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# Small Nets and Goaltender Development

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## Introduction

Sport has decades long experience using modified equipment and rules, relative to adult sport, to improve the quality of sport for young participants.

Specific sports have used different size balls, playing surfaces, size of goals, heights of nets, etc., to make sport more fun and maximize the learning environment for young participants. Ringette has also made modifications in its history; particularly the elimination of coloured sticks and the introduction of the shot clock.

This report looks at the suitability of using smaller nets for Active Start and U10 participants.

The use of the smaller nets was initiated by Northern Alberta stakeholders discussing the challenge of having a sufficient number of goaltenders over the long term and the impact of large nets on the short term enjoyment of individual participants. They wanted to test the small nets to determine if they would be a positive step to address their concerns.

Ringette Alberta was approached in June 2015; the concept was presented and a request for program and financial support was made. Ringette Alberta agreed to support the initiative by:

- agreeing to cost share
- making the use of the small nets optional to accommodate late timing and unplanned costs
- producing guidelines for what to do when games are played between teams from associations where one opted in and other opted out as well as what would happen when small nets were unavailable
- communicated the concept, financial offer and guidelines to all applicable associations in the province

## Results: League Data

The notion behind using the small nets was that individuals playing goal would have a greater chance of success defending a smaller net and the overall number of goals per game would be reduced. With lower goals against, players would be more likely to give the position a try.

Average goals per game for U10 for Black Gold League were tracked. The Black Gold League data was used as that league mandated small nets be used which made comparing results from the large nets (2015-16) to the small nets (2015-16) manageable and the data more reliable. Teams are re-pooled for the second session based on first session results in an effort to improve competitive equity. Only second session results were considered since teams are more closely matched as compared to the start of the season.

Level	Average Goals Per Game (second session)		
	2014-15	2015-16	Decrease
	(Large Nets)	(Small Nets)	
<b>U10 Step 2 – Black Pool</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>U10 Step 2 – Gold Pool</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>U10 Step 3 – Black Pool</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>U10 Step 3 – Gold Pool</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>

Results show that goals per game decreases with the small nets yet there are still no less than 4.1 goals per game. This shows what could be considered an appropriate balance between giving the players an environment where they are willing to try the goaltending position while maintaining the excitement of goal scoring for other players.

## Survey Results

In addition to the statistical analysis, Ringette Alberta invited parents and coaches at U10 to provide input via survey. The survey was sent to a total of 1220 individuals appearing in Ringette Alberta's registration database who have children registered in U10 during the 2015-16 season. A total of 291 individuals (122 coaches and 169 parents) provided complete responses.

Only surveys from those respondents whose children experienced *at least one game* with small nets were used in the following calculations:

Collectively, respondents were:

- quite supportive of small nets at U10 Step 1 (70.7% in favour);
- somewhat split on their opinion of the small nets at U10 Step 2 (47% in favour vs 42.9% opposed);
- and at U10 Step 3, 29.8% were either in support of using the small nets for the full year (10.9% or half year (18.9%) vs. 56.3% opposed

What is interesting is the difference of opinion between those who are coaches vs. those who are not.

Overall, coaches were more in support of small nets, regardless of level, than those who identified themselves as parents who do not coach. It may be appropriate to place more weight on the opinion of coaches who have more interaction with the players as a group and deal more directly with the challenge of goaltender development.

		Coaches (122)	%	Parents (169)	%	Combined (291)	%
U10 Step 1	Don't Know	3	2.4	15	8.8	18	6.1
	Large Nets	23	18.8	44	26	67	23
	Small Nets	96	78.6	110	65	206	70.7
U10 Step 2	Don't Know	6	10.6	23	13.6	29	9.9
	Large Nets	43	35.2	82	48.5	125	42.9
	Small Nets	73	59.8	64	37.8	137	47
U10 Step 3	Don't Know	13	10.6	27	15.9	40	13.7
	Small 1/2 season	23	18.8	32	18.9	55	18.9
	Small 1/2 season	22	18	10	5.9	32	10.9
	Large full season	64	52.4	100	59.1	164	56.3

In terms of the size of crease to use, of those who had an opinion, there was substantial support for using the large crease regardless of which size net is used.

- 7.5% Don't Know
- 14.4% Doesn't Matter
- 21.6% Small Net = Small Crease
- 55.6% Small Net = Large Crease

Although there may be a concern among some about the possibility of increased crease violations with the small net / large crease combination, if the small net is to be used, perhaps it is best to keep the crease size unchanged to maintain the same safety buffer between skaters and goaltenders and eliminate the need for players to adjust to a crease size change between U10 and U12 where there is also the introduction of the shot clock and possibly a net size change.

## Unanticipated Outcomes

Anecdotal feedback on the use of the small nets included a tendency for the game to have greater flow as a result of fewer stoppages of play since fewer goals were being scored. One observer reported the amount of activity per ice slot had increased with the small nets over the large nets thereby improving the activity/dollar ratio. On the contrary, one observer commented that crease violations went up resulting in more stoppages in play.

Many have suggested that there is a benefit to the shooters as well. With the smaller nets, shooters are having to be more mindful of their shot selection and technique in order to be successful which may improve the long term shooting success of these players.

Some have suggested that, when guarding a small net, some goaltenders simply lie down on the ice along the goal line rather than use proper goaltending technique.

There is no empirical data that measures how prevalent these observations are.

## Recommendations

Modification	Active Start 1	Active Start 2	U10-1	U10-2	U10-3	U12
<b>Net</b>	Small	Small	Small	Small	Small first half Regular second half	Regular
<b>Crease</b>	Large	Large	Large	Large	Large	Large
<b>Goalie Equipment</b>	Stick	Stick & Gloves	Full Equipment (chest protector optional)	Full Equipment (chest protector optional)	Full Equipment (chest protector recommended)	Full Equipment
<b>Maximum Playing Time in Goal per Individual<sup>1,2</sup></b>	25%	25%	25%	25%	50%	75%: <b>2016-17</b> 50%: <b>2017-18</b>

## Playing Time

<sup>1</sup>No player may play goal more than the indicated percentage of games...

- Over the **entirety** of the **regular** season including tournaments and league play
- Over the course of a provincial championship tournament (U12 only)

<sup>2</sup>Playing time of affiliate players will be excluded from the calculation

## About “Mandatory”

If approved, it is recommended that these conditions be mandatory for all associations, however, small nets will not be available for *every* game at *every* arena, at least for the short term. This means “mandatory” would have to allow for large nets to be used when small nets are simply not available despite best efforts.

This is the reality, however, it is recommended that tournaments, with the exception of the 2017 Esso Golden Ring, would be required to use small nets as indicated and that sanctioning be granted accordingly.

It is recommended that Ringette Calgary do its best to have small nets available for the 2017 Esso Golden Ring but it is understood that the large number of arenas used for this tournament makes guaranteeing small nets are available a significant challenge. It is recommended that Ringette Alberta and Ringette Calgary evaluate following the 2017 Esso Golden Ring.

## Monitoring and Compliance

The following are recommendations for consideration

- **Monitoring**

- Game sheets
  - Modified starting in 2016-17 with mechanism to identify which individuals play goal and their playing time.
- Roles:
  - Message to coaches:
    - Plan accordingly. Commit to developing goaltenders for the long term.
    - Use positive peer pressure to foster a “don’t be that coach” approach
  - Message to local association:
    - Commit to developing goaltenders for the long term
    - Educate your coaches
    - Set expectations and continue to reinforce throughout the season
    - Report on goaltender statistics at *every* meeting; make it part of your association’s culture
    - Support Ringette Alberta if/when it comes time for the provincial association to apply consequences
    - Use positive peer pressure to foster a “don’t be that association” approach
  - Message to leagues:
    - Commit to supporting goaltender development for the long term
    - Enter goaltender data into stats after each game

- Report on goaltender statistics at *every* league meeting and at the conclusion of the season; make it part of your league culture
  - Message to tournaments
    - Commit to supporting goaltender development for the long term
    - Submit goaltender data to Ringette Alberta after tournament (game sheets)
  - Message to parents
    - Accept that winning today has to take a backseat to long term goaltender development; what your team does today in U10 and U12 will affect your daughter when she is at U14 and U16. Support decisions today so her future team has a goalie
    - Remember it's a team game; goaltenders do have an impact but winning and losing is a team result
    - Cheer and support *all* goaltenders' efforts: your team's and your opponents'
  - Message to opponents
    - MYOB; let others monitor and enforce.
  - Ringette Alberta
    - Establish the policy
    - Modify the game sheets
    - Support local associations, leagues and tournaments with the task of monitoring
    - Implement consequences
- **Compliance measured when:**
  - U10
    - Throughout the season by local associations
  - U12
    - For regular season; cut off date for playdowns ranking
    - At the Provincial Championship tournament; in advance of medal games
- **Consequences:**
  - U10
    - Negative impact on the supply of goaltenders for association in subsequent years
  - U12
    - Negative impact on the supply of goaltenders for association for subsequent years
    - Regular season = no team access to playdowns and provincials
    - Provincial Championship = all games in advance of medal games recorded as 0-7 loss

