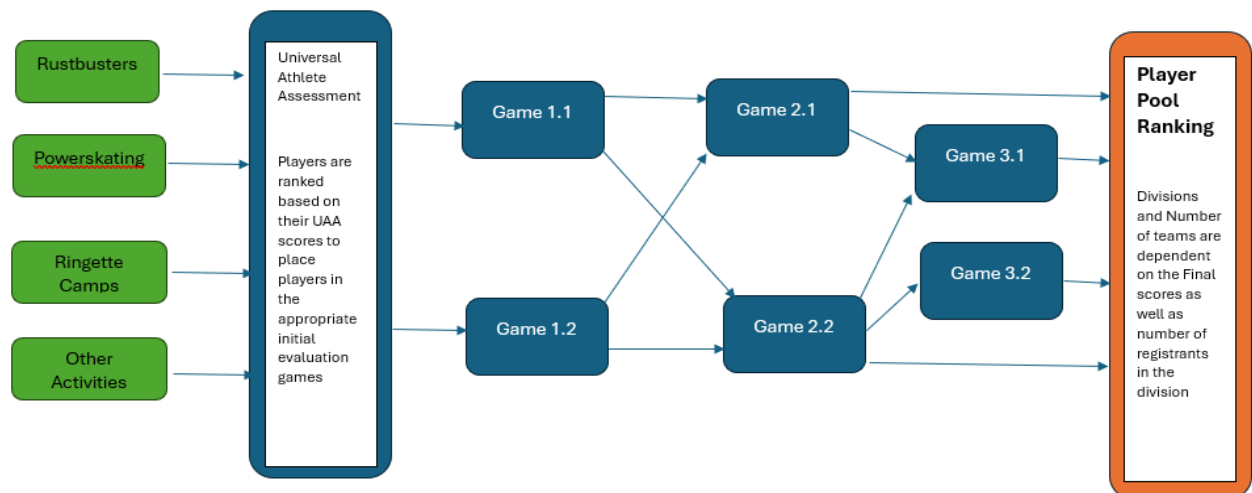
Communication:

- The schedules posted to the RDR website will be considered the master schedules. Athletes are expected to check the website on a regular basis for updates.
- Athletes are expected to attend all posted ice times they are assigned to on the web.
- Team rosters will be posted to the web after all the evaluation ice times are completed and teams are determined for a full Division (example U12A/B/C).

Sample Flow Chart

Flow charts for each individual year will be updated and posted to the RDR website in August, once final registration numbers are determined. *Please refer to the website for the final flowchart information.*

Sample U12/U14 Flowchart



APPENDICES:**APPENDIX A: Weighting of Evaluation Scores by Division**

	U10	U12	U14	U16	U19
UAA SKILLS SESSION	70%	50%	20%	N/A	N/A
GAME PLAY SESSIONS	30%	50%	80%	100%	100%