



Dear U16/U19 Families,

One of our goals for the 2025/26 Evaluations process this year is to continue to improve our communication to the NW Ringette community. It is in this spirit that we have put together a primer on how teams are formed at the U16/U19 level, since it differs from U14 and below.

### How it works: the U16/U19 Team Formation Process

#### Step 1: Tiering

The first step in this process is to determine how many teams will be at each age group and level. This is determined first through gathering the numbers of players at each age group. Like last year, the Ringette Alberta (RAB) Tiering Committee will recommend the numbers of teams at each level for every association at U16 and U19 across the province. Preliminary data will confidentially be shared with associations this week for review and collaboration with RAB. The goal of the Tiering Committee is to attempt to build more equitable teams across the province, taking into consideration some of the smaller associations' ability to produce only one or two teams per age division.

The [2025-2026 Tiering Minimum Requirements](#) for this season are below. The total number of teams in each age group is determined by the number of players.

# of Teams Excluding AA	U16			U19	
	A	B	C	A	B
2	1	1		1	1
3	1	1	1	2	1
4	2	1	1	2	2
5	2	1	2	3	2
6	2	2	2	3	3
7	3	2	2	3	4
8	3	3	2	4	4

The NWR Evaluations team, with the support from the NWR Board, consider many factors when building team forecasts, including considerations for what other associations are also doing. While we are able to break with the RAB Tiering recommendations, Ringette Alberta does not look at this favorably – which may result in teams being asked to move up or down a level throughout the season.

## **Step 2: Evaluations & Coach selection**

Athletes are invited to participate in scrimmages based on their predicted player pathway. Note: If a player has played A/B/C last season, there is no guarantee that this player will play the same level for this season. All players are evaluated against the other skaters on the ice, based on the Evaluation Rubric. The Evaluations scores are then used by the Evaluations Committee to determine the player's placement in the draft. The top athletes at the level will form the secured list. Coach candidates will be selected from those that have athletes on the secured list. For a full description of how coaches are selected, read about our [Coach Selection process](#).

## **Step 3: The Draft**

Once game play is completed, a draft will be conducted by head coaches to draft their teams during a team formation meeting. Head coaches will meet with the Team Formation Committee and:

1. Draft goaltenders
2. Draft skaters from the secured skater list, provided in ranked order in a serpentine format
3. Draft skaters from the unsecured skater list, provided in ranked order, in a serpentine format

To help coaches make their athlete selection, they will receive the players' requested positions as indicated on their registration; part time goalies, as indicated on their registration; player pathway for the last two years; and players associated with coach applicants. These are all data points for coaches to consider. Once the A level draft is complete, the process repeats for the B and C levels.

For a full description of the Evaluations and Team Formation process, please see the [NWR102 – Evaluations & Team Formation](#) policy on our website.

If you have any questions about the process at any time, please reach out to [Communications@nwringette.com](mailto:Communications@nwringette.com).

Sincerely,

The Evaluations Committee