**Revised January 2022**

Section 5 -Player Evaluations

1. Introduction

1. The purpose of these player evaluation guidelines is to provide a fair and impartial mechanism of evaluating the skill and ability of ringette players, resulting in the subsequent placement of these players onto teams. Evaluations will be based on ice skills and abilities.  The results will indicate the skill/playing level of a player, which will help the Team Selection Committee with their recommendations to the Executive Officers and Board of Directors with respect to:
2. The number of teams.
3. Allocation of players to teams.
4. Player movement between age division and/or affiliations.

1. Objectives in the Evaluation Process

1. To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player’s total ringette skills during the evaluation sessions.
2. To provide uniformity and consistency in the evaluation process such that the player and parent/guardian expectations are consistent.
3. To provide appropriate evaluation documentation.
4. To form teams where the players can develop and participate equitably, have a positive experience and satisfaction of playing ringette during the season.

1. Evaluation Committee

1. The evaluation committee shall consist of a minimum of the Director of Evaluations, ~~Director of Coaching, Director of Long Term Athletic Development~~ and any other Board of Director members deemed necessary at the discretion of the Director of Evaluations.
2. The Evaluation Committee members will be assigned to divisions they have no vested interest in including Director of Evaluations which may be reassigned to another board member if a conflict exists.

1. Player Evaluation Process

1. SMRA will conduct player evaluations on all players if there are enough players for two or more teams within an age division.  All registered players will be evaluated at the beginning of the ringette season.  This helps the association establish competitive teams that can compete in league games with similarly skilled teams.
2. The Director of Evaluations along with the evaluation committee will organize the evaluations in each division.
3. The Director of Evaluations will be responsible for putting forth the recommended process for the evaluations including but not limited to the creation of the evaluation form, evaluation drill plans and arrange on-ice “coaches” for each of the divisions.  The process will be reviewed by and approved by the Board of Directors.
4. Independent evaluators will be a minimum of six volunteers for skills and games.  Independent being defined as having no affiliation with any player that is evaluating at that division level.  The evaluator must have knowledge in the sport of Ringette that is appropriate for that division. Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA) will require additional volunteers/on-ice helpers.
5. All evaluators and on-ice helpers will be briefed by the Director of Evaluations or designated representative prior to each session.
6. Evaluators and on-ice helpers are expected to arrive a minimum of fifteen minutes prior to each session.
7. Players will be notified of their evaluation ice times after the registration date and once all the registrations have been tallied.  The evaluation process will include 3 or more ice times. ~~Each athlete is to arrive 45 minutes prior to the ice time.~~
8. All players will be supplied with a jersey upon arriving at each evaluation session.  Players’ names will not be indicated on the evaluation form, only jersey numbers.
9. In order for the process to be effective, players are expected to participate in ALL evaluation sessions they are assigned to.  If serious injury, illness, or family emergency prevents a player from participating in one or more evaluation sessions then the evaluation committee will determine if the player has enough evaluation data or if further evaluation is required to adequately place the athlete on the appropriate team.
	1. If the player is unable to participate in any aspect of evaluation due to injury, illness (Medical note will be required) or family emergency then once they are able, they will be evaluated by a minimum of 3 evaluators during each one of the Division’s teams’ practices.  The Evaluation Committee will then ,eet to place the player on the appropriate team.
	2. Parents/Guardian must communicate the reason for the absence in writing to the Director of Evaluations ~~and the Division Coordinator~~.  Injured players must be evaluated 7 days prior to Ringette Alberta roster deadline or they will be placed on the lowest team at their age level.
10. If a player is unable to complete a full ice session due to sudden illness or injury, the  player is at risk of a zero score unless a medical note is provided, and will only be re-evaluated if ice time allows.
11. If the athlete misses the required evaluation sessions (except as described in point I above), they will automatically be placed on the lowest tiered team.
12. The evaluation skates will consist of UAA’s (if division appropriate), on-ice skill session and scrimmages.
13. A minimum of two knowledgeable volunteers will run the on-ice skill session as on ice “coaches”.  The same volunteers will be expected to do all on-ice skill sessions for one particular division (if possible).
14. Knowledgeable volunteers will manage the bench during scrimmages with directions from the Director of Evaluations or a member of the Evaluation Committee.
15. Depending on the ice scheduling, the Evaluation Committee will endeavor to have the evaluations completed in the shortest time possible.
16. After each evaluation session, the evaluation forms will be collected by the Lead Evaluator or any member of the Evaluation Committee and placed in a labeled envelope pertaining to that ice time.
17. Once an evaluation session is completed the results will be tabulated and reviewed by the evaluation committee at a scheduled meeting and then the forms for that ice session will be sealed.
18. Completed evaluation forms shall remain confidential and shall not be supplied to the general membership.  It shall be unwarranted under any circumstances to disclose player evaluation information to anyone, either during or after the evaluation process, except if required to address a grievance.
19. A member of the SMRA may request to discuss the evaluation of his/her child to determine the athlete’s areas of weaknesses and strengths in the presence of the evaluation committee at a mutually agreed scheduled place and time.  This will only occur after team selection.  The request must be submitted 24 hours after the teams are posted and no later than 5 Days.

