



CHILDREN'S RINGETTE

Key Messages and Communication Resources

2018-2022



Children's Ringette Key Messages and Communication Resources (Fall 2018)

Key Messages: Children's Ringette Implementation Process (For use by all PSOs)

National Implementation

- Children's Ringette refers to all programs up to and including U10 and U12 programs introducing participants to the sport for the first time.
- Provincial ringette organizations, with the support of Ringette Canada will be phasing in small-area games as the national standard for competition over the next four years according to the following timelines:

U8 2019/20 season

U9 2020/21 season

U10 2021/22 season

- Each provincial ringette organization is responsible for setting their own implementation timeline. Many are moving forward faster than the national timeline.
- General information about what's happening in each province, with key contact information and links to learn more, is available at: <https://www.ringette.ca/programs/childrensringette/>
- As small-area games are phased in, Ringette Canada will be working with provincial ringette organizations to replace chronological age categories up to and including U10, with a progression of levels based on developmental markers. This approach has already been successfully adopted by Ringette Manitoba as part of the [Ringette4U](#) program and is a central part of [Ringette BC's Children's Ringette](#) program launched this fall.
- While the initial focus is on changing the structure of competition, the aim is that eventually small-area games will also be a central part of all practices, using a station-based approach. Ringette Canada is working with provincial ringette organizations to develop resources to help coaches incorporate these concepts into their ice times.

2018/19 Season

- Small-area games will be played across the country during the 2018/19 season, with small differences in order to identify best practices for game design. Differences will include:
 - Size of the playing surface (not to exceed half the ice surface)
 - Number of players on the ice
 - Size of nets
 - Goaltending options (no goalie, rotating goalie, designated goalie)
 - Modified rules, including number of passes, shift lengths etc.
- Ringette Canada has produced a [Jamboree Guide](#) which outlines a number of playing options. This guide is a working document that will form the basis of more formal guidelines to be put in place for the 2019/2020 season.
- In coordination with Ringette Canada, provincial ringette organizations will work with local organizations to gather feedback from players, parents, coaches and organizers on their experiences this year. This will be done using a series of standard surveys.
- Where possible, it is requested that games be videotaped so that feedback collected can be compared to actual game play, with some events being used for more in-depth analysis related to player engagement.
- The aim of this data collection is to gather information about which programs are most effective, in an effort to create national consistency in developmental outcomes, while providing flexibility at the local level.

Why Small-Area Games

- Small-area games support development by scaling the game to the size of participants. Benefits of small-area games include:
 - Each player being able to spend more time with the ring, leading to improved ring control, passing and shooting skills.
 - More opportunities to apply practiced skills.
 - More opportunities to accelerate/decelerate and change directions reinforcing fundamental skating skills.
 - Smaller nets provide an appropriate challenge for skaters and goalies.
- By changing the format of games, we hope to also influence the way practices are run. In essence, we're changing the "test" games to better support development so that coaches who "teach to the test" will focus more on the right skills.

Groups not implementing this year

- Coaches are encouraged to incorporate small-area games into their practices immediately. Information about different formats and the benefits of each are available at: <https://www.ringette.ca/programs/childrensringette/>
- Where scheduling permits, local organizations are encouraged to expose their members to small-area games this season. This will help build awareness of the benefits amongst parents and players prior to programs being changed next year. Resources are available at: <https://www.ringette.ca/programs/childrensringette/>

Provincial Children's Ringette Initiatives

The following is an overview of each provincial ringette organization's key activities and plans with regard to Children's Ringette. For more information about what is happening in your province/community, please contact your provincial organization's Children's Ringette Lead.

Alberta: Ringette Alberta

Ringette Alberta will be working with its members to develop a plan to adopt small area-games starting with testing game formats later in the 2018-19 season in partnership with Ringette Calgary (Cal East).

Since the start of 2016-17 season, Ringette Alberta has [required](#) local organizations to acquire [appropriately-sized nets](#).

More Information

Website: <http://www.ringettealberta.com/athlete-development-plan/>

Lead: David Myers, Executive Director (david@ringettealberta.com)

British Columbia: Ringette British Columbia

Ringette British Columbia has launched a new Children's Ringette Program with two divisions, FUNdamentals 1 and FUNdamentals 2, for participants under the age of 10. Players are placed in divisions based on their development.

More Information

Website: <http://www.ringettebc.ca/come-play/childrens-ringette/>

Lead: Rebecca Adams, Technical Director (technicaldirector@bcringette.org)

Manitoba: Ringette Manitoba

Ringette Manitoba was the first provincial organization to formally move to small-area games, when they launched the Ringette4U program in 2014. They will continue to offer this program in 2018-19 and beyond, while participating in the national effort to gather feedback about programs being offered and build consistency in developmental outcomes.

