

# COMMUNITY PATHWAY GUIDELINES CHILDREN'S RINGETTE TO U19

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## 1. Introduction

These guidelines are for the Community or “Club” Athlete Pathway. The guidelines will apply from U10 to U14 beginning in the 2019/20 season and will apply to the U16 and U19 divisions beginning in the 2020/2021 season.

The Community Athlete Pathway is for the athlete who is seeking sport for life opportunities and broadly includes athletes starting at FUNdamentals through to adult teams. Teams in this pathway can be co-ed in formation. Participants can leave and return to the community pathway through their playing career.

The Community Pathway is focused on sport for life, long-term athlete development and long-term participant development. All Club Associations are able to support community-based “Club” teams, built around skill development, friendships and age groups. Competition is primarily regional with optional travel.

Competition includes league play and any tournaments that teams choose to attend. Teams in the U14, U16, U19 and 18+ divisions have the option to participate in Provincial Championships as a wind-up to their playing season. Teams in U12 can choose to participate in a Provincial Championship-style or Jamboree-style Year-End Event.

### 1.1. Strategic Initiatives

The introduction of the Community Pathway is to engage more athletes by allowing them to participate in a competition structure that encourages increased participation and meaningful competition. This is an integral part of the athlete experience pathways which allows players to participate at the level of their choice and their calibre of play. The Community Pathway and the formation of a Club competition structure align with several strategic initiatives within the Ringette BC 2019 – 2023 Strategic Plan:

- the athlete pathway is clearly defined and accessible;
- participation for all athletes at all divisions is encouraged and facilitated;
- stronger alignment with principles of long-term athlete development;
- facilitation of increased engagement with a goal to improve athlete retention and registration numbers; and
- the guiding principles of competition are followed.

### 1.2. Principles

Ringette BC, Leagues and Club Associations will be guided by the following principles:

- Athletes, Coaches and Administrators will pledge the *True Sport Principles* and will be ambassadors of *True Sport* in Ringette;

- the program guidelines and policies will work to promote the principles of meaningful competition;
- the Club system of competition will provide increased opportunities for participation;
- players will be given development opportunities regardless of what team they are playing on;
- program guidelines and policies will create a network of Coaches; and
- program guidelines and policies will build a competition structure that can evolve with increased participants and support a growing sport.

## 2. TEAM FORMATION

The Community (or “Club”) competition system is for athletes starting at FUNdamentals through to adult teams. Teams are formed within each Club Association and participate in a system of competition following the program principles above and guidelines below. Community division teams can be co-ed.

Ringette BC encourages smaller roster sizes on Club teams to facilitate increased ring touches, player engagement and overall enjoyment of the game. In addition, smaller rosters assist with the following player development initiatives:

- increased engagement for all players as they are more active during practices and games;
- increased opportunities to experience playing different positions;
- increased opportunity for skill development;
- increased opportunity for players to experience different game situations; and
- increased opportunities for Coaches to train and develop all of the athletes on their team while recognizing individual skill levels of players.

Teams in the same age division compete against each other in balancing games between multiple Club teams from the same Club Association to ensure the rosters of the two teams are as evenly matched as possible. Changes to team rosters can be made following balancing games and prior to the **November 1<sup>st</sup> roster deadline** each season.

The Community (or “Club”) competition system will promote meaningful competition in all age groups, increase development and provide optional travel opportunities for players.

### 2.1. Team Formation U10 Division

Teams are formed within each individual Club Association. Club Associations should aim to create as many balanced U10 teams as possible. Smaller rosters are encouraged at U10 to engage as many participants as possible in events.

Teams may be formed using simple assessment criteria and Coach input, or by player draft between Head Coaches. In either case, the Club Association is responsible for overseeing the creation of the rosters.

Balancing games between teams in the same Club Association should take place at the start of the season following assessments and initial team formation. Leagues should consider season to date results when scheduling League play to influence meaningful competition.

## 2.2. Team Formation U12 Division

Teams are formed within each individual Club Association. Club Associations should aim to create as many U12 teams as possible. In an effort to create evenly matched teams, Club Associations will conduct formal player evaluations on all athletes within the age division using the standardized Ringette BC U12 evaluation criteria. If a Club Association has the ability to form more than one team in an age division, the teams will be balanced to allow those teams to compete with each other under the same competition structure.

Teams may be formed using the evaluation criteria and Coach input, or by player draft between Head Coaches. In either case, the Club Association is responsible for overseeing the creation of the rosters. The team will be assigned a team ordinal which will be used to assist with pooling and forming League and Sanctioned event game schedules. Team ordinals should be shared with the League and sanctioned tournaments to assist with creating pools to facilitate meaningful competition.

Balancing games between teams in the same Club Association should take place at the start of the season following player evaluations and initial team formation.

## 2.3. Team Formation U14 to U19

Teams are formed within each individual Club Association. In an effort to create evenly matched teams, Club Associations will conduct player evaluations on all athletes within the age division using the standardized Ringette BC evaluation criteria.

