



NORTHWEST CALGARY RINGETTE • ESTABLISHED 1988

August 21, 2026

Attention: U16 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 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](#). If you missed it, the information in the email that was sent on August 16, 2026 is available on the [NWR Evaluations webpage](#). ***Skills Session results will not be used in 2026/27 Evaluation placement, but the resulting data will be available for coaches during team formation.***
- 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:

- Athletes must wear black ringette pants for evaluations and please note that helmets must be either black, red or white. Athletes must bring a plain white and plain black jersey (with no numbers on the arms) to wear under the corresponding pinny colour (an inside out jersey will work).

- All athletes are expected to participate in the evaluations.
 - We understand our athletes can have other commitments like jobs and school at this age. However, not showing-up to practices and team events is unfair to 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.
- The first ice time is designed to get the athletes on the ice after being off all summer. This ice time will be a chance to try the skills drills. It is optional and listed as the preskate on your flowchart.
- The next ice time will be the official Skills skate (pilot). All drills are counted by reps and athletes will play against all players. The player's aggregate score will be used to validate the predictive player pathway initial groupings for the scrimmage component of the evaluations.
- The third 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.
- Scrimmages will be evaluated by experienced people who do not have children in U16. Evaluators will be looking at skating, Offensive IQ and Defensive IQ. [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 shortly. 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 stressful. Please encourage your athlete 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 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.

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,

U16 Division Coordinator

Calgary NorthWest Ringette Association

u16.coordinator@nwringette.com