

June 4, 2021

## Ringette BC Update – BC Winter Games 2022

### BC Winter Games 2022

The 2022 BC Winter Games will be held in Vernon, BC February 24 to 27, 2022. The Ringette event will be hosted at Kal Tire Place in Vernon and will follow all COVID-19 protocols and Provincial Health Restrictions. The 2022 BCWG will host U16 aged athletes and will include teams from 2, 3, 4, 5, 6/7, and 8. There will be no replacement team at the 2022 BCWG to adhere to group numbers.

COVID-19 Restrictions required that the 2022 BC Winter Games be scaled down in size. The overall event will include some adaptations to large gatherings and logistics, while the ringette specific changes include smaller rosters, and less teams.

### Athlete Eligibility 2022

**Age:** U16 (athletes must be born in 2006 or 2007)

**Zones:** Teams will represent from zones 2, 3, 4, 5, 6/7, and 8.

\*For the 2022 BC Winter Games, Zone 6 and 7 will combine to form one Zone team.

### Zone Team Composition:

- Max of 16 players per team. Total of 96 athletes.
- No less than 80% of a team's roster must be female. \*For the 2022 BC Winter Games, Zone 6 and 7 will combine to form one Zone team. Ringette BC will finalize and approve the final representation from each Zone, and support Zones 6 and 7 in the process of forming the team.

### Eligibility:

Due to the age change to U16 there are additional eligibility requirements due to the potential for repeat athletes at the 2022 BC Winter Games.

1. The following athletes are not eligible to try out for, or participate in the 2022 BC Winter Games:
  - a. Any athlete who is rostered to Team BC (CRCs) for the 2021/2022 season AND attended the 2020 BC Winter Games
  - b. Any athlete who attended the 2020 BC Winter Games and placed in the top 3 (Zone 2, 4 and 5)
2. Any other athlete who attended the 2020 BC Winter Games from Zone 3, 4a, 7 or 8, is eligible to attend a second BC Winter Games in 2022 permitting:
  - a. They are not rostered to Team BC (CRCs) for the 2021/2022 season.

3. Athletes who are rostered to Team BC (CRCs) for the 2021/2022 season, and did NOT attend the 2020 BC Winter Games are eligible to tryout. These athletes should contact Ringette BC prior to attending the tryouts for their Zone.

### Change in Age Division

Ringette BC has been considering an age division change since 2015 to align more closely with Canada Winter Games and help with retention of youth athletes. Over, the past three cycles of BCWG Club-Association administrators and coaches have found the U15 aged division extremely disruptive to regular season scheduling and tournaments, as well as BCWG team scheduling, as it affects two age divisions in our existing competition structure.

### Reasons to Change to U16:

1. U15 is not a recognized age division in ringette, whereas U16 is creating better sport alignment.
2. Over the previous 2 cycles feedback from Associations and coaches suggested that if the age was increased it might help with retention of youth players.
3. Quality of the competition would improve with the second year U16 players participating.
4. Better alignment with Canada Winter Games as there is less of a gap between the two competitions
5. Maturity of the athletes was also a consideration.

Ringette BC recognizes that this change in the age division for upcoming BC Winter Games might be disappointing for U14 aged athletes who were hoping to compete at the 2022 event. These athletes will get the opportunity to compete for their Zone in 2024.

For more details related to BC Winter Games please visit the Ringette BC [website](#).

If you have questions related to the change in the age division please do not hesitate to contact the Ringette BC Executive Director at [executivedirector@bcringette.org](mailto:executivedirector@bcringette.org).

Sincerely,



Nicole Robb  
Executive Director,  
Ringette BC

Cc: Ringette BC Board of Directors  
Ringette BC Technical Director

### ***Relevant links:***

[DRAFT 2022 BCWG Technical Package](#)  
[BC Winter Games Website](#)