



SPRA Children's Ringette Registration Guide

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to parents on which stage-based group to register their child if new to ringette, or which division to register a returning player.

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), the Ringette Canada stage-based group definition will be used, aligning with 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. A player can progress through Active start levels within the SPRA program. Depending on birth year and level of skating experience upon their first season, a player may play their first year in Active Start 1 and progress to Active Start 2 their second season with the association.

U10

The goal of SPRA's U10 program is to introduce new players and welcome back returning players within the birth year range for U10 in any given year. The program is tailored to meet the child's developmental needs at a particular stage (Steps 1, 2, and 3), rather than strictly focus on chronological age (although age guidance is a consideration) while ensuring competitiveness at each Step.

SPRA's U10 program facilitates the development of foundational ringette skills, such as skating, ring control and game play, while emphasizing key **intangible** attributes that are critical to team and individual success such as **focus, sportsmanship, effort, coachability, attitude, maturity, leadership and self-discipline**.

Through the U10 evaluation program 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, with birth year as a consideration.

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



- Ringette IQ
- Years of previous experience
- Level played the previous season
- Age, maturity, size
- Previous seasons coach feedback
- Readiness to learn/readiness for competition
- Team balancing/size
- Division balancing

Age Progression Models to Support Decision-Making

Along with the above considerations, the following infographic is a guideline to support decision making for registration purposes. **Note: Birth year is used to establish a player's age**

Child starts playing ringette at 5 years old

Age 4/5	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10
AS1/2	AS2	U10S1	U10S1/S2	U10S2/S3	U12

Child starts playing ringette at 6 years old

	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10
	AS2	U10S1	U10S1/S2	U10S2/S3	U12

**exceptions may exist where a child is experienced, evaluates accordingly, and proceeds directly to 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 skating experience, evaluates accordingly is 8 or 9 and is placed at Step 1

Child starts playing ringette at 8 years old

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

**exceptions may exist where a child has limited skating experience, is 8 or 9 and is placed at Step 1

If an athlete has not demonstrated proficiency in the majority of the basic skills of the program, or previous coach feedback indicates that a player is not ready to compete at the next level and needs more time to develop one or many of the attributes outlined above (focus, sportsmanship, effort, coachability, attitude, maturity, leadership and self-discipline) consideration will be given to extra development at a lower level, or the athlete may remain at a level for multiple years.

U10 Standard of Entry

SPRA reserves the right to limit the number of under-aged U10 players to ensure U10 teams remain within acceptable sizes, and to ensure teams are socially and developmentally appropriate for the U10 age range. Players outside of the minimum birth year range for U10 will be required meet minimum evaluation standards (based on association needs in a given season) and still may



be required to remain in Active Start for the season regardless of parent preference in order to support the needs of the division and association overall.

Friend requests

SPRA recognizes the importance of social belonging in sport especially at the younger ages. As such, every effort is made to accommodate one friend request per player in Active Start, U10 Step 1 and U10 Step 2. (NOTE: SPRA does not accept friend requests for Step 3 players)

However, player placement is dependent upon evaluations therefore a friend request will not supersede that determination. For Example:

A player evaluates and is placed at step 2. Their friend request evaluates and is placed at Step 1. The Step 2 player may elect to move down to play with a friend if that is the priority for the family, in the best interest of the player and the association, however the Step 1 player cannot “play up”. Note that team viability and association needs would be considered before any movement of a player outside of their step or age division.

All decisions on player placement are at the discretion of SPRA and are final (in alignment with resources such as [Ringette Essentials](#), SPRA guidelines, player evaluation, and the decisions made by the Team Selection Committee). There is no right of appeal to decisions on player placement per Section 11.1 of the SPRA Guidelines and Procedures Manual.