

August 23, 2024

Attention: U10 Parents

Welcome to Calgary NorthWest Ringette Association's 2024/2025 Evaluations

On behalf of the Calgary NorthWest Ringette Association (NW Ringette), thank you for joining us for the 2024/2025 ringette season. NW Ringette's mission is to develop young athletes in their ringette and life skills through competition, teamwork and fair play, as well as foster their lifelong enjoyment of the sport.

The evaluation process is the most difficult task for any ringette association. There are a considerable number of factors that go into organizing and evaluating our athletes. Each year, the NW Ringette Board of Directors (the Board) reviews the previous season's evaluations process and offers changes and improvements to make the experience better.

This year, the Board approved a renewed objective for evaluations: *To provide an objective, accurate, and transparent evaluation and team formation process.* In keeping with this objective, we have made changes to the evaluations process that may affect your athlete. A complete list of Evaluations 2024/25 season changes for all levels can be [found here](#).

Here is what you can expect this year:

2024/25 Evaluations Process

- U10 skills evaluations will be as per the Ringette Alberta guidelines for Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA). The UAA includes three stations with four timed drills: 1) Forwards/backwards speed skate, 2) Agility weave with the ring around pylons, and 3) Parallel start and stop drill.
- The first ice time is designed to get the athletes on the ice after being off all summer. This is not the official skills evaluation, but an opportunity to practice each station and know what to expect. The drills will be timed, but only as a trial run for volunteers. This ice time is optional to attend.
- The second ice time will be the official UAA skate. All stations are timed and the player's aggregate score will be used to determine the initial groupings for the scrimmage component of the evaluations. All players get two skates through each station. In the event of a fall, an additional skate will be allowed.
- The third ice time will be the first ringette scrimmage. The scrimmages will be evaluated by experienced coaches who do not have children in U10. ***Revised for this season*** Evaluators will be looking at ring control, defensive play, and game sense. You can view the updated Evaluation Rubric [on the website](#).
- There will be three rounds of scrimmages for U10. ***New this season*** Players will participate in at least two scrimmages. The scores for the first two scrimmages will be averaged. Note: Beginner skaters in U10 are not required to participate in scrimmages and will be placed in Step 1 pooling, based on their UAA scores.
- ***New this season*** Some scrimmages will be half-ice (scores will not be averaged). Refer to the U10 Flow Chart for details attached to this email for details. This change is to ensure evaluators can more accurately assess fundamental skill where the majority of the players have experience in a half-ice setting.
- After the second scrimmage, the Division Coordination team will look at the evaluation scores and determine if there are significant score differentials. If it is determined there are significant score differentials, then we will identify some players as Step 1 and some as Step 3 and remove them from scrimmage play. Removing these players at this time allows evaluators to spend more time and effort looking at the middle group. Effectively evaluating this middle group will allow us to have balanced teams throughout all U10 levels.

Notifications

- Athletes will be notified by email of their upcoming ice time. It is critical that you regularly check and thoroughly read each email from the association. The emails contain critical information on the process and what is coming-up next for your athlete. You will also be notified (through email) if your athlete's evaluations are complete.

Team Formation

- Once the evaluations process is complete, the teams will be formed. The next email you will receive will be from your head coach. Note: your first practice could happen very quickly after the team has been formed.

Evaluations Volunteers

- The sign up for evaluation volunteers will be available in the next few days. You will receive an email from the volunteer coordinator with further instructions. These roles count toward your NW Ringette volunteer requirement.

The evaluations process can be a stressful time for many players and their families. It is important to prepare your athlete in a way that does not put undue pressure on them. Please encourage them to do their best, but veer away from telling them they will make a certain level. If your player does not make the level you think they should have, remember how you handle the situation will directly impact how your child handles it.

Many volunteers are dedicating countless hours of their time to help make these two weeks go smoothly - we ask that you treat everyone with respect and patience as we work through any issues that may arise. With your help, we can ensure our athletes have an amazing experience this year playing ringette.

Please find attached the evaluation schedule for your division. Your player will not skate at all the ice times listed here. You will be notified of your specific ice times as soon as possible.

Feel free to approach any member of your division coordination team at any time with questions, comments or concerns. Our volunteers are here to help guide you through the process.

Sincerely,

Kate Shepherd, U10 Division Coordinator

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