



NORTHWEST CALGARY RINGETTE • ESTABLISHED 1988

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Attention: U12 Parents/Guardians

Welcome to Calgary NorthWest Ringette Association's 2026/2027 Evaluations

On behalf of the Calgary NorthWest Ringette Association (NW Ringette), thank you for joining us for the 2026/2027 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 sport 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 feedback from the membership. The goal is to offer changes and improvements to make the experience better.

We remain committed to our evaluations objective: *To provide an objective, accurate, and transparent evaluation and team formation process.* In keeping with this objective, we have made slight changes to the evaluations process that may affect your athlete. A complete list of Evaluations 2026/27 season changes for all levels can be [found here](#).

2026/2027 Evaluations Updates

You will notice that this year's Evaluations begin before Labour Day and ice times are on the long weekend. Due to the late timing of Labour Day, the Board voted to begin Evaluations slightly earlier than usual. This helps us avoid a gap in the Evaluation process and gets the players on the ice faster. Note that our Evaluations timeline is consistent with other ringette associations in the city.

General Evaluations Changes

- The Evaluations flow charts have been updated. For U16 and U19 only, the first ice session will be a Skills Session (Pilot for 2026). For more information about the Skills session, please read [the Skills Session Information Sheet](#).
- There has been a slight change in the [Evaluations Rubric](#) for this season. The evaluations categories include three areas: Skating, Defensive IQ/Game Sense, Offensive IQ/Game Sense. This change was designed to help Evaluators more easily rate Defence and Offence play.
- Medical exemptions will now only be granted if the player has participated in game play since January 1st of the previous playing season. If this is not met, the player will apply for a non-medical exemption. Read the full statement on page 10 of the [Evaluations & Team Formation policy](#).

Here is what else you can expect this year:

- At the U12 level, parents/caregivers/family members are no longer allowed in the dressing room to help with equipment or tie skates. If help is needed, athletes must leave the dressing room.

- U12 skills evaluations will be as per the Ringette Alberta guidelines for Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA). The UAA includes four stations with timed drills: 1) Forwards/backwards speed skate, 2) Agility weave with the ring around pylons, 3) Parallel start and stop drill, and 4) Butterfly transitional skate.
- The first ice time is designed to get the athletes on the ice after being off all summer. This is not the official skills evaluation, but an opportunity to practice each station and know what to expect. The drills will be timed, but only as a trial run for volunteers. This ice time is optional to attend.
- The next ice time will be the official UAA skate. All stations are timed and the player's aggregate score will be used to determine the initial groupings for the scrimmage component of the evaluations. All players get two skates through each station.
- The first ringette scrimmage will follow the UAA skate. Please bring a plain white and plain black jersey (no numbers on the sleeves) to match your corresponding pinny colour. Jerseys worn inside-out work well.
- The scrimmages will be evaluated by experienced coaches who do not have children in U12. Evaluators will be looking at skating, Offensive IQ, Defensive IQ, and game sense. [You can view the Evaluation Rubric here.](#)

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 available next week. 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 Coordination team at any time with questions, comments or concerns. Our volunteers are here to help guide you through the process.

Sincerely,

Jenny Gourlie and Jill Jez

U12 Division Coordinator

Calgary NorthWest Ringette Association

U12.coordinator@nwringette.com