



Hello Associations,

Ringette Ontario is pleased to be launching our Children's Ringette Program for the 2020-2021 ringette season. Children's Ringette is an initiative to provide age and stage appropriate physical activity experiences for young ringette players U10 and under. The adapted program will involve changes to how the current U6-U9 programs run while keeping the U10 division under the same format.

Children's Ringette is characterized by smaller spaced games, smaller "right sized nets", focus is on fun and play, and grouping children together based on their individual skill and readiness rather than strictly age based teams. The adaptations to the program will see the creation of FUNdamentals 1 and FUNdamentals 2.

The FUNdamentals divisions will see a shift from full ice ringette to cross-ice ringette in FUNdamentals 1 and half ice (mini ringette) in FUNdamentals 2. If available, both divisions should be using small sized nets, and will play adapted games of 3 on 3 and 4 on 4. Smaller spaces mean increased opportunities for your player to touch the ring, play interaction, passing and shots on net. Teams will be split into smaller groups to ensure the majority of players are participating at a time.

Associations can hold two to three cross-ice games at a time on a single sheet of ice and up to two mini ringette games. This means that the ice is being fully utilized and will lead to reduced ice costs for these divisions.

Ringette Ontario has prepared a presentation on the changes to the program that can be viewed on the RO website at: <https://ringetteontario.com/childrens-ringette/>. The presentation lays out the details on the adapted game formats, how registration will be done, and provides some insights into how other sports are adapting their sports to best suit the development of their youngest participants.

For the coming season, the RO registration system has been updated to reflect FUNdamentals 1 (U6) and FUNdamentals 2 (U8) as part of the transition to Children's Ringette across the province. It is not expected that all associations that run programs for participants under 9 years of age will be able to fully implement FUN1 and FUN2 for the 2020-21 season but we do encourage you to promote FUN1 for all first and second year players to ensure they are moving through the system under the new programming and not taking a step back from full ice to cross/half ice next season.

Ringette Ontario also acknowledges that COVID-19 may impact the ability to make changes to programming or implement Children's Ringette this coming season. It is important to understand that all new players to ringette need to have basic skating skills in order to be a part of any ringette program, as coaches and on-ice volunteers may be limited in numbers



and restricted in their ability to have physical contact with the participants.

As with sport of every season, numbers may impact and dictate programming for our U10 and below age groups; the way one association may be able to run these programs may look different than their neighbouring associations program. If you have questions on what will work best for your association as you begin to adjust your programming into Children's Ringette, please contact myself and we will work together to ensure we are creating programming in the best interests of all involved.

Any questions regarding Children's Ringette can be submitted to [techdirector@ringetteontario.com](mailto:techdirector@ringetteontario.com).

Sincerely,

Karla Xavier  
Technical Director