



Changes to the 2025/26 Evaluations and Team Formations for NW Ringette

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. The changes to the 2025/26 Evaluations and Team Formation process are listed here.

If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback on these changes, please contact evaluations@nwringette.com.

General Evaluations Changes

- The Evaluations flow charts have been updated. Skaters whose evaluation scores fall noticeably below the average may be considered for placement in a lower tier during the next round of scrimmages.
- Top ranked skaters in the top tiered game play evaluation may be removed from further game play evaluations after one (1) game play if it is clear they will be placed in the highest tier. This change is designed to help evaluators evaluate players closer in skill level. The amount of skaters removed from play is at the discretion of the Evaluations Committee, taking into account the number of skaters in the age group, evaluations scores, and where natural breaks in evaluations scores occur.
- Skaters ranked at the bottom in the lowest tier of game play evaluation may be removed from further participation to help evaluators evaluate players closer in skill level. This will only occur if their scores and player pathway clearly support this placement. This decision will be made by the Evaluations Committee.
- There has been a slight change in the [Evaluations Rubric](#) for this season. The evaluations categories include three areas: ring control (including shooting/scoring), defensive play (play when the other team has the ring, applicable to all positions), game sense, and new this year, skating skills. For U10-U14, skating skills will be captured by the UAA score, as well as within the scrimmage rubric. This is now consistent with the Ringette Alberta Universal Athlete Assessment policy.
- The Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA) (applicable to U10/U12/U14 levels)
 - All players must complete UAAs once. Scores from other organizations are accepted.
 - UAA scores will be combined with player pathways to determine initial scrimmage placement.
 - In the event of a fall, no additional skate will be allowed, as UAA scores will not be the only indicator for scrimmage placement. Players may be asked to redo the station if the task was done incorrectly.
- All players, with the exception of Active Start and beginner skaters at U10 (with an UAA score of 8 or lower), will participate in scrimmages that will count towards the evaluation score. Scores of the first two scrimmages will no longer be averaged.

Evaluations Changes Specific to Levels

Active Start

- Active Start players may submit friend requests for new and existing players. This is no longer limited to players new to ringette at this level.
- Requests to NOT play with someone will not be routinely granted, but may be considered.

- Players who are six (6) years old and have played one year of Active Start can move to U10 or play a second season of Active Start.

U10

- All general evaluations changes apply.
- Beginner skaters in U10 are not required to participate in scrimmages and will be placed in Step 1 pooling.
- If skaters achieve a UAA score of 8 or below, they will automatically be placed in Step 1.
- In circumstances where a nine (9) year old player is being considered for placement in Step 2 or Step 3, they may be ranked above players aged seven (7) or eight (8) during the team formation process. This prioritization acknowledges both the developmental and social maturity differences associated with the age gap and is intended to ensure older players have the opportunity to gain full-ice experience prior to transitioning to the U12 division the following season.
- Athletes who have previously played Step 3 will not be moved to Step 2 following the evaluations process.
- Skaters will be placed in the first game play evaluation based on their UAA scores and predicted player pathway (see definition in the Evaluations and Team Formation Policy). This is a starting point and will not have a direct impact on a player's final placement.
- U10 players may submit friend requests for new and existing players. This is no longer limited to players new to ringette at this level.
- Requests to NOT play with someone will not be routinely granted, but may be considered.

U12

- All general evaluations changes apply.
- Skaters will be placed in the first game play evaluation based on their UAA scores and predicted player pathway (see definition in the Evaluations and Team Formation Policy). This is a starting point and will not have a direct impact on a player's final placement.

U14

- All general evaluations changes apply.
- Skaters will be placed in the first game play evaluation based on their UAA scores and predicted player pathway (see definition in the Evaluations and Team Formation Policy). This is a starting point and will not have a direct impact on a player's final placement.
- U14 shift buzzer during game play will now be 1:15. This will allow for more time to transition between shifts.
- Shot clocks and professional referees will now be used during evaluations scrimmages at this level.

U16/U19

- All general evaluations changes apply.
- During game play, both periods will consist of buzzed shifts. This allows for more equitable ice time for all players.
- Shot clocks will now be used during evaluations scrimmages at this level.

The evaluations process remains the same as last season:

- All levels will participate in tiered Evaluations, with the exception of Active Start.
- U16/U19 players will be placed in their first scrimmage based on their historical placement on teams (using an algorithm based on player history).

- All players will skate in the first scrimmages. Those who do not wish to be placed on A will be removed from the player draft list during A team formation.

The Team Formation Policy is also consistent with last season:

- Coaches will be selected once evaluations are complete, but before teams are formed.
- Coaches will still conduct a serpentine draft of top evaluated athletes based on evaluation results (the secured and unsecured list). Coaches must select from the secured list first.
- 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 to the unsecured list based on their evaluation scores.
- During the final scrimmages, prospective coaches will be provided with a list of the players skating and their pinnie numbers.