## Appendix A - Survey Responses

Role	Association	U10 Step 1 mandatory	U10 Step 2 mandatory	U10 Step 3	Comments
Coach	Northwest	Don't know	Don't know	Don't know	We didn't have enough games/practices where the small nets were available. Other organizations had lots of experience with small nets and were very good at scoring (i.e. Spruce Grove). When I asked to use the small nets, I was denied from the ref after December. They said it was not used in Step 2 after December and that the nets were problematic and often moved. It was very difficult to arrange my goalie rotation so the girls that would benefit from the small nets would be able to use them, because of the lack of practices and games at a small net venue (Triwood and Huntington).
Coach	Cochrane	Yes	Yes	Full Season	I found the smaller nets made the players be more selective and accurate with shot selection and made moving the goalie a more important part of the play. I think the net to player size was ratio was accurate for what they will face later as the players and nets grow in size.
Coach	Lethbridge	Yes	Yes	First half	We started the season in Step 2 then advanced to Step 3. Our experience at Step 3 was challenging, and to rotate each player through goalie much easier on 'small net-days'. We put our larger girls in net when playing teams who didn't adopt the small net policy or when playing at arenas without the small nets. If anything, some consistency would be the most valuable thing - not knowing from game to game what sized nets is not ideal for teams, as it doesn't allow them to practice with the right sized net (both for shooters and goalies). We were a mix of Step 2 and 3 players - if we had played the season with a more 'true' Step 3 team, I would advocate at least half the season with large nets, in order to prepare goalies for U12. It's a big enough step to U12 that the girls don't need the added challenge of large nets all of a sudden too.
Coach	Northwest	Don't know	No	Not At All	
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	Small nets made it too hard to score. Girls did not practice raising the ring because it would only go over the net
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	
Coach	Northwest	No	No	Not At All	Scoring is a big part of what makes the game fun for the girls. Why reduce scoring substantially with smaller nets. At U10 the game needs to be fun.

Coach	Northwest	No	No	Not At All	Not a great idea to use small nets. Girls who think they are good goalies (after a season of small nets) will have their feelings crushed when they move to the large nets and find out that they have no idea how to cover a full-sized net.
Coach	South Calgary	No	No	Not At All	The small nets are so small that the girls fall into them easier. It also make it harder for them to score. The goalie can't go out as easily as the crease naturally increases when the net is net smaller.
Coach	Bow View	Yes	No	Not At All	
Coach	Bow View	Yes	No	Not At All	Bowview Ringette: I felt like the smaller nets at the Step 3 level really took a step back for the girls in terms of feeling like they were growing at the game. They (Step 3's) thought they were being treated like a U7. I honestly feel like if you have gone through the effort to tier the U10 group you should have better thought out the usage of the small nets for the top 2 tiers. In my opinion the small nets are a flop and should only be used for the 4,5 & 6 year olds.
Coach	Lacombe	Yes	No	Not At All	When there was a goalie that could play well really. Stop all of fence. Goals are fun.
Coach	Northwest	Yes	Yes	Not At All	Small nets force the shooters to shoot accurately and help to keep the games a little closer in most cases. Goalies have a net that is more similar to their body size and skill.
Coach	Lacombe	Yes	Yes	Not At All	I think the nets work fine at the lower stages but they become a problem when teams have dedicated goalies who have learned to cut the angle off. Talking with other parents of stage 3, they indicate that it was very dishearting for the kids because they couldn't score against a team where the goalie is talented and the team has a solid triangle.( even with an lopsided shots on goal)
Coach	Spruce Grove	Yes	Yes	Not At All	Ringette Canada and Ringette Alberta should put more focus on training coaches to teach goalies the position. Not all girls want to play goal, no matter what net they are in. Players moving to U12 that want to play goal now have to learn the position all over again because the angles change. We as members of ringette associations need to allow girls in U10 Step 3 and U12 to play goal full time if it is determined that only one girl wants to play. In U10 the girls practiced once and then play a game. You can not expect a girl to feel comfortable with this set up. My greater concern is that not all Associations follow the same rules for goalies, we played several teams in our league that had the same girl in

					net every game, these girls stand out. If the rules are too have everyone play goal then everyone should.
Parent	South Calgary	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	Small nets helped to manage the score and then the goalies didn't get as upset. Also prevented "blowouts" in terms of goals scored
Parent	Airdrie	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	
Parent	Indus	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	
Parent	Spruce Grove	No	No	Don't know	
Parent	Airdrie	Yes	Yes	Don't know	small players/goalie requires small nets... otherwise the goalies will get torched for double digit goals and will hate playing in net.
Parent	Strathmore	Yes	Yes	Don't know	Our team did not score a lot of goals, and were scored on a lot. Having larger nets would have magnified our problems. My daughter loved playing in net, but given that it was her first year playing, would not have had the same confidence in larger nets. I was surprised how easily girls still scored with these nets. I think small nets for u10 are a great choice.
Parent	Northwest	No	No	First half	
Parent	Indus	Yes	No	First half	Pro - made many of the kids more confident when saving goals, the shooter must have a more accurate shot Con - for the older girls moving up to U12 they were not able to practice with the regular size nets, not all associations had the small nets so it was inconsistent
Parent	Red Deer	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	Having small nests for the start of the U10 Step 3 gave the goalies some confidence and the players had to be more accurate to score. The the end of the season, moving to big Nets will prepare them for U12. The downfall of the small nets is that some of the bigger girls almost filled the entire net to make scoring difficult. Or, I noticed that some of the associations seemed to be coaching their goalies to go down in a butterfly and block the entire bottom of the net before the players even shot on goal.

Parent	Red Deer	Yes	Yes	First half	Small nets are proportionate to U10 size. The large nets are made for adults...this is not appropriate. At first, I was skeptical thinking that the players would not be able to score, but I was mistaken. Players could score...it helped develop players shot accuracy as well as helped the goal keeper build confidence. I do not see any cons except that they net usage was inconsistent.
Parent	Sherwood	Yes	Yes	First half	Great idea- small nets for small players
Parent	Spruce Grove	Don't know	Don't know	Not At All	Net was too small for step three where it was noted some goalies were skilled enough to play angles and come out and challenge. This resulted in too low of scoring. Children not skilled enough struggled to score leading to visible frustration.
Parent	Bow View	Don't know	No	Not At All	
Parent	Cochrane	Don't know	No	Not At All	Did not like small nets at U10 level for Full Season. It could be good for step 1 for beginning half of year to get them use to position. I found such a size difference between girls that small nets were more frustrating when a team would put biggest child in nets as they covered whole net area. Also as my daughter was on a step 2 team and is going to U 12 next year. It would have been nice for her to have had more experience with lg nets.
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	My daughter felt embarrassed when her relatives came to watch a game and small nets were used. The kids scored less and it threw off their game when small nets were used
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	
Parent	Cochrane Ringette	No	No	Not At All	This survey should have been sent last year before some zones and associations made the change. There should have been some small group testing done to see if there was any benefit to using them. (what was the purpose of the experiment? Were the desired outcomes realized? Etc.) I can see benefit in practice for shooting drills, but not games. Hockey teams end up using the small nets for this purpose. Our U10 Step 3 girls had played 3-4 seasons with regular sized nets, and then changed to the small nets this year. It represented a regression in skill development, because they had to adjust to larger creases smaller nets and then next year move up to big nets again and then also more change with the implementation of the shot clock. There is zero skill development benefit to small nets - only regression, it only serves to pump the kids' egos by making them feel

					<p>that they are better goalies than they actually are...this will be exploited in U12. If you want more kids to play in net, implement a fair play rule that states; every player must play every position throughout the season (move them around for every game). Players in U10 or active start should not be able to declare a position preference until U12, and should be required to play all positions - including goal - so that they gain an appreciation for all positions and game play at those positions. I sincerely believe that the kids not wanting to play goal IS NOT THE PROBLEM. It is a product of parents who do not want to have their kid play in net and they talk to them about it to and from the rink. I have heard many parents talk about this in both ringette and hockey. Parents, as usual, can be the solution, but also, as usual, are the most likely cause of the problem. I get it, equipment is expensive. Goalie can be a high stress position - kids will figure that out - parents are the ones getting embarrassed and have discouraging conversations outside of the rink with their kids. I have seen similar instances in hockey, baseball and soccer. Parents all think their kids are certain things and constantly try to guide their kids to what mom or dad thinks is appropriate. Parent: "My kid is a centre." Coach: "Really? Because they skate well, see the ice, and can transition forwards to backwards and demonstrates an ability to defend exceptionally." Stop patronizing controlling parents, and let the kids develop and play the game the way they always have. If you are going to implement a change, make it mandatory, and make it consistent across all leagues, zones and provinces - otherwise other jurisdictions will have advantages or disadvantages if it is not consistent. Create an even playing field. In case it is not clear, I think small nets are counterproductive to skill development in game situations and only moderately helpful in certain practice drills.</p>
Parent	Red Deer Ringette	No	No	Not At All	<p>My daughter is an aspiring goaltender. She prefers to use the large nets and complained about the smaller nets when they were made to use them. By U10 the girls that want to play net, will do so regardless of how many goals are scored on them. Some girls are receiving additional training at this level and that is being wasted by making them play in a smaller net.</p>
Parent	South Calgary	No	No	Not At All	

