

Coming Soon....New Provincial AA Ringette League!

Ringette Alberta and Sport for Life are pleased to announce the development of a Provincial AA Ringette league in the coming months. This ringette league will be overseen by a Provincial AA Ringette Committee, members of which will be appointed by Ringette Alberta. Direct programming would continue to be offered by approved AA programming providers.

As part of this process, the Provincial AA Ringette Committee will sign agreements with AA program providers to continue the high quality of AA programming in Alberta and to ensure consistency in programming.

Background

Through the *Every Kid Can Play* Grant, Ringette Alberta, with the support of Sport for Life, was able to conduct an extensive consultation with a wide range of organizations and individuals in the ringette community. This consultation highlighted that AA is widely regarded as being a successful program in Alberta, particularly given its strong results at national competitions. However, many emphasized the need for greater consistency in programming, *competitive parity*, and *accessibility* for all athletes.

Why the changes?

- To build on the strengths of current AA programming by aligning the best components and providing dedicated, consistent, and provincial support for the AA program.
- To improve competitive equity for all levels of ringette.

When can we expect to see these changes implemented?

Ringette Alberta is aiming to have these changes implemented by the 2026-2027 season.

Who will lead these initiatives?

Ringette Alberta will lead this initiative with the support of Sport for Life and a fixed-term AA Provincial Working Group Committee, comprised of:

- Ringette Alberta staff/representatives
- Representation from each regional AA program provider
- Athlete development specialists/technical advisors and
- Additional members appointed based on expertise or stakeholder representation.

How will the Provincial AA League Committee be comprised?

The Committee will be comprised of members appointed by Ringette Alberta and may include:

- Ringette Alberta representative (Board or appointed) and/or Ringette Alberta staff
- AA Representatives from each region
- Athlete development specialist or technical advisors.
- Additional members may be appointed based on expertise or stakeholder representation.

What is the role of the Provincial AA League Committee?

The AA Provincial League Committee will guide, support, and oversee the operation of the AA ringette provincial league. This committee will ensure alignment with Ringette Alberta's strategic objectives, foster collaboration among stakeholders, and promote Long Term Development principles while maintaining consistent, athlete-centered practices province-wide.

Some specific responsibilities may include:

- Develop policies, procedures
- Determine staff requirements
- Plan and manage operating budgets
- Manage agreements
- Schedule games and officials
- Manage ice allocation
- Support conflict resolution
- Communications
- Conduct annual reviews, including examination of competitive equity, and facilitate continuous improvement

Why will there be agreements between Ringette Alberta / the Provincial AA League Committee and AA Associations?

Agreements will provide clarity to AA program providers, participants, the Provincial AA Committee and League, and to Ringette Alberta. Examples will include:

- Commitments to the number of years that a AA program will be offered by a specific provider (for example, 3 or 4 years) and at which age groups (U14, U16, U19)
- Commitments to player-centric programming
- Commitments to Long-Term Development principles
- Commitment to grassroots development through player and coach development opportunities

Why are agreements needed when the quality of AA programming is already very high in Alberta?

Yes, AA programming is already strong in Alberta. These agreements will build on those strengths and encourage more collaboration between organizations of all levels, provide more consistency in programming across AA providers, and provide clarity as to what the AA program provides.

Practically, what does this mean for most players' experience of AA programming? Will it change?

There may be some changes to tournaments and league play in order to streamline competitive play and provide opportunities for all teams to compete across Alberta. Direct programming will still be provided by regional AA program providers.

Does this mean that all AA levels of ringette will be playing regularly in a provincial AA league?

Not necessarily - competition format will still be determined based on what is appropriate for the different developmental levels of ringette (U14, U16, U19).

What does this mean for players who are interested in playing AA or who play in other levels of ringette? What does this mean for coaches not currently coaching AA?

Part of the goal of the Provincial AA Committee and associated agreements is to encourage collaboration across the ringette system in Alberta and to encourage more player and coach development opportunities, and to increase the level of play at all levels.

Are there any special considerations when establishing the new AA Provincial Ringette League and Committee?

Special consideration will be given to:

- Ice availability, allocation, and impact of recommendations
- Goalie development and implications
- Officials
- Tournaments, regular game play and HUB participation
- Accessibility
- Cost
- Long Term Development of participants/athletes