Hello U12 athletes and families,

Welcome to U12 ringette! My name is Jackie and I will be the director this year. As our 2023/2024 season is quickly approaching, I want to give everyone a head’s up on what to expect in the next couple months. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at [u12director@sherwoodparkringette.ca](mailto:u12director@sherwoodparkringette.ca). I hope to have all important information posted on the Sherwood Park Ringette Association website for quick reference.

U12 is considered “Children’s Ringette”. This program was introduced to develop skills, while providing age and stage appropriate activity in ringette. U12 includes all the regular ringette rules including shot clock and full-sized nets. Players are encouraged to try different positions (including goalie) but will start to develop a preference.

This season, we should expect to have teams at each level; A, B and C. Players will be evaluated to ensure they are placed on the appropriate team. Please keep in mind that there are **NO** friend or coach requests at this level.

Prior to the start of the season, SPRA will be offering a “Knock the Rust Off” to each division. The U12 skate should take place in mid-August but keep an eye on your email and social media for more information. This is optional and you will be able register through RAMP once dates are confirmed.

An additional pre-evaluation skate will take place on the first weekend of September. This will be a combination of skills and shinny. Again, this is optional and no evaluation will be taking place.

Our official U12 evaluation will begin on September 3rd with the Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA). The administration and timing of our drills will be conducted by Competitive Thread, an independent sport testing company. This is the first component of the evaluation and is necessary to the process. The athletes’ performance on the UAA will dictate what evaluation group they will be placed in next.

Following the UAA, we move into the game play evaluation. We have multiple ice times between September 9-14 (subject to change). Groups will be determined following each previous skate. Each player will receive three ice times with equal playing time. Players may be rotated through different positions.

Once all U12 evaluations have concluded, the Team Selection Committee will meet to assign players to teams. These teams will be announced within 48 hr and practices potentially starting the following day.

For our evaluation to run smoothly, I will be looking for some parents and coaches to assist me. If you are available to help (registration table, opening gates, on-ice), let me know. Please note that during gameplay evaluations, parents **cannot** be on the same bench as their player.

Keep a close eye on your email – ice times will be forwarded as soon as they are available. I’m looking forward to getting to know these fabulous players and wish everyone a fantastic season!

**Jackie Day**

**SPRA U12 Director**

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