



Spruce Grove Ringette Association “AA” Information and Frequently Asked Questions

Objective

Spruce Grove Ringette Association has chosen to host AA level teams within its association. These teams are an integral part of the association and adhere to SGRA’s values, goals, policies and procedures. Any exceptions will be listed here.

The objective of the SGRA AA ringette program is to build strong, confident athletes that are committed to hard work, achieving personal and team goals and teamwork. Through dedication, commitment and a passion for excellence, SGRA strives to prepare our athletes for the opportunity to compete at the highest levels in the sport for their age division.

Why should my child consider trying out for a AA ringette team?

At this time, participation in SGRA’s AA level is voluntary. Your child will have the opportunity to:

- participate at the highest level available for his/her age group;
- have the challenge of playing against other top ringette athletes in Alberta and Canada;
- receive experienced coaching and instruction;
- travel within Canada and play against other top ringette athletes; and
- to learn valuable, transferrable life skills, such as responsibility, dependability and time management.

What is the financial commitment?

Each SGRA player pays an SGRA registration fee set out in the registration information. These fees pay for regular ice, membership fees, referees, insurance, etc.

An additional financial commitment for AA will vary amongst the AA teams and age level. There are some basic costs such as additional practice ice, regular dryland training and mandatory team apparel (e.g. gear bag and hoodie).

Other costs will be coach and team decisions, decided at the beginning of each season. Variables that affect cost include:

- number of tournaments, both home and away, that a team decides to participate in (including any post-provincial play);
- additional training a team may wish to add to their own program (goalie instruction, power skating);
- additional team bonding functions or additional team apparel;
- costs for non-parent coaches, if applicable (apparel, travel, accommodations);
- Participation in post-Provincial play at Western Canadian Ringette Championships (WCRC) for U14AA or Canadian Ringette Championships (CRC) for U16AA and U19AA.

In addition to the SGRA registration fees, the estimated team “seed money” for the season will be:

- **U14AA – Up to \$1,200 per athlete** (in 2-3 installments). If the team qualifies for Western Canadian Ringette Championships (WCRC), it may be \$1,500 more, depending on location of event.
- **U16AA – Up to \$1,200 per athlete** (in 2-3 installments). If the team qualifies for Canadian Ringette Championships (CRC), it may be \$1,500 more, depending on location of event.
- **U19AA – Up to \$1,200 per athlete** (in 2-3 installments). If the team qualifies for Canadian Ringette Championships (CRC), it may be \$1,500 more, depending on location of event.

These costs can be significantly reduced through team fundraising and sponsorship.

What is the time commitment?

Like the financial commitment, the time commitment can vary from team to team and between age levels. A good guideline is as follows:

- two on-ice practices per week of 60 to 75 minutes;
- one dryland session per week of 60 to 75 minutes;
- approximately 15 to 20 league and exhibition games;
- Participation in tournaments, up to the tournament maximums outlined in SGRA’s tournament policies (by age division).

Coaches are required to follow Ringette Canada’s Long Term Athletic Development (LTAD) principles with respect to practice and playing time.

Are athletes permitted/encouraged to play other sports during the ringette season?

SGRA recognizes athletes are required to balance many commitments. These commitments often include family, school and other sports. SGRA expects and supports family and school commitments take priority over ringette.

- **At U14AA & U16AA**, SGRA encourages players to play other sports. The coach(es) will work with the family and the athlete to balance ringette with other sports.
- **At the U19AA level**, the athlete will likely be expected to make ringette a priority sport during the ringette season.

Who organizes the tryouts or athlete evaluations?

Tryouts are organized by the SGRA Evaluations Coordinator and SGRA Director of Player Assessment & Development, in consultation with the SGRA Board and the appropriate Division Directors.

What is the tryout/evaluation process?

The AA evaluation and tryout procedure will be similar to and integrated into to the evaluation process at the same age division with the exception that AA tryouts begin before other levels at each of the 3 age divisions we offer AA. Independent evaluators will be contracted to assist with the AA evaluation process. See the SGRA website for more details.

