



SPRA U12 – U19 Evaluation Guidelines 2023/24 Season

SPRA Evaluation Sessions

- Sherwood Park Ringette Association (SPRA) evaluations generally start on the September Long weekend.
- All sessions begin with the intent of forming teams as early as possible while still maintaining a fair and open process.
- It is SPRA's intention to allow for an opportunity for conditioning skates or pre-UAA skate's, prior to the commencement of evaluations. This will depend on Ringette Alberta (RAB) evaluation directives and ice availability.
- Team selection will be based on the following (dependent on cohort size):
 - U12 – UAA and up to 3 evaluation skates
 - U14/U14AA – UAA and up to 3 evaluation skates (4 games for U14AA)
 - U16/U16AA – up to 3 evaluation skates and game play
 - U19 – up to 3 evaluation skates and game play
- All communications regarding ice times and groupings will be communicated by the appropriate Division Director by email and through the division webpage on the SPRA website.

Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA)

- All U12 and U14 athletes are required to attend a UAA ice session as designated by Ringette Alberta.
- This will measure skating proficiency in the areas of forward skating, backwards skating, tight turns, and pivots.
- There may be up to 30 players on the ice for each UAA session.

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- Results of the UAA will be used to determine groupings for the first evaluation scrimmage for U12 and U14 A/B/C.
- Groupings for subsequent scrimmages will be determined by a combination of UAA results and evaluation results from prior scrimmages.
- The UAA results presented as average scores for all players will be used within the association to support athlete and program development. The UAA information will also be provided to RAB in accordance with their time constraints.
- While UAA Scores are not used in determining individual player ranking within their division, SPRA will use the RAB Target Team Scores and Target Ranges to form their teams.
- Each team's Team Score shall be as close as possible to the Target Team Score for that tier, and each athlete's score should be within the Target Range for the tier.
- Aggregate UAA scores are used to ensure SPRA teams are declared in the appropriate division for their skill level.
- Missing UAAs will have an impact on an athlete's placement.
- See RABs UAA page for more information: <http://ringettealberta.com/universal-athlete-assessment/>

Skills and Scrimmage Session

- Independent 3rd party evaluators will be contracted for skills and scrimmage evaluations.
- These evaluators will assess athletes relative to the group they are playing with, on a scale of 1-5, in the areas of skating and ring skills (ring control, passing and shooting) as well as game sense/team play. Evaluators will be encouraged to use the full 1-5 scale for ranking players during the evaluations.

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- When independent evaluators are not available, the Evaluation Coordinator will recruit qualified evaluators from coaches and older players, none of whom have any direct connection to the Division being evaluated.
- Some player movement between groups is required after each evaluation session. Player movement can include movement between skating groups, or between teams within a skating group.
- All players will have a cumulative evaluation score based on all evaluations to date (including on ice skills and scrimmage evaluations, and UAA scores if applicable) to determine subsequent ice times.
- At the end of the evaluation process, the athlete will be ranked based on all evaluation scores to generate the draft lists.¹
- Scrimmage game play usually consists of 5 on 5.
- Players and parents will be asked to reconfirm their preferred and secondary positions when checking in.
- Players will be assigned a pinnie color & number-players need to sign these out/in for each session.
- Player's shifts will be as equal as possible (note: this will include playing with different players and in different positions).
- During gameplay, whistles and down-time will be minimized to keep the flow of the game continuous.
- Play will be controlled by 1-2 referees observing regular game play rules, including the use of the thirty second shot clock.
- Line change expectations will be outlined to players and bench staff prior to the start of the game.
- Players and refs will be briefed on the method used for penalties prior to Skate 1.

¹ Note: Athlete's participating in AA who are released will not have their scores carry over to any other evaluation sessions.

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- Game sessions should not exceed 10 – 15 skaters per team, to ensure the evaluators can adequately assess all players in all categories. Lines will rotate onto the ice in the assigned order, as determined by their pinny number. The players may be re-organized periodically throughout the scrimmage to prevent the same players playing together on every shift.
- During the U12 and U14 evaluation scrimmage athletes are provided the opportunity to play regular game play, with referees.
- Bench volunteers are responsible for swinging the gates but do not track ice time, manage lines or provide direction to the players.
- If there is an occasion where a player is asked to play an alternate position, the Division Director will discuss with the parent prior.
- During U16 and U19 evaluations, the players will typically be allowed to play their preferred positions provided there are proportional numbers of preferred positions on each team.
- Prospective coaches are not on the bench for the evaluation, and parent volunteers are not on the same bench as their child.