1. Goalie Evaluation

1. No full time or part time declaration of goalies at the U10 and Active Start Divisions.
2. Players in U12 that are interested in playing **more than 50%, up to a maximum of 75%** of the time in goal, will evaluate as a skater and a goalie.  Both scores will be taken into consideration for placement on the appropriate tiered team. Players in U12 that are interested in playing **less than 25%** of the time as a goalie will be evaluated as a skater only.
3. Players at U14, U16, and U19 can declare to be a full time goalie and will be evaluated as a goalie.  Goalie declaration will be completed as part of the athlete’s online registration otherwise a written request needs to be submitted 2 weeks prior to the start of evaluations. If no full time goalies are declared at U14, U16 or U19 level please refer to the overage/underage policy.  If no extra goalies are available to move divisions, please refer to part time goalie process of U12 (point B above).

Section 6- Team Selection

1. Introduction

1. The purpose of team selection is to establish competitive teams that can compete in league games with similarly skilled teams.

1. ~~Team Selection Committee~~

1. ~~The Team Selection Committee shall consist of a minimum of 5 Board of Director members and must include the Director of Evaluations, Director of Coaching, Division Coordinator and any other Board Members deemed necessary at the discretion of the Director of Evaluations.~~
2. ~~Executive Officers will be excluded from this process.~~
3. ~~The Registrar may be included in the team selection for registration verification information.~~
4. ~~The Team Selection Committee members will be assigned to divisions they have no vested interest in.~~

1. Selection of Players for a Team

1. Divisions\*
2. Active Start:  Players that are 3-6 years.
3. U10:  Players that are 9 years of age and under.
4. U12:  Players that are 11 years of age and under.
5. U14:  Players that are 13 years of age and under.
6. U16:  Players that are 15 years of age and under.
7. U19:  Players that are 18 years of age and under.
* Ages based as of December 31 of registration year.
1. Each player is to register in the division appropriate to their age according to Ringette Alberta guidelines as defined as the age of December 31, of the year of registration. No player may be registered in an older age division unless approved by the SMRA board and compliant to SMRA operating procedures.  A copy of government issued identification with proof of age of each registrant must accompany the first time registrant.
2. Depending on the number of athletes for each team, Evaluation Committee may also  consider the following when conducting the team selection process:
3. Overage/Underage players
4. Overall player development (to ensure the continuous progression, growth and development of all players).

1. Team Selection - Player

1. Active Start-
2. There is no tiering requirement for this level.
3. U10 Division-
4. The U10 Division in not a tiered division but contains 3 “steps”, with step 3 being the top step.
5. The “steps” within the U10 division have been created so that athletes of various skill, experience, and readiness can be successful.  It recognizes the importance of the athlete as a whole, not just an athlete’s chronological age or skill set.  Team selection may also include years of experience, step/phase/division played in previous seasons, size and developmental maturity as determined by the evaluation committee. This holistic approach is optimal for long term athletic development.
6. U12 and U14 Division-
7. Team selection will be based on evaluation scores.
8. Teams playing level (A, B or C) will be as per Ringette Alberta’s Tiering Policy.
9. U16 and U19 Division-
	1. Team selection will be based on evaluation scores.
	2. U16 and U19 will tier A or B.  The retreat and advance option will be utilized to address any anomalies pursuant to Ringette Alberta Guidelines.

1. Team Selection - Goalies

1. Active Start and U10 Division- No goalie selection
2. U12 Division
3. For those athletes who are interested in playing **more than 50%, up to a maximum of 75%** of the time in goal, 30% of their evaluation score will be based on ~~UAA score~~ and skill session as a skater and 70% of their evaluation score will be based on game play as a goalie during the scrimmage session(s) and a goalie skill session if extra ice time is available to SMRA at the discretion of the Director of Evaluations and the Evaluation Committee.
4. Goalie selection will be based on the combined evaluation score as described above.
5. U14, U16, and U19 Divisions- Goalie selection will be based on evaluation scores ~~and additional information may be applied to ensure the goalie is placed on the most appropriate team.~~  If there is more than one goalie per team the SMRA board will review placement of the goalies.