If a Club Association has the ability to form more than one team in an age division, the teams will be balanced to allow the teams to compete with each other under the same competition structure. Teams may be formed using the evaluation criteria and Coach input, or by player draft between Head Coaches. In either case, the Club Association is responsible for overseeing the creation of the rosters. Balancing games between teams in the same Club Association should take place at the start of the season following player evaluations and initial team formation.

All teams will be assigned a team ordinal which will be used to assist with pooling and forming League and Sanctioned event game schedules. Team ordinals should be shared with the League and sanctioned tournaments to assist with creating pools to facilitate meaningful competition.

The vision is for each Club Association to form Club teams within their Association. However, if there is an inability to form a Club level team at U14, U16 or U19 within a Club Association, the Club Associations from a zone may choose to create Zone Club teams per Appendix 1 of this document, **or** players may be released to an adjacent community as per the existing Ringette BC policy. In all cases, the creation of Zone teams will require the consent of Ringette BC and the mutual consent of the affected Club Associations. If consent cannot be reached, the player(s) will follow the existing Release Policy.

## 2.4. Club Association Geographic Boundaries

The Club Association geographic boundaries are outlined in Ringette BC policy. All athletes must register with the Club Association that governs their geographical boundaries based on their primary residential address. All registrants must show proof of residency as part of the registration process. Releases between Club Associations are not permitted in the Community Pathway unless there is no Club team on which they can play. Club Associations should make every effort to accommodate all participants.

### 3. COACHING AND TEAM STAFF

#### 3.1. Certification

Active coaches for Club teams will require the following minimum levels of certification:

Division	Position	Coaching Level Required	Concussion Training	Respect in Sport or Equivalent
Children's Ringette (FUNdamentals and U10)	Head Coach	CSI Trained	Required	Required
	Assistant Coach	CSI Trained	optional	Required
	Coach-in-Training	CSI or instructor course	n/a	Required
U12 Club	Head Coach	CSI Trained	Required	Required
	Assistant Coach	CSI Trained	Required	Required
	Coach-in-Training	CSI or instructor course	optional	Required
U14 Club	Head Coach	CSI Trained	Required	Required
	Assistant Coach	CSI Trained	Required	Required
	Coach-in-Training	CSI Trained	optional	Required
U16 and U19 Club	Head Coach	CI Trained	Required	Required
	Assistant Coach	CI Trained	Required	Required
	Coach-in-Training	CSI Trained	Required	Required

Other Team Staff such as Managers and Trainers must meet the standards outlined by Ringette BC under the Coaching Development Policy.

All Team Staff must have completed a criminal record check and participated in a screening process as per Ringette BC Coach and Team Staff Selection Policy. Each team must follow the Female on the Bench requirements as set out by Ringette Canada. This includes having a female Coach on the bench for all games.

Team staff are defined as all coaching staff including the coach-in-training, team manager, trainers and sport science personnel. Team staff that are able to access field of play is defined in competition technical packages. Typically, the Head Coach, two Assistant Coaches (including a Coach-in-Training), and a Trainer (if desired) may be on the bench during games.

#### 3.2. Team Staff Selection

Individuals interested in coaching a team must complete an application, with references and participate in a screening process conducted by the Club Association.

Every Club Association must adhere to the Ringette BC Coach and Team Staff Selection Policy and the Volunteer Screening Policy when appointing Coaches and other Team Staff to their teams.



## 4. COMPETITION

### 4.1. Season Competition (League Play) – U10 to U19

Club teams from U10 to U19 will participate in League competition throughout the playing season. League play will determine seeding for the U12 Year-End Event and Ringette BC Provincial Championships.

League play for Club teams will be operated by the Ringette Leagues within BC; Lower Mainland, Thompson Okanagan, Northern and Island. Teams participating in League play will be subject to the League's Rules of Competition. Club teams will compete against teams within their division and may attend additional tournaments should the team choose. Club teams will be expected to follow the new Ringette BC Player Pick Up Policy during league play. Introduced for the 2019/20 season, the more flexible policy is intended to facilitate game play and potential additional travel opportunities for interested athletes.

### 4.2. U10 and FUNdamentals Year End Events

Ringette BC encourages all Leagues and Club Associations to facilitate year-end fun focused wrap-up events for their U10 teams and FUNdamentals participants. Examples include the Port Coquitlam Jamboree and the Houston Jamboree.

### 4.3. U12 Year End Event

All U12 teams are eligible to participate in the Ringette BC U12 Year-End Event. The Year-End Event is a U12 only event open to all U12 teams in the province. It is meant to be a wrap-up to the season while introducing teams to a competitive tournament format similar to Provincial Championships. In order to participate, teams must submit a *Commitment to Attend* form to Ringette BC. The tournament is built on the principles of meaningful competition and the guiding principles of competition.

The U12 Year-End Event will incorporate a championship format with gold, silver and bronze medals beginning in 2020.

### 4.4. Provincial Championships U14 to U19

All Club teams from U14 to U19 are eligible to participate in Provincial Championships. Provincial Championships are optional for all Club teams and are open to all teams that commit to attend under Ringette BC's expanded format. The Provincial Championships are for *all* athletes playing within the Community "Club" structure. The tournament is built on the principles of meaningful competition and the guiding principles of competition.

