

August 23, 2024

Attention: U19 Parents

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

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

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

This year, the Board approved a renewed objective for evaluations: *To provide an objective, accurate, and transparent evaluation and team formation process.* In keeping with this objective, we have made changes to the evaluations process that affect your athlete.

Below is a brief summary of the changes. A complete list of Evaluations 2024/25 season changes for all levels can be [found here](#).

2023/24 U16/U19 Evaluations Process	2024/25 Revised U16/U19 Evaluations Process	Reason for Change
Scrimmages consisted of a balanced list of players using a predictive placement ranking process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scrimmages will be tiered evaluations, consistent with the process in U12/U14. - U16/U19 players will be placed in the first scrimmages based on their historical placement on teams (using an algorithm based on player history). - All players will skate in the first two scrimmages. Those who do not wish to be placed on A will be removed from the player draft list during A team formation. - The first two scrimmage scores will be averaged. 	Advantages of moving to a tiered evaluations process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allows evaluators more chances to gather consistent data on all players, as attendance has been an issue after the A teams are formed. - Skaters are offered a consistent amount of skates - Lines are more balanced, with less potential for players influencing other players on uneven lines.
2023/24 U16/U19 Team Formation	2024/25 Revised U16/U19 Team Formation	Reason for Change
Coaches conduct a serpentine draft of top evaluated athletes, not including goalies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coaches will still conduct a serpentine draft of top evaluated athletes based on evaluation results (the secured and unsecured list). - 75% of the team must be selected from the secured list. - The remaining 25% of the team will be selected from an unsecured list, consisting of two times the number of available positions per team, multiplied by the number of teams. - If there is a disproportionate number of players in a given position (ie. lots of forward, but no defence), more players may be added 	This is designed to place players based on evaluation results and limit potential bias during the selection process. It reflects evaluation feedback from our membership. <i>Note: This is consistent with other ringette associations, like Bowview.</i>

	to the unsecured list based on their evaluation scores.	
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Here is what you can expect this year:

- Athletes must wear black ringette pants for evaluations and please note that helmets must be either black, red or white.
- Scrimmages will now be tiered evaluations, consistent with the process in U12/U14. All U19 players will be placed in the first scrimmages based on their historical placement on teams (using an algorithm based on player history).
 - We understand our athletes can have other commitments like jobs, social life and school at this age. However, not showing up to practices and team events is not fair to their teammates who are able to be fully committed. If this will be a concern this season, please let your evaluation coordinators know so the coaches are aware of this during the evaluations process. This will not impact evaluation scores or placement on the secured or unsecured list, but may help determine how many players per team are required to balance anticipated absences and can help coaches balance their teams.
- Scrimmages will now be tiered evaluations, consistent with the process in U12/U14. All U19 players will be placed in the first scrimmages based on their historical placement on teams (using an algorithm based on player history). All athletes are expected to participate in the evaluations.
- The first ice time is designed to get the athletes on the ice after being off all summer. This ice time will be similar to a regular practice ice time with goalies and is optional. It is listed as the preskate on your flowchart.
- The second ice time will be the first scrimmages (these are tiered skates) for all players. Those who do not wish to be placed on “A” will be removed from the team selection list prior to team formation; however, evaluation data from these skates will still be used by evaluators. The scores of the first two scrimmages will be averaged. The scrimmages will be evaluated by experienced people who do not have children in U19. Evaluators will be looking at ring control, defensive play, and game sense. You can view the updated Evaluation Rubric [on the website](#).
- There will be three rounds of scrimmages for U19. After the second scrimmage, the Division Coordination team will look at the evaluation scores and identify some players as “A” or “B” and remove them from scrimmage play. Removing these players at this time allows evaluators to spend more time and effort looking at the middle group. Effectively evaluating this middle group will allow us to have balanced teams throughout all U19 levels.

Notifications

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

Team Formation

- Once the evaluations process is complete, the teams will be formed. You will not be told where your athlete has finished by the Division Coordinators. The next email you will receive will be from your head coach. Note: your first practice could happen very quickly after the team has been formed.

Evaluations Volunteers

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

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

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

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

Feel free to approach any member of your division coordinating team at any time with questions, comments or concerns.

Yours truly,

Sincerely,

Amy McMillan, U19 Division Coordinator

Calgary NorthWest Ringette Association

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