1. Team Selection Process

1. All special requests must be made in writing to the Executive Officers including the Evaluation Director by August 15th of that evaluation year for consideration.  Form A, and deposit may also be required at this time.  Not all special requests will be honored.
2. The Evaluation committee will be responsible for making team recommendations. The final team approval will be made by the SMRA board.

1. Affiliate Players

Refer to Ringette Alberta’s Player Affiliation Policy in addition to:

1. The Head Coach **must request approval** from the affiliate team Head Coach in order for the affiliate to play.

8)  Underage/Overage Player Policy

1. A member may request to tryout as an underage player:
2. When in the final year of their age division as identified by year of birth.
3. By providing written notice to the Director of Evaluations by August 15th or at least two weeks prior to the start of SMRA Evaluations.
4. Agreeing to participate in SMRA Evaluations in both age divisions.
5. Acknowledging the criteria for underage evaluations as per below.

SMRA holds the right to deny a member’s request to tryout / play as an underage player based on, but not limited to, the following factors:

* Roster size at both age divisions
* Development Model of age division
* Effect on competitiveness of team at both age divisions
* Displacement of players at both age levels
* Skill level of player
* Maturity level of player – physical, social and emotional

B. Process For Requesting Player Movement

 1. If a player/parent/guardian of a registered SMRA member feels that they or their child may be better placed at an age division that differs than the natural birth year, they must do so by completing the Player Movement Request Form which is available on the SMRA website. All players requesting to move must complete the form, for all age divisions, and whether the request is to play up or down. The form must be submitted no later than 11:00 pm on August 15th of the upcoming ringette season.

C. Playing Up or Down Divisions

 1.  If the request is to play down and the SMRA Evaluation committee and Board approves, the move will be permitted. The Registrar will advise the overage player’s Head Coach an “Overage Player Request” will need to be submitted to Ringette Alberta for Divisions U12 and above.

 2.  Players requesting to move up a division, must submit a $100.00 cheque, payable to the Strathmore Minor Ringette Association. This is for all levels except players registered in Active Start requesting a move to U10. Players that are requesting to move up a division, must attend evaluations for both age levels. In order to be considered for placement on the higher team, the player must be able to contribute to the team’s competitiveness and develop their overall skills at the higher level.  The player **must** **be successful evaluating in the top 25% of the highest tiered team to be deemed appropriate to underage.**

 3.  If the request is to play up and the SMRA Board accepts the recommendation of the Director of evaluations, an evaluation process will occur. The $100 cheque is only cashed if an evaluation occurs. If the initial decision of the Director of evaluations and/or the SMRA board is to deny the request to play up, the cheque is returned.

 4.  The following conditions apply to playing up: a. If approved, the Player movement is only valid for the one year only; b. The Evaluation Committee and SMRA board will look at all Division player numbers to determine viable teams at each Division prior to a Player Evaluation Process; c. The Director of evaluations monitors the evaluation and determines placement; and d. The results of the Player evaluation will be presented to the SMRA Board as appropriate as per the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee.

D.  SMRA may also request that members tryout as underage players in an effort to create viable roster sizes.  In this situation, all players entering the final year of their age division would be given equal opportunity to participate in the evaluation process and will have the opportunity to be placed on the team they are successfully evaluated on and the above underage policy would be null and void (top 25%).

9) Overage Policy

Refer to Ringette Alberta Overage Policy.

10)  Late Registrants

1. A late registrant is defined as completing the registration process for the athlete after the first scheduled evaluation session for that age division.
2. Late registrations can only be accepted prior to SMRA determining registration closure due to team viability.
3. Players registering in the SMRA ringette program after pre-season evaluations start will automatically be placed on the lowest tier team of their age division.
4. If a player is registered in another association and relocates within the SMRA boundaries after SMRA evaluations are complete, ~~they will be placed on the same level team they are coming from. If SMRA does not have a team at that level, the player’s~~ placement will be decided on by a case by case basis as deemed appropriate by the SMRA board  (possible further evaluation may be considered).
5. If the parent/guardian believes a late registrant can play at a higher level team then they must follow the SMRA Appeal Policy.
6. All final decisions must be approved by the Executive Board.