Parent	South Calgary	No	No	Not At All	Both my daughter and I did not like the small nets. The girls should be using the regular nets, not be switching mid-ringette career.
Parent	Sherwood Pk	No	No	Not At All	I think the nets should be the same size all the way through. Giving them the false security of the small net for a couple of years and making them transition to the bigger ones isn't right. They will be used to having to cover only a small area and when put in front of the big net I think it will make them less likely to want to play as opposed to if they've always stood in front of the big net.
Parent	Bow View	Yes	No	Not At All	
Parent	Lethbridge	Yes	No	Not At All	
Parent	South Calgary	Yes	No	Not At All	after using the big nets most season and then having to adjust to the small nets for shooting the girls seemed frustrated at times.
Parent	Spruce Grove	Yes	Yes	Not At All	I had 2 girls in Ringette - 1 Step 2 where the small nets were great for that level. helped goalie confidence, and promoted the girls shooting a little more accurately. However for my girl in Step 3, I felt the nets were too small for that level. I think going into U12 there are too many transitions...large net and shot clock. I would definitely recommend large net for Step 3.
Coach	Spruce Grove	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	Personally as a coach I thought our girls loved the big nets :)
Parent	Calgary East	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	I just thought it was nicer to have smaller nets at some games for the younger players I.e. Six and unders
Parent	Lethbridge	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	
Parent	Northwest	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	As a parent watching, I think the small net provided a more even playing field. Those who were not strong in net and for those teams that were strong opponents - not as many BIG score differences.
Parent	Calgary East	Don't know	No	Don't know	
Parent	Northwest	Yes	Yes	Don't know	Clarity is important. We had several games this season where our coaches wanted to use the small nets (available) but the other team didn't want too and make quite a big deal. In fact, one tournament game we had to switch nets at half time! Kids seeing this kind of interaction is not appropriate. The smaller nets allow focus on skills and game learning not what team can score the most points. Not to mention the pressure on these little goalies at this level. Consistency is important.
Parent	Strathmore	Yes	Yes	Don't know	The small net provided our players a positive ringette experience. Our players are smaller and therefore the smaller nets made sense.

Parent	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Fort McMurray	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Red Deer	Yes	Yes	First half	I really feel it depends on what the association wants to foster. If you want to foster goal tenders the small nets should be used for Step 1, 2 and possibly 3. If you would like to give confidence in scoring large nets. BUT I found ringette is so much more than scoring I would be sad to see if they went to small nets. Ringette feels like a culture of creating confidence, team work and self esteem that I feel small nets stay with that culture.
Parent	Northwest	Yes	Don't know	Not At All	The smaller nets definitely made for lower scoring games. I don't think it encouraged more girls to try goalie - the girls that volunteered for our team did not change with the net size. I wonder if girls who become confident with the smaller net size and decide to sign up as goalie in U12 only to be discouraged that they are not doing as well with the large nets.
Parent	Northwest	Yes	Don't know	Not At All	there may be benefits of using small nets for step 1 but definitely not for step 3
Parent	Northwest	Don't know	No	Not At All	
Parent	South Calgary	Don't know	No	Not At All	
Parent	Strathmore	Don't know	No	Not At All	I had three girls playing this year. 1 in active start and two in U10. One was step 2 and the other step 3. I think small nets for the new girls just starting out are great and can slowly be phased out as they get bigger and older but for the girls that had already been playing with the big bets to go down to small nets was counter productive and I didn't really hear good feedback from them about it. I also noticed as an observation that they did not play as well as they had been when they were used to the bigger nets in the past and had to switch to the small nets. As a suggestion - for the girls that had been playing with big nets - could you not continue with the big nets and then start with the incoming groups in Active start and possibly U10 step 1 use the small nets and eventually transition to a bigger net in step 2 or 3??
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	
Parent	Northwest	No	No	Not At All	Switching back and forth between net sizes seemed to throw the players off. Smaller nets had no apparent advantages and did not result in lower or closer scores.

Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	The small nets would be ok for U7 but for such a small age division they are a big expense and difficult to cover all the arenas the teams play in and more difficult to schedule ice in only the arenas that have the small nets. In all u10 I don't think they should be used. They encourage girls to keep the ring on the ice to shoot instead of raising the ring. As well- the goalies roster in all of u10- this is way more important to getting girls to try being a goalie than having a small net. As well- having goalie clinics/and/or coaches that can teach the girls the basics of being a goalie- positioning themselves properly in front of the net, moving, cutting down the angles, stick placement etc- have much more influence on girls being successful and happy in net. A game with a score of 10-9 in u10 can be a great game and be very fun for all the players including the goalie. Cutting down on the scoring doesn't necessarily make for great games or fun or skill development of girls. Teaching players to be competent in net even if it's not their favorite position should be the goal in ringette- not making it more difficult for the players to develop their scoring skills. We had a coach this year that could work with the girls that played net and my daughter actually wanted to try being in net for the first time in 5 years of ringette! She did the best she's ever done and had a lot of fun in net. She played in a full size net. I believe she enjoyed the experience because she had learned some basic skills before they put her in there. She was set up to be successful. Coaches really need to be educated on coaching basic goalie skills- this would be the most helpful! Thank you for doing this survey.
Parent	Beaumont	Yes	No	Not At All	I get that the small net helps the goalie but I also find that it makes it so much harder for the kids to get a goal. Their shot has to be that much more accurate. Had we used big nets they would have lost just as many games but probably would have had a more goals.
Parent	Spruce Grove	Yes	No	Not At All	If the team puts a big player in the net (which I've seen done intentionally), it's very hard for players to score.
Parent	Spruce Grove	Yes	No	Not At All	I see the use of the small nets beneficial to the new younger players, however, as they grow and move into the step 2/3 levels, with u12 in their near future the use of small nets may not be beneficial.
Coach	Leduc	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	More confidence was built for the players trying goal. Once a player has tried goal, we

					were able to work on technique more and they didn't lose their confidence in playing goal.
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	
Coach	Airdrie	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Coach	Airdrie	Yes	Yes	Don't know	At first I thought the small nets were not very good idea, but after seeing it, and also the massive skill difference with the Step2 level across associations (>50% of the teams we played who were 'Step2' were easily Step3 skill caliber) - it gave our team a chance as the goalie could cover more of the net. I also believe it is much less intimidating for the younger girls and it is a great idea and change.
Coach	Fort McMurray	Yes	Yes	Don't know	Really like them!! Has made our players better shooters as now they actually have to make a good shot to score and has limited the back hand flip shot to score easily as previous seasons. Our goalies have experienced more success and we have grown by 3 young goalies in our assoc.
Coach	Red Deer	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Don't know	The small nets helped goalies feel more confident, and made the other players better shooters as they had to be more accurate. It also created fewer opportunities for blow outs in my opinion.
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	No	Full Season	I believe it challenges the girls to perfect their shot and learn the skill of knowing where your shot is going to go. the big nets are to easy to score on while a small child is in.
Coach	Northwest	Yes	Yes	Full Season	The small nets stopped the really lopsided games and keep the score from getting in to the double digits. The girls who played in the small nets had a much better goalie experience and were ready to play again. The girls who played in the big nets were less likely to do it again even after a victory
Coach	Airdrie	Yes	Yes	Full Season	As a coach we had 13 out of 14 girls try net this year. 2 seasons (Large nets) ago we had 5-6 try it and ending up having 3 willing to play by the end of the year. We also have seen our scorers having to refine their skills and make more dekes and improve their shots.
Coach	Cochrane	Yes	Yes	Full Season	Kid's are more inclined to be goalies. Scoring is lower and more emphasis can be placed on defensive play.