The Club Provincial Championships for U14 to U19 will take place in March of each year. More than one host may be required each season, and the events will move around the province.

## 5. Other Considerations

### 5.1. Player Pick Ups

Club Teams may pick up players to participate in league play, tournaments, and Provincial Championships under the revised Player Pick Up policy. The revised policy is meant to facilitate game play and travel as well as providing potential development opportunities for multiple players over the course of a season. The two key changes are that i) players can now be picked up to play in five leagues games *and* one tournament; and ii) teams may participate with 50% plus one rostered players provided that the players picked-up have similar ordinals to the players unable to attend<sup>1</sup>.

### 5.2. Player Movement

Players may request to move up a division. However, there is more to consider than skill and ability when making this decision. Players wishing to advance will be subject to the Ringette BC Player Movement Policy. Player movement decisions must ensure that players in the receiving division are not disadvantaged for resources or ice time due to resulting team size.

In addition, under the new policy, consideration can be made for U12 players that have previously participated in a Competitive Introduction program, and that score at the top of the U12 Division Player Evaluations.

### 5.3. Training

Teams will train at facilities that exist within their Club Association. Club teams are expected to have two (2) to three (3) team events per week, including ringette games. Exceptions are for tournaments or extended play weekends, which create additional ice time.

Club Teams competing in the Community Athlete Pathway should embrace the following characteristics:

- teams practice once or twice a week and participate in a league game once or twice a week (two to three ice times per week maximum);
- teams focus on skill development, building friendships and ensuring fun and enjoyment;
- teams are participating in competition that will challenge and enhance their skills and experience in ringette; and
- multi-sport participation is encouraged and facilitated.

### 5.4. Player Development

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that any player pick-up requests for sanctioned tournaments must also meet the sanctioned tournament guidelines for player pick-up rules, and that the game limit does not apply to Ringette BC Provincial Championships.

Leagues and Club Associations may work together to provide additional development opportunities for players seeking to further their skills. For instance, U12 players may participate in the Competition Introduction program. U14 to U19 players that are unsuccessful in making a Competitive Zone team may wish to participate in a Zone-based Club Association-led development program operated at the discretion of the local Zone or Club Association. Such program must be based on similar principles to the League-based U12 program.

### 5.5. Long Term Athlete Development Stages of Community

Divisions and the LTAD stages within the Community Pathway:

- FUNDamentals - Active Start and FUNDamentals
- U10 – Early Learn to Train
- U12 – Late Learn to Train
- U14 – Train to Train
- U16 and U19 – Competitive for Life and Sport for life

## 6. Appendix 1 – Zone Club Teams

Teams from U14 to U19 can be formed using the “Zone” principle if there are not enough athletes in a Club Association to field a team. Zone teams differ from player releases at the club level because Club Associations will retain registration dollars and the players will still be active in their home community. The creation of Zone teams is an *alternative* to player releases when a Club Association does not have enough players to form a team.

Associations must work together to make sure that multiple Zone teams are balanced (if there is more than one in a Zone) and that every player has a team to play on.

To form a Zone team, affected Club Associations may submit a request to Ringette BC, supported by a team roster, ordinals and a supporting board motion from each Club Association in the Zone, prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> of each playing season.

Ringette BC reserves the right to reject any request to form a Zone Club team for any reason. Consideration will be based on the following criteria:

- Association Boards, Coaches and Parents are informed and have read these guidelines;
- Players, Teams, or Club Associations are not disadvantaged through the formation of the team;
- Club Associations understand the requirement to provide proportional ice time;
- The creation of the Zone team is to accommodate players and is not being used as a method to “stack” a roster; and
- The home League is supportive of the request

Any Zone Club teams will train at facilities that exist within their Zone. The Club Associations that make up the Zones will be responsible for contributing a proportional amount of ice to the Zone team for practices and games based on the number of players from within a Club Association participating on each team. For example, if 45% of players come from Club A and 55% from Club B, the ice sessions hosted by each Club Association would allocate ice for practices and games following these proportions.

Club Zone teams formed on this principle will wear the jerseys of the Club Association from which the majority of its players are registered. However, registration dollars will remain with each player’s home Club Association.

Ringette BC recognized Zones for the 2019/20 season are as follows:

### **Thompson Okanagan Ringette League:**

**Zone 5:** Greater Vernon Ringette Association, Shuswap Ringette Association

**Zone 6:** Kelowna Ringette Association, Westside Ringette Association

### **Northern Ringette League:**

**Zone 7:** Terrace Ringette Association, Houston Ringette Association

**Zone 8:** Prince George Ringette Association, Quesnel Ringette Association

**Lower Mainland Ringette League:**

**Zone 1:** Coquitlam-Moody Ringette Association, Port Coquitlam Ridge Meadows Ringette Association

**Zone 2:** Richmond Ringette Association, Delta Ringette Association, Vancouver Ringette Association

**Zone 3:** Burnaby New Westminster Ringette Association, North West Vancouver Ringette Association

**Zone 4:** Surrey White Rock Ringette Association, Chilliwack Ringette Association, Fraser Valley Ringette Association

**Island Ringette League:**

**Zone 9:** Comox Valley Ringette Association