To balance the development of SGRA athletes and creating viable teams with the ability to compete with other AA programs across the province, SGRA will place a limitation on how many athletes will be selected from outside SGRA boundaries ("import players"). Please contact the SGRA Vice President/Director of Operations - vp@sprucegroveringette.com for more details.

The cost to try out for all import players will be \$150. \$125 will be applied to the registration fee if the player is successfully selected to a SGRA team. Remaining \$25 will go towards the applicable team.

Please contact our registrar to complete registration process for try-outs.

(registrar@sprucegroveringette.com)

* All import players interested in trying out with an SGRA team need to be registered with their home association prior to evaluations with any other association. This is to ensure there is proper insurance coverage for applicable athletes. If a player is selected by a SGRA team, a formal request of release from the respective home association must be made.

IMPORT PLAYERS

- For the 2019 - 2020 Playing season, The Spruce Grove Ringette Association will accept any and all athletes interested in trying out for AA teams at each of the 3 Divisions offering an AA team this year. (U14, U16, & U19). For those import players trying out for AA teams, acceptance on a team roster will be based on the following criteria:
- **For the U14AA Playing Division** – Any import player trying out for the Spruce Grove Ringette Association who does not have a “suitable” team on which to play within their home association, the player must rank in the top **20%** of all players evaluating in the final evaluation skate for **U14AA**. If an import player who does have a “suitable” team in which to play within their home association, the player must rank in the top **10%** of all players evaluating in the final evaluation skate for their respective player division.
- **For the U16AA & U19AA Playing Division’s** - Any import player trying out for the Spruce Grove Ringette Association who does not have a “suitable” team on which to play within their home association must rank in the top **25%** of all players evaluating in the final evaluation skate for **U16AA and U19AA**. If an import player who does have a “suitable” team in which to play within their home association, the player must rank in the top **15%** of all players evaluating in the final evaluation skate for their respective player division.
- **Import goalies for U14, U16, and U19 Divisions will be considered on a case by case basis.**
- Final decision and acceptance of import players will be made by the Evaluation Oversight Committee in consultation with the respective head coach.
- Any selected ‘import player’ will be subject to Ringette Alberta Policies with regards to player releases and all applicable principles outlined within those policies.
- The SGRA supports the growth and offering of a competitive stream of ringette and equally wants to see every athlete registered with the Spruce Grove Ringette Association have the opportunity to play at the appropriate level. As such, we will take all necessary precautions and consider all available facts to ensure the best decision is made for both the Spruce Grove Ringette Association and the athlete trying out.

How will coaches be selected?

Coaches who are interested in coaching AA are to submit their interest via the registration process (if child is playing within SGRA) or via email to the Director of Coaching Assessment and Development (if child does not play within SGRA) by the deadline specified on the SGRA website.

Interested coaches will then complete a coaching application by the deadline indicated on the SGRA website. Prospective coaches will then be interviewed by a selection committee if applicable, consisting of the Director of Coaching Assessment and Development, the Coordinator of AA and appropriate Division Director. Once the Head Coach has been selected, the committee may recommend assistant coaches.

How will teams be selected?

An Oversight committee consisting of the Director of Player Assessment and Development, appropriate Division Director and Evaluation Coordinator will review all scores submitted for each of the athletes for each team. Once the Oversight committee has reviewed each list, final selection will commence with the selected Head Coach. Coaches' children are not automatically accepted on the team. The selection committee will need to provide reasonable justification for import players.

How many AA teams are there?

For the 2019 - 2020 season, SGRA will be hosting a U14AA, U16AA, and an U19AA team for each of the three applicable age divisions. (13-16 skaters and up to 2 goalies)

All 3 teams will play in their own respective age divisions within the Black Gold League.

Who do I contact for more information about AA ringette?

There will be an opportunity to hear more about each of the three teams prior to tryouts beginning. Check the appropriate division page on the SGRA website for more information.

SGRA U14 Director - U14dir@sprucegroveringette.com

SGRA U16 Director - U16dir@sprucegroveringette.com

SGRA U19 Director - U19dir@sprucegroveringette.com

SGRA Vice President – vp@sprucegroveringette.com