



## SPRA Children's Ringette Registration Guide

### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to parents who are unsure which stage-based group to register their child.

### Scope

Children's Ringette, as defined by Ringette Canada includes Active Start and U10 Step 1, 2, and 3. For the purposes of the Sherwood Park Ringette Association (SPRA) Children's Ringette guidelines, the Ringette Canada stage-based group definition will be used, along with elements of Ringette Alberta Children's Ringette Guidelines.

### Stage Based Groups

#### Active Start (AS)

The goal of SPRA's Active Start is to facilitate an introduction to the sport of ringette, build confidence, emphasize participation and fun, and develop basic on-ice skills while still allowing for engagement with other sports and activities (ice times are typically once per week). Active Start is the first step in a player's ringette career and does not have defined league play.

#### U10

The goal of SPRA's U10 program is to welcome back returning players (typically under the age of 10) and introduce new players (typically over age 7 or experienced 6 year olds) to the sport. The program is tailored to meet the child's developmental needs at a particular stage (Steps 1, 2, and 3), rather than chronological age (although age guidance is a consideration). SPRA's U10 program facilitates the development of foundational ringette skills, such as skating, ring control and game play. Through Universal Athlete Assessments (UAAs) and consideration to player developmental readiness as governed by Ringette Alberta's Guidelines for Children's Ringette, the player will be placed within the U10 stage-based group that is best for them as a whole, not just based on their age.

Readiness in the following areas is considered when placing an athlete within a stage-based grouping:

- Ringette IQ
- Experience
- Age, Maturity, Size
- Readiness to Learn/Readiness for Competition
- Team Balancing/Size

## Age Progression Models to Support Decision-Making

Along with the above considerations, the following info-graphic is a guideline to support decision making for registration purposes.

Child starts playing ringette at 4-5 years old

Age 4/5	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10
AS	AS/U10S1	U10S1	U10S1/S2	U10S2/S3	U12

Child starts playing ringette at 6 years old

	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10
	AS	U10S1	U10S1/S2	U10S2/S3	U12

\*\*exceptions may exist where a child is experienced and may start in U10 at 6

Child starts playing ringette at 7 years old

		Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10
		U10S1	U10S1/S2	U10S2/S3	U12

\*\*exceptions may exist where a child has limited or no skating experience

Child starts playing ringette at 8 years old

			Age 8	Age 9	Age 10
			U10S1	U10S2/S3	U12

If an athlete has not demonstrated proficiency in the majority of the basic skills of the program, consideration will be given to extra development at a lower level, or the athlete may remain at a level for multiple years. Conversely, if an athlete is ready for further development and challenges, chronological age should not be a hindrance when comparing with physical and athletic development.

When friend requests are in play, placement is dependent upon which grouping the players fall within after evaluations (U10 UAAs). A higher evaluated player may move down to play with a friend however a lower evaluated player cannot move up unless there are exceptional circumstances whereby it is beneficial for the player and the association (ex. team viability is in jeopardy). Requests of this nature will be taken into consideration upon team formation however no assurances can be made.

All decisions on player placement are at the discretion of SPRA (with the support of tools such as [Ringette Essentials](#), SPRA guidelines, player evaluation, and the decisions made by the Team Selection Committee).