Coach	Cochrane	Yes	Yes	Full Season	Games scores were much closer, all my players were eager to try goal as compared to last year when many of the girls I coach were apprehensive to even try to play goalie.
Coach	Drayton Valley	Yes	Yes	Full Season	it makes kids focus on shooting and/or making a deke to score rather than look at a quarter fill net easy to score. it also kept games lopsided games in check rather than 16-2 it was 8-1.
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	Full Season	I think the small nets were fantastic. I've coached u10 the last two years and have essentially had the same team two years in a row. This year, using the small nets, we had more girls actually interested in playing goalie. The previous year, we had zero girls interested in it. I found that the little nets helped to grow confidence within the girls and encouraged them to play goalie. I strongly feel that the little nets should be used for all of step three U10 steps as it will help to not only grow goalies, but to develop confidence amongst the younger girls in their ability to be flexible and play many positions. As well, in the younger divisions suggest as u10, I find that not all players have great aim when shooting. The larger nets does not force the girls to develop accuracy when shooting. The little nets were excellent in developing this skill with the younger girls. I cannot speak positively enough about the little nets....we loved them and are hoping they will be back for all three steps next year!!!
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	Full Season	
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	Full Season	Goals were still quite frequent with the small nets. Large creases gives the girls learning space to move. Every girl on my team played goal at least once. No were discouraged. Goalies need to be promoted at all levels. There are always players. Plus forces better shots and passing. Not just a pitchfork to the top of the net.
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	Full Season	What a fantastic addition to the game! Developmentally appropriate for goalies and helpful for creating more accurate shooters. I can't imagine why these nets would not be made mandatory for U10 (especially steps 1 and 2).
Coach	Fort Sask	Yes	Yes	Full Season	
Coach	Fort Sask	Yes	Yes	Full Season	The small nets defiantly made my players have to be creative and work hard to get their goals. I think it is too easy for the players to score with the big nets!! Unfortunately it will be harder to develop goalie skills like angles

					because it will be different when they move to the next level!
Coach	Hinton	Yes	Yes	Full Season	The only problem we had was one team had a very big girl wearing big pads that covered the whole net when she went down into a butterfly. It made it virtually impossible to score. For most regular sized girls in net it was not a problem.
Coach	Indus	Yes	Yes	Full Season	Forced our players to concentrate on making plays and working more as a team. it increased our teams passing. gave teams more opportunity to setup in the defensive zone and really create the triangle we all try to preach instead of players entering the zone and driving straight to the net and shooting. much more flow to the games with half as many whistles and less setting up for free pass keeping the games more entertaining
Coach	Leduc	Yes	Yes	Full Season	At the U10S2 level I liked the small nets as it gave the goalies and defence more confidence while at the same time I think it developed the forwards into raising the rings more and also looking for making more passes to try for an open net shot. When we were forced to play with large nets, the girls started with a more defeated attitude as if they had a disadvantage. With this attitude, I think if large nets are to be used in step 3, they need to play the whole season with the large nets. Goal scoring was still decently high even with the small nets.
Coach	Rockyford	Yes	Yes	Full Season	I feel that with the small nets, there is less goal scoring which has a couple benefits; encourages more girls to give goal tending a try, makes the game more enjoyable for the girls and improves the kids shooting accuracy. I believe that whatever decision is made that every Step should have the same rules regarding the nets. Its based on age, not size. If it is the same for all, then there is more consistency and all the girls know that once they are out of U10, larger nets come into play. The girls don't care, IT'S THE PARENTS!
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Full Season	I believe the small nets gave some of the girls more confidence when playing that position. The issue I have with the small nets is that some teams had very large players (for this age) and the players seemed to be coached to just go down and take up as much of the net as possible. There did not seem to be any coaching those larger players on how to play the actual position other than just be BIG.

Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Full Season	My daughter doesn't enjoy playing goalie - small nets or big nets. I do find it helps them develop better shot accuracy. Some of the games were still pretty high scoring though even with the small nets. I wouldn't change the size of the crease, that would cause too much confusion.
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Full Season	
Coach	Hinton	Yes	Don't know	First half	
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	
Coach	South Calgary	Yes	Yes	First half	Small nets help keep scoring lower and more goalie volunteers, but not sure it develops more goalie interest. U10-3 goalies need to play in a regular sized net to get ready for U12. It is a huge jump in net size and can be discouraging if not ready for positioning and play in a larger net.
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	Small nets made my daughter more keen to try goals. There were still plenty of goals scored.
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	The small nets were great. Even for a player who wasn't at skilled at goaltending, it gave them a chance to make saves. For the shooters, there were still many scoring opportunities and taught them to look for the open areas.
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	Thought it was goo for step 1 and 2. But not step 3. Girls moving up to u 12 now have big nets and shot clock. Thx for the survey.
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	
Coach	Hinton	Yes	Yes	First half	I feel the small nets helped the girls improve shot accuracy and more girls were open to trying out goalie.
Coach	Indus	Yes	Yes	First half	I think it benefits the players as well as the goalies to have a smaller net. Not only is it better for the goalies confidence but it makes the players have to think about their shot choices.
Coach	Pembina	Yes	Yes	First half	

Coach	Red Deer	Yes	Yes	First half	<p>I rotated goalies all season (change at half) including tournaments. I sent a set of pads home with the goalies after practice. I feel that our goalies did benefit from the smaller net and step 1 &amp; 2 is a good place to "right-size" the nets. That being said when playing teams who employed the triangle in Step 2, there was nothing to shoot at. Teams may carry the possession play in the offensive end but would have to shoot thru 3 defenders, goalie as well as a teammate or two expecting a pass. This was an unintended outcome of the smaller nets, one aspect helps the goalie, the other is it frustrates the shooter (who is not rewarded for the effort to arrive at the net with a viable shot option). My daughter will transition into Step 3 next season. I like the small nets for half the season (to build goalie confidence). A transition after Christmas would train all players who will move onto U12 (bigger goal, better shooters etc). At first the smaller net did not excite me as I wanted all players to score and to score alot to sustain their interest. All of my players scored and we used the smaller nets (some would have liked to score more &amp; were frustrated). Other players also grew to enjoy other aspects of the game (checking, passing styles, stabs &amp; channeling). This is largely a reflection of salesmanship on aspects of the game from the coach. A little more scoring would be nice (a 3/4 size net vs 2/3) but the investment has been made. At the very least I would ban the use of a triangle defense for step 1 &amp; 2 in the interests of promoting pursuit &amp; opening shot lanes for the shooter. As for step 3, good goalies, triangles and small nets are a recipe for very frustrated shooters &amp; coaches too. A transition at mid-season will be welcome by shooters. If the triangle defense is banned until larger nets are employed I can see benefits to all players (offense &amp; defense).</p>
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	<p>I actually had 2 daughters in U10 (one was in Step 2 and the other was a second year step 3 player). In the step 2 division I think the small nets are great all year and did not result in them impacting the game as our scores were still high, however I do think it helped improve confidence in the girls playing goal. In step 3, the first half of the season, I don't think it impacted the outcomes of the games and perhaps improved shot accuracy. In the second half of the season however, I think the small nets impacted the outcomes of the</p>

					games. A goalie with size like you get in these kids can make a lot of saves without playing the goalie position well. I saw a lot of big goalies just sit in their crease and not move a lot. I think this risks development of laziness and bad habits in goal and it also builds frustration in the players playing other positions. Additionally, introducing them after Christmas for sure gets them introduced to the net size the step 3 players moving to the U12 level in the following season will be seeing (whether they are playing goal at U12 or another position).
Coach	Spruce Grove	Yes	Yes	First half	I thought the small nets were fantastic. They allowed goalies to make many more saves and increase the accuracy of the shots on net. It also kept the score much closer if they were unbalanced teams playing each other. I saw no issues with the small nets - great job!
Coach	Spruce Grove	Yes	Yes	First half	
Coach	St. Albert	Yes	Yes	First half	The biggest challenge we saw with the use of small nets was ensuring that they were on the ice. Especially in St. Albert where the staff at Servus place did not always know where the nets were kept as SARA owned the nets and not the city.
Coach	South Calgary	Yes	Don't know	Not At All	Small nets challenge the forwards more and create parity between teams who have different talent levels. The overall effect of small nets promotes shooting with accuracy and rewarding skill.
Coach	Red Deer	Yes	Don't know	Not At All	This year, I found with my u10 step 3 team that girls were willing to play goal if we used the small nets but they did not want to play if we were using the large nets. I understand that the idea is to develop goaltenders but we are not really developing goaltenders if they do not want to play when using the large nets. There needs to be more incentive and coaching for the girls to increase the development of girls to be goaltenders.
Coach	Indus	Don't know	No	Not At All	
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	Not good. They should stick to the large net don't change things it just causes confusion
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	The overall objective shared with us was that this initiative was to try to keep scores closer. In my observation, it created a larger gap as teams that were used to playing with small nets could not defend when playing a bigger net and teams with enough skill level could score with either the large or small net. My personal feeling is that if you teach players the game with one size of net and then make it bigger as they get older, you are just

					prolonging the learning curve of how to protect your net, both from a goalie and defensive point of view. Keep the core elements of the game the same from the onset.
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	I
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	Psychological the girls panicked seeing them. Still had scoring games but girls often found themselves not guarding the net at all as they moved too far
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	Noticed our girls adjusted very well to using the larger nets this year and feel they put themselves in a better position for years to come. Scores might be higher but coaches work with the girls to make the adjustment from both a physical and mental aspect of the game.
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	Pro's is it forces the kids to pass more and look for the one timer. Con is it reduces scoring and don't you want to give them as much confidence as possible at this young age?
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	The use was too inconsistent (not being at enough rinks) to make the desired outcome achievable. Kids were often shooting like they had a big net yet were missing because of a small net. I would think a small crease would be very confusing to players that then had to switch to a larger. Please avoid those types of changes. Small nets would be appropriate at the u7 level and possibly first half of u10 step 1. I felt all our players were comfortable being a goalie by the second half of the season in a full size net.
Coach	Medicine Hat	No	No	Not At All	
Coach	South Calgary	No	No	Not At All	Will likely not be possible for every rink to own and store small nets. What happens if teams play most games with small nets then come to a rink without them?
Coach	South Calgary	No	No	Not At All	With not all rinks offering the small nets the girls were not able to consistently use them, or practice with them often. Very confusing to them and they were disappointed when scoring was almost nonexistent with the small nets.
Coach	South Calgary Ringette	No	No	Not At All	Small nets do not allow girls a good opportunity to score. There will always be the girls who like playing net and the ones who don't like it small nets or not. I have coached several teams over the years and the girls love scoring goals and if you take that away they may be less interested in playing ringette. I also saw several goalies staying down too much with small nets as majority of

