

Collaboration Framework Between the Strathmore Minor Ringette Association and the Indus Ringette Association

Purpose

This framework establishes a collaborative relationship between the Strathmore Minor Ringette Association (“SMRA”) and the Indus Ringette Association (“IRA”) to support athlete development, sustainable programming, and the continued growth of ringette within our communities.

While SMRA and IRA will continue to operate independently with their own governance, policies, finances, and community identities, both associations recognize the value of working collaboratively to create viable teams and expanded opportunities for athletes.

This collaboration applies to the U12 through U19 divisions, where player numbers and skill alignment may benefit from combined programming and team formation.

The purpose of this collaboration is to:

- Create viable teams at appropriate age divisions and levels of play (U12–U19).
- Provide athletes with opportunities to play with similarly skilled players.
- Support athletes in continuing to play the sport they enjoy at a competitive and development-focused level.
- Encourage positive relationships and friendships between players and families from different communities.
- Promote a strong, inclusive, and sustainable ringette environment within the region.

Both associations recognize that registration numbers may fluctuate from season to season. Through collaboration, SMRA and IRA aim to provide meaningful opportunities for athletes while strengthening the long-term future of ringette.

Guiding Principles

The collaboration between SMRA and IRA will be guided by the following principles:

Athlete-Focused Decisions

All decisions will prioritize athlete development, team viability, safety, and overall player experience.

Independent Associations Working Collaboratively

SMRA and IRA will remain separate and independent associations while working together cooperatively where beneficial to support team formation, athlete development, and sustainable programming opportunities.

Fair and Respectful Collaboration

Both associations will work together openly and respectfully regarding evaluations, team formation, communication, and shared opportunities.

Development Opportunities

The collaboration will support:

- Appropriate competitive placement.
- Skill development opportunities.
- Positive coaching environments.
- Meaningful competition and athlete growth.

Community Connection

The collaboration will encourage teamwork, sportsmanship, and friendships between athletes and families from multiple communities.

Sustainability of Ringette

Both associations are committed to supporting sustainable programming and the continued growth of ringette in surrounding communities.

Areas of Collaboration

Team Formation (U12–U19)

SMRA and IRA may work together to:

- Form combined teams to support sustainable and viable team based off of registration numbers.
- Create balanced and competitive team environments.
- Ensure athletes have opportunities to play at an appropriate level.
- Support long-term participation and retention within both associations.

Player Development

The associations will collaborate on:

- Skills and development sessions.
- Goalie development.
- Power skating and conditioning.
- Coach mentorship and development opportunities.
- Shared access to instructors, clinics, and exhibition opportunities.

Both associations will strive to provide equitable development opportunities for athletes participating within the collaboration.

Communication

SMRA and IRA commit to maintaining open, respectful, and transparent communication with one another and with participating families.

Collaboration Governance and Decision-Making

To ensure the collaboration operates effectively and transparently, SMRA and IRA will establish a collaborative working group consisting of three representatives from each association. These representatives may include executive members, directors, or other individuals appointed by their respective boards.

The collaborative working group will meet monthly throughout the season, or more frequently as required, to discuss matters related to team formation, athlete development, evaluations, shared programming, scheduling, and other collaborative initiatives.

The purpose of these meetings is to review opportunities, discuss challenges, share information, and develop recommendations that support the objectives of the collaboration. The working group serves as a forum for discussion and planning; however, it does not replace the governance authority of either association.

All significant decisions, recommendations, and proposals arising from the collaborative working group will be brought back to the respective SMRA and IRA Boards of Directors for review and approval. Each association will maintain its own decision-making authority and voting processes. No collaborative initiative will proceed unless approved through the governance processes of both associations.

Communication regarding collaborative decisions will be the responsibility of each association. Both associations commit to providing consistent and transparent messaging regarding shared initiatives.

Where collaborative activities involve shared costs or revenues, including but not limited to evaluations, player development programs, specialized training, coaching development, and other jointly delivered initiatives, the associations will work toward equitable cost-sharing and revenue-sharing arrangements. Financial contributions and distributions will be determined jointly and documented prior to implementation, with the objective of ensuring fairness and sustainability for both associations.

This governance structure is intended to promote collaboration, accountability, and transparency while ensuring that SMRA and IRA remain independent associations with full authority over their own operations, finances, and strategic direction.

Regional Participation

SMRA and IRA recognize and support the efforts of the Rockyford Ringette Association to continue growing ringette within their community.

At the same time, both associations remain committed to supporting athletes throughout the region. Should players or families from Rockyford seek additional opportunities, SMRA and IRA would welcome participation within collaborative programming aligning with the original intent of the RISE program.

The shared goal is to ensure athletes have opportunities to continue playing, developing, and enjoying ringette regardless of community size or registration fluctuations.

Association Independence

SMRA and IRA will continue to operate as independent associations with separate governance structures, executive teams, policies, finances, and community identities.

This collaboration is intended to strengthen athlete opportunities through cooperative team-building and development initiatives while preserving the autonomy and individuality of each organization.

While collaborative teams and programming may be jointly planned and administered, all formal decisions will continue to be approved through the respective governance processes of each association. This framework does not create a new governing body and does not diminish the authority of either Board of Directors.

Commitment

SMRA and IRA are committed to creating positive, inclusive, and development-focused experiences for athletes and families.

Through collaboration, both associations aim to:

- Strengthen athlete opportunities.
- Support long-term participation in ringette.
- Foster positive community relationships.
- Help ensure the continued success and sustainability of ringette within the region.

This framework may be reviewed and updated annually to ensure it continues to meet the needs of athletes, families, and both associations.