Game play assessment

- Game play assessment is cumulative and is based on a 1-5 point scale. Players are evaluated on:
 - Skating and Ring skills-skating and agility, ring movement, passing, receiving, shooting
 - Game Sense- zone awareness (defensive/offensive), creating advantage, player support, marking, checking, transition, communication, aggressiveness vs trepidation, team play, attitude, and effort

U12 Division

- The U12- division is still considered Children's Ringette by Ringette Alberta.
- This will be an athletes first experience of playing within tiered divisions.

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- To determine player placement, a consistent evaluation process will be utilized to allow for an impartial assessment of a player's total ringette skillset.
- For the process to be effective, players must attend the evaluation ice times they are assigned.
- U12 teams will be made up of a combination of A, B, and C levels.
- Following the completion of evaluations, Head Coaches will be given a formed team for their season. This aligns with the principles of Children's Ringette.

U14 – U19 Divisions

- U14 teams may be made up of a combination of AA, A, B and C levels.
- U16 teams may be made up of a combination of AA, A, and B levels. *Note: RAB is piloting a C level this season and SPRA is investigating the viability of this tier for the upcoming season.
- U19 team(s) may be made up of a combination of AA, A, and B levels.
- Minimum team level will be determined by relative team score for U12 and U14 UAA team scores as per Ringette Alberta guidelines and Tiering Policy. ([Ringette Alberta 4.0 Tiering Policy](#))
- Final levels are subject to change based on further/comparison within Black Gold League. ** Team roster sizes will be dependent on the number of players of players registered in each division.
- The actual number will be determined by the Team Selection Committee and in accordance with SPRA Bylaws, Guidelines and Procedures, and Ringette Alberta Guidelines.
- For players that wish to be evaluated as a part-time or full-time goalie, see the last section in this document.
- Once U14AA, U16AA, and U19AA teams are selected, those players not selected will then attend the rest of their divisional evaluation skates.

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Goalies (U14 to U19 Divisions)

- For U14+, goalies will be assessed by goaltender evaluators.
- If a player is chosen to be a full time/part time goalie, they will be evaluated as a goalie during game play.
- In addition to the scrimmage evaluation, full time goaltenders will also have the opportunity, dependent on ice availability, to evaluate in a separate goaltender skill assessment (U14, U16, U19).
- The Division Directors and/or on-ice volunteer will ensure that each full-time goalie receives equal playing time. Where requested by part time goalies, they will be given opportunity to be evaluated as a goalie while attempting to give them a fair evaluation for their time playing out.
- There will be several skills evaluated during these ice times and goalies will receive a score on each skill being evaluated.
- The skills evaluated will be:
 - Goalie Skating
 - Goalie Positioning
 - Goalie Ring Skills & Ring Distribution
 - Goalie Mobility
- The number of goalies per team will be at the discretion of the Team Selection Committee based on each level having a goalie in order to make teams competitive at each level, as well as taking evaluation scores for each goaltender into consideration for final placement.

Import Players

- SPRA has received an increase in requests from players outside of Strathcona County boundaries wanting to register with the association.
- SPRA acknowledges our responsibility in providing opportunities to athletes who don't have access to their desired programming within their own community but

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must balance those requests with opportunities to our local athletes and families and consider the potential impact to finite resources (like ice).

- For the 2023-24 season, SPRA will accept applications from athletes interested in trying out for AA teams at each of the 3 Divisions offering an AA team this year (U14, U16, & U19).
- Interested applications can fill out the form located here for consideration by the Association:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpSjTD83NcmKSIqdipLG2C9ak_w2SFalCa2ACoLLwMABmKyQ/viewform?pli=1
- Ringette Alberta's Residency policy also provides helpful information:
<https://ringettealberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/3.0-Residency-Policy-August-2021.pdf>
- Final decision and acceptance of import players will be made by the Team Selection Committee, with consideration given to the athlete's home association. Additional considerations include: SPRA's decision will be based on:
 - SPRA's registration numbers (team sizes).
 - Access to programming and team viability within your home association.
 - Reasons stated for wanting to register or try-out with SPRA.
- Import goalies for U14, U16, and U19 Divisions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Any selected 'import player' will be subject to Ringette Alberta Policies with regards to player releases and all applicable principles outlined within those policies.

Affiliates

- Player affiliation allows a team to replace absent, sick, injured, or suspended players on a game-by-game basis. See SPRA and Ringette Alberta Affiliation Policies.

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- Potential and appropriate affiliates will be discussed upon completion of each team selection with each applicable Head Coach.

Questions about Evaluations

- If you have any questions about evaluations, please contact the appropriate Division Director:
 - U12 Division Director: u12director@sherwoodparkringette.ca .
 - U14 Division Director: u14director@sherwoodparkringette.ca .
 - U16 Division Director: u16director@sherwoodparkringette.ca .
 - U19 Division Director: u19director@sherwoodparkringette.ca .
 - AA Division Director: aadirector@sherwoodparkringette.ca .

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