					shots are low which gets them into a bad habit for when they play in larger nets.
Coach	Red Deer	No	No	Not At All	I did not like the use of small nets. I find that all girls like to score- that is what makes it fun for them. Some of our weaker girls did not score very much, if at all. The larger net allows for more goals. Also, we found that several teams played the triangle around these small nets making it almost impossible to get to the net- and promoting standing around the net rather than skating and getting aggressive on the player carrying the ring. Goalies- we rotated at our level until we found a few that wanted to play more. It seemed to work for us.
Coach	Red Deer	No	No	Not At All	They are a complete waste of time. Girls were not scoring which made the game less fun for them. My daughter is looking at hockey now because it wasn't as fun. She played goalie for two years previously. Sure she didn't look forward to her turn but she still hated it this year with the smaller nets. It also didn't help "sell" the sport to her cousins, when they came to watch or at tournaments they thought they were embarrassing. The hockey families added to that chorus.
Coach	Bow View	Yes	No	Not At All	
Coach	Bow View	Yes	No	Not At All	
Coach	Bow View	Yes	No	Not At All	I had 2 daughters in Ringette both in U10 step 2 and Step 3. Everyone is STEP 3 is at the same competitive skill there is no need to dumb down this game and bring in small nets. half of these girls will head to U12 A (why would we want to encourage small nets to these girls). Note these girls are going to U12 ... 8,9,10 year olds can play with large nets. My daughter in step 2 was 7 years old and loves playing goalie.. She is small.. Large or small nets did not matter. However when another tema puts in a goalie that is twice her size and she has to try score on a small net.. Thats discouraging. How can she even get a ring in the net when the goalie takes up 90% of the the NET. So I feel we are discouraging those girls on ice against a goalie where there is not even a chance to score. We played a game where it was small nets and the score was 17 -2 had nothing to do with skill it had to do with a goalie that was big and tall.. and my daughter that was small. if we had a bigger net maybe we could have score a few more goals. and maybe our team would not have given up and protected there own goalie However I see the pros for step 1 as these

					kids are either brand new to the sport or just getting going in the game. Its not as competitive and it will help with these smaller girls confidence.
Coach	Medicine Hat	Yes	No	Not At All	WHEN we used them and the girls got used to them we liked them for step 1. However, the use or small nets in games and tournaments weme hardly used and we found that if you make it mandatory then it needs to be mandatory and not a recommendation
Coach	South Calgary Ringette	Yes	No	Not At All	I think it's confusing to the girls if you would use different creases depending on the net. Our girls were always disappointed when they had to use the small nets. Some of our girls were bigger then the nets, so the other team didn't have much to shoot at.
Coach	South Calgary	Yes	No	Not At All	I would like U10 (step 2 and 3) to use big nets. Not only are we trying to coach players to utilize and see all playing surface on the ice we are coaching them to shoot st the open spaces in the net. We are also starting to work on our wrist shots and the bigger net is simply better.
Coach	South Calgary	Yes	No	Not At All	Our lack of use was mostly a result of no nets available or inconvenience to have the new nets put on the ice. With small nets still had blowout scores.
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	No	Not At All	I think small nets should be used in active start and S1. Half way through the S2 season the nets should switch. I believe this is a more gradual switch to the larger nets thus not having a girl loose all the confidence gained at U10 when the switch to U12 happens.
Coach	Sherwood	Yes	No	Not At All	Pro-easier for the girls to learn the game and position Players are forced to work on accurate shooting as the net is not as big Con- as the girls get older they will be consistently out of position for the first bit the large nets are used
Coach	Medicine Hat	Yes	Yes	Not At All	My daughter was in her 4th year of u10 and it was difficult for her to go to the small nets. She was use to a certain distance between the crease and net. Also, it didn't make sense for her to play 3 years with regular nets, 1 year with small and now to u12 with regular again. I like the small nets but think they need to phased in each year so that players aren't starting with regular, going to small, then back to regular.
Coach	South Calgary	Yes	Yes	Not At All	
Coach	South Calgary	Yes	Yes	Not At All	
Coach	Airdrie	Yes	Yes	Not At All	
Coach	Beaumont	Yes	Yes	Not At All	

Coach	Beaumont	Yes	Yes	Not At All	Overall, I don't believe the small nets were very effective in lowering game scores. Our team still ended up in games where the real score was over a 20 goal difference. It doesn't matter that the score isn't reflected on the board, the girls understand how badly they are being beaten. Accurately tiering players & teams (and not allowing over age exceptions, the age difference is already large enough) will provide more benefit than smaller nets. If they are used at all, it should be mandatory.
Coach	Cochrane	Yes	Yes	Not At All	In coaching Step 1, I did not have trouble finding players who wanted to play goalies which was different from past years. I think they are great for Step 1. The players are still small enough that they need to learn to move around in the net but gave them confidence and they weren't getting blown out of the water in games. For Step 2, in the games I watched, I saw coaches had their goalies place their feet on both post and just stand there with the goalie stick between their legs. I really did not see good goalie development occurring at these levels due to the net size and the players are bigger and can spread across the net. I note above the small nets should be mandatory for Step 2 but it would be better to split the season in half with small nets and big nets. For Step 3, which my oldest daughter played and I coached a number of her teammates in the past before dropping back to Step 1, they are just far to big for small nets. Just standing the majority of players totally consume the net. With having to move to big nets right away in U12, I feel the small nets do not encourage good goalie principles and skills because they don't have to use them. Large nets should be used at the Step 3 level.
Coach	Drayton Valley	Yes	Yes	Not At All	Does not get them ready for u12. They have to learn the shot clock and big nets. Seems like a huge transition.
Coach	Indus	Yes	Yes	Not At All	
Coach	Leduc	Yes	Yes	Not At All	
Coach	Red Deer	Yes	Yes	Not At All	

Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Not At All	<p>As the U10 Director for Sherwood Pk Ringette I've been able to solicit an opinion on the subject from both parents and coaches at all three steps. Overwhelmingly, all parents and coaches agreed that step 1 and step 2 teams benefited from using right-sized nets. Athletes were more willing to try the position, and games were more competitive. Especially since most athletes were still learning the goalie position. However, at the step 3 level, our association feels regular sized nets should be used the Full Season for a number of reasons. Firstly, many 9 year olds have hit their growth spurt. The smaller nets aren't right-sized anymore - they're too small. Many of these athlete/goaltenders have been playing for 5/6 years, and have a developed a solid "butterfly" style of goaltending. Between the size of the goalies and the advanced skill set, many games had limited scoring. It was the opinion of our step 3 group that a larger, advanced-skilled goaltender played too much of role in deciding the outcome of games. Often, the goaltender didn't need to be skilled, just big. Ring possession often did not dictate outcome, goalies did. From a goalie perspective, they did feel more confident, but at the same time less confident about their skill set knowing they were moving to large nets next year. Secondly, from a players' perspective, they rarely received any immediate positive feedback when shooting the ring. Shooters rarely scored off of good shots. When goals were scored off of shots, it was often luck. The majority of the goals occurred off of good passing (cross-crease, etc...), which is fantastic, but an important part of the game is being pushed aside.</p>
Coach	Spruce Grove	Yes	Yes	Not At All	<p>Small nets were great for the U10S1 group. Although there were times when girls a little older/larger really benefitted from this but as a coach and a parent I think they are perfect for U10S2 down to active start. I do feel at Step 3, large nets should be used. Moving from S3 to U12 has enough other challenges for the girls and introducing large nets prior to U12 would be advantageous. I also witnessed games in S3 where the girls were so big in the small nets, they didn't even have to move to stop shots. We still want to encourage development of goalies at this age which includes movement and positioning. Critical to start girls at this age versus U12</p>

