



SPRA Evaluation Information 2023/24 Season

Overview

Welcome to the 2023 - 2024 ringette season. Sherwood Park Ringette Association (SPRA) has compiled this information to outline the general principles and procedures behind the upcoming season's evaluation process.

- The primary goal of the SPRA Player Evaluation Guideline is to fairly and consistently evaluate athletes in different age groups for the purpose of placing them on teams with athletes of similar ability.
- SPRA evaluations are conducted in accordance with the SPRA Evaluations and Team Selection policy. The association is focused on providing fun and competitive teams for its athletes.
- At the beginning of the ringette season, athletes from all divisions will have the opportunity to attend up to 5 evaluation ice times, depending on the division and level of play.
- Evaluation ice times help develop an overall assessment of each athlete's ringette skill level and game sense to determine their most appropriate playing level within their division. Fundamental skills are weighted more heavily in younger divisions, while game sense and awareness become more important in older divisions.
- Evaluations also assist SPRA in determining level of play and forming competitively balanced teams within divisions that have more than one team at a given level.
- It is important athletes attend all their designated ice times. Absences from evaluation skates can have a significant impact on final placement. Exceptions, such as illness or injury, may be taken into consideration. In this case, a written explanation from the athlete or parent/guardian, along with supporting medical documentation, may be required, and must be submitted to the appropriate Division Director as soon as possible. Potential exceptions will be evaluated on a

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case-by-case basis by the Team Selection Committee to determine appropriate placement.

Player Pathways

- Player pathways refer to the typical progression of a player from level to level as they develop.
- Evaluations are considered alongside player progression pathways to give players the best chance to compete with players of comparative abilities.
- Player trajectory is defined largely by player development season to season, but will be influenced by number of registrants in the division and the past performance of teams for that cohort. The number of registrants is used by Ringette Alberta (RAB) to determine the number of teams at each level in a division.
- Long term athlete development requires player progression pathways that are developmentally appropriate, while also increasing participation and optimizing performance, to allow athletes to have fun and play to their potential.
 - The long-term athlete development model developed by Sport Canada is firmly rooted in the science of human development not only from a physical development perspective but also from a mental and emotional development perspective.¹
- Historical player progression data from RAB provides a strong predictor of player pathways, which is combined with evaluation scores and guidelines on teams per level in a division to form final teams.
- Returning athletes in a division do not generally move down a level without extenuating circumstances, but will not necessarily move up a level. Athletes moving up an age division can have more variable placements, but historical data can be used to predict expected progression to confirm appropriate number of athletes and teams at a given level.

¹ https://www.ringette.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Ringette_LTAD_mag_EN_WEBversion.pdf

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Roles and Responsibilities

A combination of volunteers and independent 3rd party evaluators will participate in the evaluation process.

- **3rd Party Evaluators**
 - Competitive Thread will conduct the U10-U14 UAA evaluations, with game play evaluations conducted by independent 3rd Party Evaluators.
 - Independent 3rd Party Evaluators will conduct the U16 to U19 evaluations.
- **Evaluation Coordinator** – Oversees and orients the 3rd party evaluators, and liaises with the Vice-President (VP), Director of Player Development, and Division Directors to ensure evaluation guidelines are followed. The Evaluation Coordinator is the administrator of the evaluation software.
- **Division Directors** – Responsible for organizing player skate groups, jersey number/color assignments and recruiting volunteers to assist with scrimmage evaluations. Directors are also responsible for all communication with players and parents in conjunction with the Evaluation Coordinator and VP.
- **Director of Coaching Development** – Responsible for working with the President and Vice-President on organizing for the Coach Selection Committee with potential Head Coach candidates as well as providing feedback and/or recommendations to selected Head Coaches for possible Assistant Coach candidates. The SPRA Team Selection Process is to be followed.
- **Director of Player Development** – Responsible for working with the Evaluation Coordinator, and liaising with all Divisional Directors.
- **Ice Allocator** – Works with VP and Division Directors to establish and communicate the ice schedule for evaluations.
- **President** – Responsible for ensuring the SPRA's Bylaws, and Guidelines and Procedures Manual are adhered to during the evaluation process.
- **Vice President** – Responsible for supporting the Evaluation Coordinator, Division Directors and providing guidance and direction as needed.

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- **Coach Development Director and Coach Selection Committee** – Responsible for selecting and placing the coaches after evaluations are complete.
- **Coaches** – May provide feedback and input to the Team Selection Committee when required.

Team Selection Committee

- To maintain the integrity of evaluation policies, processes and decision making, SPRA uses a Team Selection Committee (TSC). The objective of the TSC is to provide final review and subsequent approval of recommendations prior to implementation of these decisions.
- Members of the Team Selection Committee must include a minimum of three people from the following and additional board members as needed, and will ensure any real or perceived conflict of interest is addressed as per SPRA Policy:
 - Director of Player Development
 - Appropriate Division Director
 - Director of Coaching Development
 - Evaluation Coordinator
 - President and/or Vice President

Evaluation Specifics by Age Group

- For more information on U10 Evaluations [click here](#).
- For more information on U12 – 19 Evaluations [click here](#).

We are all Volunteers!

- As we begin another season, we would like to remind you that we are all volunteers. Without volunteers on the board or at the rink, there would be no association for your children to participate in.
- We understand that sometimes things may not go as planned or mistakes may happen, but we ask that you please be kind and understanding towards our volunteers.

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We are all in this for the athletes and want to provide them with a positive and enjoyable experience.

- Please keep in mind that we are doing our best to create a safe and fun environment for your children to learn and grow. We appreciate your support and cooperation throughout the season. Thank you.

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