



SPRA U12 – U19 Evaluation Guidelines 2024/25 Season

SPRA Evaluation Sessions

- Sherwood Park Ringette Association (SPRA) 2024/25 AA evaluations start on August 25, and UAAs kick off evaluations for U10 and up on September 1.
- All sessions begin with the intent of forming teams as early as possible while 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 for U14AA)
 - U16 - up to 3 evaluation skates
 - U16AA – up to 4 evaluation skates
 - U19 – up to 3 evaluation skates
 - U19AA - up to 4 evaluation skates
- 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.

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- There may be up to 30 players on the ice for each UAA session.
- 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 RAB's Tiering Policy.
- SPRA will use the RAB Target Team Scores, Target Team Ranges and Team Score Ranges to form its 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 tier for their skill level.
- Missing UAAs will have an impact on an athlete's placement.
- See RABs UAA page for more information:
<https://ringettealberta.com/content/universal-athlete-assessment>

Skills and Scrimmage Sessions

- 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 as well as game sense/team play. Evaluators will be encouraged to use the full 1-5 point scale for ranking players during the evaluations.
- Game play assessment is cumulative and usually consists of 5 v 5. Players are evaluated on:

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- Skating and Ring skills - skating and agility, ring movement and control, 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.
- 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
- Preferred and secondary positions will be collected prior to the sessions.
 - If there is an occasion where a player is asked to play an alternate position, the Division Director will discuss with the parent prior.
- Prospective coaches are not on the bench for the evaluation, and parent volunteers are not on the same bench as their child
- 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.

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

- 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 by the Division Director prior to the start of the game.
- Players and referees will be briefed on the method used for penalties prior to Skate 1.
 - For a minor penalty play will continue but the ring will be placed as per normal penalty placement.
 - For a major penalty: the player will serve 1 minute in the penalty box.
- 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. The players may be re-organized periodically throughout the scrimmage by the Division Director.
- During the U12 and U14 evaluation scrimmage athletes are provided the opportunity to play regular game play, with referees.
- During U16 and U19 evaluations, the players will typically be allowed to play their preferred positions for game play provided there are proportional numbers of preferred positions on each team.

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.
- 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 can be formed at the A, B, and C tiers.
- 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.

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U14 – U19 Divisions

- U14 teams can be formed at the AA, A, B and C tiers.
- U16 teams can be formed at the AA, A, B and C tiers.
- U19 teams can be formed at the AA, A and B tiers.
- 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 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.
- U14AA/U16AA/U19AA - The roster will be filled with the top 30% of evaluated players as automatic selections to the team, with the remaining 70% of evaluated players, at coaches and team selection committee discretion, informed by evaluations, at the final team selection.
- Once U14AA, U16AA, and U19AA teams are selected, those players not selected will then attend the rest of their divisional evaluation skates.

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.

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- 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. 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 must balance those requests with opportunities to our local athletes and families and consider the potential impact to finite resources (like ice), and team viability.
- For the 2024/25 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), and will review requests for all other levels.
- Interested applications can fill out the form located here for consideration by the Association: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GpMFAZr-Fk3i72MNtbCjFrgk_RP6-aNs6LUkGowT9kQ/edit

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- 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 registration numbers (team sizes).
 - Access to programming and team viability within your home association, including whether a team is being fielded in a specific division.
 - Reasons stated for wanting to register or try-out with SPRA.
 - Consideration on where the import player has evaluated.
- 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.

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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