					when shooters have become much stronger and quicker.
Coach	Spruce Grove	Yes	Yes	Not At All	
Coach	St. Albert	Yes	Yes	Not At All	As a coach for 12 years and goaltender for 30+, I would like to be able to train goaltenders in the large nets in step 3. The biggest issue being "angles" and use of the crease to determine angles. If they are full time goalies in U12, they need to understand this fundamental concept. With smaller nets, goalies tend to stand on goal line and block net. They don't challenge and cut down the angle. Great for Step 1 and 2, greatly reduces "blow outs". I think we only had one 20-1 game this year (and that was more due to incorrect placement of a step 3 team in step 2 grouping)
Parent	Hinton	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	
Parent	Edmonton	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	This was our first season, so I have nothing to compare it to. Small nets seem to make sense and work well.
Parent	Lacombe	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Parent	Pembina	Yes	Yes	Don't know	I think the size of the net is great in relation to the size of the children, makes sense as they are starting to learn.
Parent	Pembina	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Parent	Airdrie Ringette	Yes	Yes	Full Season	-the games were closer in score -kids were not afraid to try goalie position -it made it more difficult for kids to score their 3 goals, for skilled kids this kept them interested in the game longer instead of disengaging after their 3 goals were scored. -flow of the game was much better, not as many whistles because of high scoring games. -kids learn about rebounds because not every shot goes in the net! -kids develop a better shot since they cannot just scoop it in the net. - improves kids confidence. -when affiliating to U12 there were no issues making this transition.
Parent	Drayton Valley	Yes	Yes	Full Season	
Parent	Lethbridge	Yes	Yes	Full Season	Excellent - I love them! keeps scores reasonable, requires players to aim, players quickly learn to develop powerful and accurate shots, players appreciate they need to work hard for goals and when they get one it's much more meaningful for the whole team. I like the big crease, again this requires girls to be strategic when shooting on net and creates more space for the goalies. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Parent	Northwest	Yes	Yes	Full Season	When the smaller nets were used the games were closer and more enjoyable for the fans and players. An incident arose with another association that opposed smaller nets. Their team was committed to winning and wanted to score as many goals as possible. They would not allow the use of small nets because there was a chance they would not win the game. Whatever decision is made, ensure each associating abodes by the rules of which net is appropriate.
Parent	Spruce Grove	Yes	Yes	Full Season	I THOUGHT THE SMALL NETS WHERE GREAT FOR MAKING THE GAME COMPETITIVE AND FAIR. MOST GIRLS AT THIS AGE ARE NOT BIG ENOUGH TO DEFEND THE LARGE NETS. ALSO FORCES THE OFFENCE TO PRACTICE THEIR AIM. GOOD OVERALL
Parent	Strathmore	Yes	Yes	Full Season	A great change to help with the girls' confidence in goal
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	No	First half	The size of the goalie had a HUGE impact on the game - found that if you had a large tall girl in net there was no room for girls to score. The goalie did not have the even move - just stood still with the stick down and there was no chance to score.
Parent	Cochrane	Yes	Yes	First half	It would have been beneficial if this was all decided last year instead of imposing a wishy washy stance on small nets. This past season did not help our girl age group. Now they will be going into U12 with full size nets again, plus a shot clock. I'm disappointed with how Ringette Alberta made these decisions in the past and I hope you get it resolved for the upcoming Step players.
Parent	South Calgary	Yes	Yes	First half	Our daughter had been excited to try goal. On the game where she was first able to try that position large nets were used for the first time. She can skate fully inside a large net without having to duck, so it wasnt a great experience, especially as the other goalie was significantly larger. There was no consistency for games and tournaments throughout the remainder of the year. Sometimes small net, sometimes large.
Parent	Strathmore	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Airdrie	Yes	Yes	First half	I think they have merit, however it would be nice to see the girls transition into the big nets before they go up to u12 at the step three position for sure. Maybe first have of season in small nets but last half in big. I would not like to see the crease line changed as they have so much to learn in regards to rules. That would just be another thing to have to relearn when they go to u12 - they

					are already dealing with the shot clock at that step
Parent	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Lacombe	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	Look at the scores for most games, I do not think the girls had much trouble scoring. My fear is that with the larger nets the scores would get out of hand which can be very defeating for anyone.
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	Improves shooting accuracy,
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	In step 2, there were still plenty of goals scored in the majority of games with the small nets. However it was frustrating if there was a larger than average goalie with bigger pads - made it almost impossible to score, even if they weren't doing much but standing there. But for the more timid players, I'm sure it is helpful in making them at least want to try the position. I am unsure about how I feel about next year as my daughter will be in Step 3 and I want her to be exposed to larger nets as she will be the following year for U12.
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	I thought that the small nets kept the scores down and prevented one team from blowing out the other as often as with the big nets and unevenly matched teams. I think Step 3 needs to start preparing for larger nets during the second part of the year as most Step 3 kids will be going up to U12 the following year.
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Spruce Grove	Yes	Yes	First half	I would keep the same blue line - regular ringette crease) around the net. If we switch then I feel like the girls would get in a bad habit of going past it once it got moved back out. I like the small nets. The girls are little, and with them switching all the time it gives more confidence boosting to whoever is in net. With big nets I think they would get too down over how many goals went in. And they still score lots with the little ones.
Parent	Strathmore	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Strathmore	Don't know	Don't know	Not At All	
Parent	Drayton Valley	Don't know	Don't know	Not At All	I think they may be a good idea for step 1 and 2 but not for step 3. The transition to U12 and the shot clock is pretty big so adding a net change makes it harder. My daughter calls it

					the 'baby' nets but she has played with the large nets in previous years-she felt like she was going backwards.
Parent	Medicine Hat	Yes	Don't know	Not At All	
Parent	Edmonton	Yes	Don't know	Not At All	
Parent	Red Deer	Yes	Don't know	Not At All	
Parent	Medicine Hat	Don't know	No	Not At All	
Parent	Northwest	Don't know	No	Not At All	There was no clear direction if small nets were to be used and caused confusion between the coaches and the refs
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	I think if the girls do not know the difference big or small. We need to stop looking at ways to prevent our kids from being disappointed and instead look at ways to teach them that with practice, their skills will get better and that it is no big deal - in the grand scheme of things - if they let a bunch of goals in.... it is just a game.
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	I think U10 is too old for small nets my daughter thought it was for babies.
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	At the U10 level some higher level skill is being established. Our daughter was very new to ringette, loved playing and loved playing goalie. I felt bad when she let in goals but, she did not care. She also worked hard and listened to her coach. At the U10 level all std sizes of net and crease should be used to prepare for the future of ringette. Yes the girls look tiny in the big net but, it is realistic. It also gives the offence some chance of scoring.
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	I don't see the point of small nets - they are going to have to play with large nets at some point, why not start with large nets? It results in lots of goals but at least both teams are scoring, which generally makes teams happy even if they lost a game. As far as encouraging goalies, there will always players that want to be goalie and players that don't want to be goalie, regardless of net size.
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	I think consistency is best - keep the same nets through all levels and ages. Small nets may keep the goals down, but that is not what the girls are concentrating on at the younger levels. Supposed to be focused on FUN - not the next size.
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	Should of made a net in between the two. We went from one extreme to the other in sizes.
Parent	Calgary East	No	No	Not At All	We are teaching our children to play ringette properly. I don't think small nets is really helpful at all.
Parent	Northwest	No	No	Not At All	

Parent	Northwest	No	No	Not At All	
Parent	Northwest	No	No	Not At All	It was proven this year in my daughter's U10 Step 1 program that small nets did not alter the score at all. Since most of the goalies were not trained and most players shot on the ice we didn't notice a reduction in goals at all.
Parent	Red Deer	No	No	Not At All	
Parent	South Calgary	No	No	Not At All	
Parent	South Calgary	No	No	Not At All	Consistency is key! Difficult for girls to bounce back and forth between differing sizes - shouldn't mandate it unless across the board
Parent	South Calgary	No	No	Not At All	I had daughters in as, step 2 and step3 this past season. Barely used small nets and would not recommend them. All my kids played goal a few times and didn't mind getting scored on. It is all part of the game. But all the kids love to score. I understand you want goalies but there are better ways to get kids interested. More at an association level. Scra has done this and we have seen a large increase in kids interested in playing goal.
Parent	Airdrie	No	No	Not At All	As a goalie, my opinion is the small nets hinder the players development as goalies. Players would consistently play in an unorthodox manner as you can get away with it with a small net. Goalie development is slow at this level already and this hinders them more.
Parent	Beaumont	No	No	Not At All	
Parent	Cochrane	No	No	Not At All	My daughter was in step two but is moving up to U12. She played goalie about 50% of the time, but found big nets better because they didn't move all the time, and she didn't tower over them. I do not think the small nets are necessary ever. Step1-3 is all U10 and any girl on any level can be going up to U12 the following year, so why limit them? IF at all - maybe active start - but even then I think it's sill to have two sets of nets and added expense.
Parent	Red Deer	No	No	Not At All	Although I understand the reason for the small nets was to improve accuracy I feel that at the U10 level especially (Ages 7, 8, 9) these girls love to score goals. When the small nets are used, there are so fewer goals scored and you could see the lack of excitement at the end of the game. We did not have an issue with girls not wanting to play goalie as we rotated through the roster. In addition we had 2 girls from the team voluntarily attend a goalie clinic.

