

August 23, 2024

Attention: U12 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 and Team Formation Process

- At the U12 level, parents/caregivers/family members are no longer allowed in the dressing room to help with equipment or tie skates. If help is needed, athletes must leave the dressing room.
- U12 skills evaluations will be as per the Ringette Alberta guidelines for Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA). The UAA includes four stations with timed drills: 1) Forwards/backwards speed skate, 2) Agility weave with the ring around pylons, 3) Parallel start and stop drill, and 4) Butterfly transitional skate.
- 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.
- For the U12 level, there will also be two, learn-to-play full ice sessions that are completely optional and not evaluated. These are designed to help players new to full ice ringette feel more comfortable and do their best at evaluations.
- The next 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 fifth ice time will be the first ringette scrimmage. The scrimmages will be evaluated by experienced coaches who do not have children in U12. ***Revised for this season*** Evaluators will be looking at ring control, defensive play, and game sense. You can view the Evaluation Rubric [on the website](#).
- There will be four rounds of scrimmages for U12. ***New this season*** Players will participate in at least two scrimmages. The scores of the first and second scrimmages will be averaged.
- Note: For ice times following 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 "A" or "C" 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. "B" players will not be removed from scrimmages until the last skate. Effectively evaluating this middle group will allow us to have balanced teams throughout all U12 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. You will not be told where your athlete has finished by the Division coordinators. 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 next week. 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 in 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,

Lorna Backs, U12 Division Coordinator

Calgary NorthWest Ringette Association

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