

MEMORANDUM

To: All Ringette Alberta Group Members
From: David Myers, Executive Director
Date: November 6, 2018
Re: 2019-2020 Season Decisions

On November 3-4, 2018, the Ringette Alberta Board and Staff met for an in depth discussion on the priorities found in the [Ringette in Alberta strategic plan](#).

Over the short term, the most critical area of focus is *Providing Clear Participation Options*, which means ensuring athletes have an optimal environment in which to enjoy the game and pursue their definition of success.

Why?

Fundamentally, not everyone of the same chronological age is at the same stage (biological, technical skill, etc.) in their development and, even those who may be, do not necessarily want the same ringette experience. There must be some degree of choice in the programs athletes access if we are to have happier athletes and improve retention.

Our job, as a ringette community, is to be clear about the differences between the various programs and go about making those options available. This initiative, to provide clear participation options, is in complete alignment with the recently released Ringette Canada Competition Review which includes recommendations organized by participation context including:

- Introduction to Ringette (children, youth and adult)
- Children's Ringette
- Competitive Ringette (youth, adult)
- Pursuit of Excellence
- Recreational Ringette (youth, adult)

Ringette Alberta's immediate focus is to determine, with your involvement, what the 2019-2020 season will look like. To that end, the Board formed two Task Forces:

1. Children's Ringette
2. Competitive Ringette and Pursuit of Excellence

The Task Forces will rough out the general framework for how ringette in Alberta will look (in Children's Ringette, Competitive Ringette and Pursuit of Excellence only at this time) using the Ringette Canada Competition Review as a guide. This will be followed by a thorough member engagement process to refine that framework including answering the plethora of questions that will emerge.

Ringette Alberta's commitment is to reach final decisions for how the 2019-2020 season will look, by the end of February 2019. The Task Forces will have to find a balance between the urgency to address acute issues and speed the transition for the benefit of the athletes while ensuring we proceed carefully to ensure as smooth of a transition of as possible. We'll need your open-mindedness and cooperation to achieve this balance. Please watch for more from Ringette Alberta in the coming weeks.

In the mean time, as far as Children's Ringette is concerned...

A number of pilot projects are being run in some provinces this season. Ringette Canada is coordinating the data gathering. As far as Alberta is concerned, we intend to run a small, one or two day pilot in partnership with Cal East / Ringette Calgary.

You can read more about the overarching plan for Children's Ringette from Ringette Canada here.

If you haven't already, associations are encouraged to speak to their hockey counterparts and municipalities about the logistics of hockey's transition to cross-ice / half-ice games and lessons learned. Your discussions can include:

- impact on ice allocation
- Size of teams
- Logistics of game scheduling
- Dressing room logistics
- Rink dividers
- Use of players bench and penalty box
- Three game areas vs. two game areas at the ends of the ice combined with a skills area in the centre.
- Cross ice vs. half ice
- Goalies vs. no goalies
- Size of nets
- And so on

Finally, some associations have approached Ringette Alberta asking if they should purchase rink dividers now. We do not recommend your association do so at this time and instead see if there can be an agreement with your local hockey association and municipality on purchase, use and storage.

For more and to view the updates as they come, check out the [Athlete Development Page](#) on Ringette Alberta's Website.

Stay tuned...