Parent	Spruce Grove	No	No	Not At All	My observations were frustration and disgust. My child's team did amazing but lost every game to a team that put the same child in net everytime. This young lady was quite large when compared to her cohort and covered the entire net. I contemplated taking a photo to send to ringette Alberta to show what was happening. I am frustrated and saddened that this was allowed. This team took 1st place in our division. Very difficult to watch. Also, note that I coming at this from a "fair playing" perspective and not a discriminatory perspective. Lastly, I am a mom to a child who wants to be a goalie. So I get it. thanks for allowing feedback.
Parent	Spruce Grove	No	No	Not At All	I personally don't like the use of the small nets at all.
Parent	Bow View	Yes	No	Not At All	It may help new and learning goaltenders from being demoralized by high scoring games. However the players need to get used to the normal nets eventually and I recommend as soon as possible. Changing which crease is to be used in my mind will just create confusion and bad habits.
Parent	Bow View	Yes	No	Not At All	
Parent	Calgary East	Yes	No	Not At All	The kids need to use the big nets, since that is what they will be using when they are older... Getting them used to small Nets will make it harder when they have to adjust...
Parent	Lethbridge	Yes	No	Not At All	
Parent	South Calgary	Yes	No	Not At All	For the younger members on the team, the small nets helped them be more effective and confident as goalie. For the older girls who could move better, they were fine with the larger net. I think its very important for U10 Step 2/3 players to play with the larger net before making the jump to U12.
Parent	Beaumont	Yes	No	Not At All	Didn't change the number of goals. Tiering is the issue
Parent	Bow View	Yes	No	Not At All	
Parent	Cochrane	Yes	No	Not At All	I thought for Step 1 they were good. Made the girls more accurate in their shooting and the nets were not a ton bigger than they are.
Parent	Fort Sask	Yes	No	Not At All	
Parent	Red Deer	Yes	No	Not At All	
Parent	Red Deer	Yes	No	Not At All	
Parent	Red Deer	Yes	No	Not At All	For step 1 small nets make sense. I think small nets should only be used in the first half of step 2 and not in step 3. Once you come across a goalie with some experience or who is larger in stature it is very difficult for the girls to score. The goalie just needs to stand there and she will block all the shots. Step 3

					should use big nets as these girls are likely going to U12 the following year and need to be prepared. If you change the crease I think it would defeat the purpose of the small net allowing players to get very close to the goalie.
Parent	Bow View	Yes	Yes	Not At All	I think the step 1 and step 2 kids would benefit and build confidence from the small nets however step 3 kids are skilled enough and would rather have the normal net
Parent	Red Deer	Yes	Yes	Not At All	
Parent	South	Yes	Yes	Not At All	Smaller nets can be a great equalizer between teams with different skill levels. I think it also helps gives the goalies confidence and teaches forwards to pick corners rather than just firing the ring at a large wide open net.
Parent	Airdrie	Yes	Yes	Not At All	Scores weren't huge. Brings confidence up. suggestion: partner up with alberta hockey so that all arenas in alberta have the small nets. It would be great for the young hockey players too.
Parent	Beaumont	Yes	Yes	Not At All	
Parent	Cochrane	Yes	Yes	Not At All	Having had a daughter play with only large nets and now a second daughter play with both, I definitely see the benefit. Goalie development as well as Player development (shooting accuracy) Lower scores, less chance of three goals for one player in very small time frame. The crease was initially a concern but short lived A smaller crease in step program may be confusing in the older years but again would likely be short lived.
Parent	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	Not At All	
Parent	Fort Sask	Yes	Yes	Not At All	
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Not At All	We only had 3 games with large nets. 2 in an Jan tournament, then Second last game of the year. In Jan the scores were high, but by end of Feb, the score was kept under 5 goals.
Coach	Cochrane	Yes	Yes	Full Season	I thought this was a great development tool for both goalies and players. Goalies experienced far more success and players development was enhanced because the were forced to keep their heads up and create openings in the little Nets. I have done a lot of coaching in many sports and thought this was an outstanding improvement. The scores in the games were far more reasonable and the skill development for players and goalies was outstanding...at the end of the season we had several girls interested in a career as a goalie! Great job implementing this, it would be a shame to go back to big nets for these young players. I

					know there were complaints at the step three level but I think this was more due to the change as parents weren't receptive to it initially. For new players coming into the game they didn't know anything else and were very pleased with it. The parent that had played on the big nets and went to small had the biggest challenge...now that this change has been made everybody else coming up through ringette will benefit and won't have any comparison to the big nets which will take away any negative feedback moving forward...the change year is always the hardest and is now over...stay the course!!!! THIS WAS A HUGE SUCCESS FOR RINGETTE ON MANY LEVELS.
Coach	Sherwood	Yes	Yes	Full Season	
Coach	Indus	Yes	No	First half	
Coach	Bow View	Yes	Yes	First half	The girls on my team were much more interested in playing goalie when small nets were in play. U10 should not use large nets until the second half of the season.
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	
Coach	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	I would just make sure associations are not teaching their players to lie down with their pads stretched across the net every time the ring is in their zone, there's butterfly then there is just that.... especially at u10 step 1 as most cant raise the ring. Other than that I think the smaller nets are not as overwhelming as the bigger nets. At step 3 there should be some kind of transition to get them ready for u12, doesn't have to be half the season but maybe last 3 or 4 games (not a tournaments should stay small nets). Just my opinion.
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	Very positive change - more proportionate to the players size, positive change when coaching both goalies and players - players are forced to learn more accurate shots.
Coach	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	First half	Didn't like them at first, but warmed up to them. I see a disadvantage to the late bloomers in U10 that don't get to 'graduate' to the large nets. For example, if an individual is in the final year of U10 and only advanced as far as Step 2, it is quite the jump/adjustment to large nets in U12...
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	Not a good idea All year my girls prefers the big nets
Coach	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	They created lots of crease violations. Girls who were not good at the goalie position continued to struggle because their main

					problem is poor lateral movement and stick positioning, not net height.
Coach	Northwest	No	No	Not At All	Do not like the small net.
Coach	Bow View	Yes	No	Not At All	Being in Calgary and playing the season with the regular nets and going to the small nets for my step 3 daughter for tournaments did not seem to make a difference as the step 3 girls are already forming accurate shots and passing across the net to gain scoring opportunities. For my other daughter whom was in step 2 as a half time goalie, I see the both advantages and disadvantages to the small net. The biggest disadvantage was the net size decreased but the crease did not so crease violations increased. Another disadvantage was we found alot of teams were using their biggest player with the biggest pads they could find to play goal. I think that is a disadvantage for any of the girls whom want to pursue being a goalie because it does not help them work on the basic skills of play tracking and being able to get into position to be able to save the ring. When the small net goalies go to a big net they do not know the angles or how to get across a larger net efficiently
Coach	Airdrie	Yes	No	Not At All	My opinion is that small nets are great for players first learning the game. I feel step 2 and higher should have expectations that the Nets will be larger because when the girls who are turning 10 will have to play with the larger nets and may be discouraged. Both my girls played net with the large and smaller nets and still enjoyed playing goalie. More importantly for goalies to feel successful would be to provide safe goalie gloves to make it easier to pick up the ring vs using player gloves. The ARA told me they tested them but found them not to be safe. All year we found most of the other leagues used them.
Coach	Beaumont	Yes	No	Not At All	
Coach	Lacombe	Yes	No	Not At All	Works for Stage 1 but doesn't work at stage 3. Stage 2 is a toss up.
Coach	Strathmore	Yes	Yes	Not At All	I see the advantages of the small nets for the younger portion of the U10 group( Step 1&2). It does help to prevent the girls from disliking the goalie position and keep more interested in becoming a goalie. Using the bigger net at Step 3 should be seen as a developmental step. As the majority of your step 3 players will be moving on to U12 and having to deal with net size, possibly larger crease and a shot clock, along with everything else that

					comes with playing U12, could overwhelm some players.
Coach	Cochrane	Yes	Yes	Not At All	Every player on our team asked to be the goalie again and again, so they definitely help build confidence in that position. Scoring is an excellent incentive to keep young kids interested in the sport and engaged for the season. I did notice that the increased difficulty to score on the small nets was disappointing to some kids, but in the long term their shot accuracy and skill will only improve with starting out on those nets.
Coach	Red Deer	Yes	Yes	Not At All	In step 3, where players are learning/using the triangle, it was difficult for shooters to even see the net as it was almost like having 4 goalies. Also, when using the small nets in step 3 where players are older and larger, the goalies do not have to be very developed as they take up a good portion of the net.
Parent	Beaumont	Don't know	Don't know	Don't know	
Parent	Airdrie	No	Don't know	Don't know	I noticed on u10 step 1 that some goaltenders were very large and filled the net making it difficult to find room to score. My daughter scored a lot of goals but many other girls had a tough time scoring any goals. For 1st year players they seemed to get discouraged as they could not score. On the other hand-my daughter scored many many goals each game and if the bet would have been larger it would not have been challenging for her. Also-the large crease with a small net just seemed silly...many whistles called and was frustrating for some players. Crease should be same size as the net used.
Parent	Hinton	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	
Parent	South Calgary	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	From a U 10-1 stand point I found if players new how to raise the ring with small net the game would not be such a blow out and players would be more even and more fun for everyone.
Parent	Northwest	Don't know	No	Don't know	For U10 Step 2. I think the big nets are too large and the small nets too small. In the absence of a compromise I think the larger nets are a better option and give the kids a chance to score. In the later stages of the year we found most teams simply lined up 3 kids in front of the net, and with the small nets in particular it was very difficult to score.
Parent	Bow View	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Parent	Northwest	Yes	Yes	Don't know	It's better!
Parent	Airdrie	Yes	Yes	Don't know	I felt the small nets made more sense for the lower level players, not sure it makes sense as you step up in levels.