Ringette4U is an instructor-led ringette program focused on developing athletic abilities in children aged 3-8. Participants progress through a series of levels, identified by colours based on their skill development. A rural version allows for programs with lower numbers to be combined into a single program offering.

More Information

Website: <https://ringettemanitoba.ca/want-to-play/ringette-4-u/about-r4u/>

Lead: Melanie Reimer (ringette@sportmanitoba.ca)

New Brunswick: Ringette New Brunswick

Several organizations within New Brunswick will be running programs in 2018-19. The decision to move to small-area games format in 2018-19 rather than 2019-20 is being made on an organization by organization basis.

More Information

Website: <http://site3081.goalline.ca/files/en-strategic-plan-rnb-2015-2018-final-and-approved-1.pdf>

Lead: Rene Savoie (renlise93@gmail.com)

Nova Scotia: Ringette Nova Scotia

Ringette Nova Scotia is collaborating with ringette organizations within the Halifax Regional Municipality to run a supplementary program where players will be exposed to each game format twice over the course of the season. Sessions will be running in a loop starting in November, with two organizations in attendance at each session and each organization experiencing the format twice.

More Information

Website: *None at this time*

Lead: Clarissa Oleksiuk (execdirector@ringette.ns.ca)

David Jones (davidhajones@hotmail.com)

Ontario: Ringette Ontario

Ringette Ontario will be working with its members to develop a plan to adopt small-area games. This season, the Guelph ringette organization U7 program will be using small-area games and will be participating in the national initiative to gather feedback on different game formats in support of Ringette Ontario's planning efforts. They will also be hosting events in February and March for other local organizations to experience small-area games.

More Information

Website: *None at this time*

Lead: Karla Xavier (tech@ontario-ringette.com)

Prince-Edward-Island: Ringette PEI

Ringette PEI ran some of their events in 2017-18 in a small-area games format and will be running all events for U8 players with small-area games in 2018-19.

More Information

Website: http://ringettepei.ca/page.php?page_id=32476

Lead: Valerie Vuillemot (vvuillemot@sportpei.pe.ca)

Québec: Ringuette Québec

Ringuette Québec will be working with its members to develop a plan for the implementation of small-area games. The Rive-Sud U8 program has moved to a program focused on small-area games, including tournaments within the regional organization. This program is providing learning for other organizations in the province. A larger tournament (Festival C), which will include players from other organizations, is planned for the end of this season.

More Information

Website: *None at this time*

Lead: Marie-Lyne Fortin (mlfortin@ringuette-quebec.qc.ca)

Saskatchewan: Ringette Saskatchewan

Ringette Saskatchewan will be organizing Children's Ringette in the new year (2019) at which time players will be able to experience a series of different small-area games. Games will be recorded and feedback from participants will be collected. Details for those interested in participating will be released before the end of 2018.

More Information

Website: <http://www.ringettesask.com/long-term-athlete-development/ras-recommendations/>

Lead: Amanda O'Donnell (technicaldirector@ringettesask.com)

Ringette Canada General Membership Communication

Canadian ringette embraces small-area games to support the development of its young players.

Ringette Canada and its member provincial ringette organizations have come together to commit to adopting small-area games as a cornerstone of its Children's Ringette initiatives. This commitment comes after more than three years of extensive work reviewing how the system of competition supports the long-term development of athletes, including extensive work with volunteer working groups and provincial ringette associations.

The Children's Ringette initiative represents a concerted effort to make adjustments to ringette practices and competitions to meet the needs of children, while promoting a fun, safe and healthy environment which supports the development of physical literacy and the long-term development of all players.

Over the course of the coming seasons, a number of positive changes will be introduced starting with the phasing in of small-area games (cross-ice and half-ice ringette) as the standard of play. This change will be introduced as follows:

- U8 players in 2019/20
- U9 players in 2020/21
- U10 players in 2021/22

As these changes are phased in, Ringette Canada will be working with provincial ringette associations around other areas of activity, including support resources for coaches, and guidance on team formation and managing player progression.

During the 2018/19 season, a number of provincial and local associations will be working with Ringette Canada to gather feedback from participants (players, parents, coaches and event organizers) on their experiences in order to identify which game formats best suit development.

Small-area games with modified equipment are being used increasingly throughout sport and have been central in the success of Ringette Manitoba's Ringette4U program.

Some of the anticipated benefits for the development of younger ringette players include:

- Each player being able to spend more time with the ring, leading to improved ring control, passing and shooting skills.
- More opportunities for players to apply practiced skills.
- More opportunities to accelerate/decelerate and change directions, reinforcing fundamental skating skills.
- Smaller nets provide an appropriate challenge for skaters and goalies.

All of these benefits results in an appropriate level of challenge, a better learning environment and more fun.

For more information about Ringette Canada's Children's Ringette Initiatives, the benefits of small-area games and to learn about what's happening in your province please visit: <https://www.ringette.ca/programs/childrensringette/>