Parent	Beaumont	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Parent	Northwest	Yes	Yes	Full Season	I wish there was more opportunity to use the small nets as only certain rinks had them. It makes sense to use nets that are proportionate to the size of the players.
Parent	South Calgary	Yes	Yes	Full Season	
Parent	Beaumont	Yes	Yes	Full Season	
Parent	Lethbridge	Yes	Yes	Full Season	I found that the girls preferred the smaller nets as opposed to the regular nets.
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Don't know	First half	
Parent	Strathmore	Yes	No	First half	
Parent	Bow View	Yes	Yes	First half	There would be more consistency when playing at tournaments and in Calgary. Players would be more likely to try and enjoy goal with the small nets.
Parent	Airdrie	Yes	Yes	First half	
Parent	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	First half	I feel if Ringette Alberta wants to continue using the small nets there has to be a shift with respect to the crease.
Parent	Bow View	Don't know	Don't know	Not At All	Only used them at some tournaments- didn't really care for them.
Parent	Indus	Yes	Don't know	Not At All	
Parent	Northwest	Don't know	No	Not At All	Most of the games my daughters team played (U10 S2) in which small nets were used were tournament games in smaller towns/cities. The only thing I really noticed is that if the goalie was really big, it was next to near impossible to score as they covered the entire net! It probably helped out the smaller girls a bit. I also think it was confusing having the large crease and a small net. It seemed hard for the girls to judge where they could be when shooting.
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	They are almost misleading to the players. They think they won't get scored on when really that is not the case. If Ringette Alberta is going to make these mandatory then they should do it across the board to all levels.
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	I found the teams used the biggest children in net when the small nets were used. All the children had to do was stand there and not move, they blocked the entire net when goal pads were on
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	First time they were used the players had a hard time adjusting
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	The smaller nets were not used very often, and the girls often got called for going in the crease
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	
Parent	Bow View	No	No	Not At All	
Parent	Medicine Hat	No	No	Not At All	
Parent	Northwest	No	No	Not At All	

Parent	South Calgary	No	No	Not At All	With the larger nets the girls get to score more goals. They never were to worried about the score but they did want to have a chance at scoring. In my opinion the larger nets make the game more fun to play. Until stats, wins, loses matter, I don't think the girls get too upset about being scored on.
Parent	Sherwood Pk	No	No	Not At All	I found the small nets benefited the kids who were good positionAly in net. The one or two games where they used the large nets I found the girls passed more. The small nets made them skate around and hog the ring more. I am all in favour of getting rid of them at this level.
Parent	Bow View	Yes	No	Not At All	
Parent	Northwest	Yes	No	Not At All	For U10 Step 2 - not necessary to have small nets. Didn't feel it changed the game much. Thank you.
Parent	Cochrane Ringette	Yes	No	Not At All	Small nets were not appropriately introduced or used in 2015/16. Small nets were introduced with little communication and no mandate from RAB. Coaches, managers and officials were not adequately informed whether small nets were a Ringette Canada, RAB or local association mandate. This created significant confusion at the beginning of the season. Once it was determined that this was an RAB initiative the lack of any clear direction or mandate from RAB created further confusion between teams, officials and associations. Once the directive was issued from RAB a few months into the season it lacked and cohesion and leadership. Associations were left to decide for themselves and this created inconsistent playing conditions across the province. This was particularly acute at tournaments with confusion about who was using normal nets and who was using small nets. Introducing small nets across all U10 steps was also flawed. In the case of my daughter she had played on normal nets for 4 years and then was required for half the season to play on a small net and will be back to normal size nets at U12 next year. To ask a 10 year old to learn a whole new skill set for just one year was not developmentally appropriate. Despite many arguments to the contrary U10 steps are in fact different levels of play. Step 1 and 2 tend to be geared towards development and learn to play levels while step 3 is treated across the province as an introduction to competitive play. Set plays are learned, players play positions more consistently and girls at this age are appreciating winning and

					<p>losing in a much more concrete way. Despite efforts to the contrary this is how this level is interpreted by coaches and parents. My daughter played for 2 years at step 3 and we experienced this type of approach at various locations across the province, both North and South. Furthermore our team did not experience an increase in girls wanting to play goalie with the advent of small nets. We rotated the position equally all year, with some girls showing interest and playing more frequently. Our team was not strong this year and when we used small nets we tended to get scored on in abundance and our girls struggled to score goals on the small net. I believe we only won a single game on small nets. Once we moved to normal nets our team was able to score goals and we won multiple games. In my opinion normal nets are appropriate at step 2 and step 3. This is the time for girls to learn the ins and outs of the goalie position when they are still in a division that does not seed based on wins and have playoffs. If girls are required to transition to normal nets for the first time at U12 they will experience failure and will be required to learn a new skill set at the goalie position. This is counterproductive to healthy development. It is much better suited for girls to be accustomed to normal nets in a more supportive and learning-type environment in U10 step 3. I have yet to receive any evidence that supports this move beyond the opinions of some association board members. Providing supporting evidence from recognized experts would be helpful in making this decision and ensuring the discussion is balanced. Thanks for soliciting feedback. I wish this step, along with communication and leadership from RAB had been taken prior to the introduction of small nets.</p>
Parent	Cochrane	Yes	No	Not At All	Small net is an awesome idea but only in u10 step 1 and under.
Parent	Edmonton	Yes	No	Not At All	Small nets are fine however my daughter moves up to U12 next year and played U10 step 2 and will have a more difficult time adjusting to the larger nets again
Parent	Fort Sask	Yes	No	Not At All	my child learned to play and score on the standard size nets. When introduced to the small nets it took time for my child to adjust to the change. I did like the fact that my child learned to try and score in a smaller area. But I did not feel it was necessary. I really did NOT like the use of small nets. Children should

					learn on standard nets as this is what will be used as they grow up in the sport.
Parent	Red Deer	Yes	No	Not At All	I found that using the small nets for step 3 did not provide an opportunity for the girls to develop their goalie skills. Many of our players as well as opponents players were quite tall and essentially did not have to move at all to stop the ring from entering the net. Their physical size completely blocked the net, making it not challenging for the goalies and very frustrating for the other players who could not score at all, despite being very skilled at skating, passing and shooting.
Parent	Strathmore	Yes	No	Not At All	The small nets did absolutely NOTHING to decrease the "blow-out" scenario they were supposed to alleviate. The best way to avoid "bow-outs" is to actually mandate what a Step 2 vs a step 3 team is... some places (like Medicine Hat and Lethbridge) didn't even make step 3 teams, and then their step 2 teams obliterated every team they played. The nets were comical when you have a taller 8 or 9 year old in front of them in gear... and the enormous crease was a huge hindrance to game flow. The other thing to consider is that if a girl plays step 1, then one or 2 years of step 2- she's going to be in for a rude awakening when she moves up to U12 and has an regular sized net to contend with. The small nets are a nice "intro"- for step 1 only. If anything, Step 2s should only have them for the first half of the season, and step 3s should automatically be using regular sized nets to prepare them for U12, or simply because their skills should already be up to par when it comes to shooting, and goaltending.
Parent	South Calgary Ringette	Yes	Yes	Not At All	I think it's great for the younger girls but there needs to definitely be a transition stage. Not just go from 1 net to the other the next year. And it should be standardized across the provinces. We played a tournament and used small nets for the first time. This was definitely a disadvantage for us being that it was our first time.
Parent	Drayton Valley	Yes	Yes	Not At All	I think the small nets are great for the kids starting out. It was really hard though with U10-3 players that have played for 5 years with big nets to be handed the small nets. I also think that moving from U10-3 with small nets into U12 with big nets & a shot clock etc will be a huge jump if the kids have come up through the ranks with only small nets. As for the crease size, using the big ringette crease with small nets means these little kids cant get anywhere near the goal to shoot, but if

					you use the smaller one then that's another thing to learn & change
Parent	Edmonton	Yes	Yes	Not At All	Some players in step 3 are so tall that they do not even have to move at all. It really is an unfair disadvantage. Some players can stretch their legs from post to post and stay in that position the entire time they are in goal. This really doesn't teach kids the goalie position. Black Gold games for U10 should only be played where small nets are available. Moyer arena does not small nets. It is really discouraging when a goalie comes on the ice and sees a big net when they were expecting a small net.
Parent	Sherwood Pk	Yes	Yes	Not At All	This was our second year of step 1 for us and we thought the small nets were great. We are a little unsure of the crease size.
Parent	Spruce Grove	Yes	Yes	Not At All	
Coach	Northwest	No	No	Not At All	Small nets are ridiculous at this age group; Early Step or U7 yes; U10, no.
Parent	Spruce Grove	No	No	Not At All	I saw coaches place their biggest kid in net and kids struggle to score. I didn't see an increase or decrease in kids wanting to try being a goalie. Quite frankly, small nets set kids (goalies) up for disappointment when they hit U12 and large nets are used, kids coming up don't have a clue how to protect the larger nets. Small nets should not be used.