

TO: Ringette BC Members  
FROM: Ringette BC  
SUBJECT: 2024/2025 Ringette BC Competition Framework and Programming Updates  
DATE: April 17, 2024

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Dear Ringette BC League & Club Association Presidents,

On behalf of the Ringette BC Board of Directors and Staff, thank you to all who participated, volunteered, coached, officiated, and contributed to the success of the 2023-2024 Ringette BC season. We hope that your season has brought you many great moments and memories.

As was laid out in the [Athlete Experience Report](#) as part of the [Ringette BC 2019-2023 Strategic Plan](#), the shift to female-only and male-only teams in the Zone division aligns with Ringette BC's strategic plan to create three contexts of participation within our programming; *female*, *male*, and *all gender*. The impacts of COVID-19 on registration and recruitment has delayed the full implementation.

Looking towards the 2024-2025 season, Ringette BC remains committed to advancing the sport of Ringette in BC, and has made adjustments and adaptations to programming across our various athlete pathways and program offerings. In this memo you will find the highlights of the changes to the Zone Division, Club Division and Excellence Ringette Program, as well as the introduction of a Male Competition Development Program. You can also find more detailed information on each of these programs and pathways on our website and linked in each corresponding section below.

A presentation of the 2024/2025 Ringette BC Competition Framework is on the agenda for the 2024 Ringette BC Annual Conference on Saturday, June 1st in Sun Peaks, BC.

Lastly, please note that as per the [Ringette Canada Transgender – Inclusion Policy and guiding principles](#), transgender athletes in developmental and recreational sport are encouraged to participate in either their sex assigned at birth or the gender category in which they identify. Non-binary athletes are encouraged to participate in the gender category of their choice. Ringette BC's programming in Club, Zone and the Excellence ringette program align with Ringette Canada's policy.

Sincerely,



Matt Doherty  
Executive Director, Ringette BC  
[executivedirector@bcringette.org](mailto:executivedirector@bcringette.org)

## Club Division (Community Athlete Pathway)

This season, the debate about male athletes playing ringette has been more divisive than ever before. Further, defaulting to All Gender Teams in our Club division has led to concerns from both male and female athletes and parents.

For the 2024/25 season, Club Associations will be permitted to offer both Female Club Teams and All-Gender Club Teams based on the following criteria:

### Highlight of changes:

- Club Associations must offer both Female Club and All-Gender Club division registration options in RAMP. The name of these Club division registration options are:
  - Female Club
  - Club (all-gender)
- A minimum of 9 athletes is needed to form a team in any given Club division category.
- Club Associations will contact registrants on September 1<sup>st</sup> to provide an update on the current status in their registration category of choice.
- On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Club Associations will declare, based on their registration information, whether their teams are Female Club and/or Club (all-gender) in each Club division.
- If the Club Association is not able to run a division due to low registration, they will be required to provide registered athletes with a player release, so they are able to find a team within another Club Association in their preferred Club divisional offering.
- Club Associations will only be able to accept late player registrations after the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline in their declared Club division option(s).
- Club (all-gender) teams cannot have greater than 50 percent males as rostered athletes, including pick-ups.
  - This includes during participation in League play, tournaments, and Provincial Championships.
- Ringette BC sanctioned tournaments are encouraged to offer Female Club and Club (all-gender) divisions to align with the changes in the competition framework for the 2024/25 season, with a minimum of three teams needed for a division to proceed.
- There will be no changes to registration for the FUNdamentals, U10, U12, 18+ or Masters divisions.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

In order for Ringette BC to enable your Club Association to create your registration packages in RAMP (including Female Club and All-gender Club), you must email RBC Executive Director Matt Doherty at [executivedirector@bcringette.org](mailto:executivedirector@bcringette.org) to acknowledge that you've read this memo and understand the Club Division registration requirements.

### Supporting Documents

For more information on the changes to the Club Division, refer to the documents below

- [Club Division Updates – April 2024](#)
- [Club Division Guidelines](#)

## Zone Division (Competitive Athlete Pathway)

During the 2019/2020 season, the Zone program was introduced at the U14 division. In the years that have followed, the program has expanded into U16 and U19. With three full seasons completed, there have been both successes and challenges along the way. Moving into the 2024/2025 season, we look to evolve the Zone Program by making adaptations that will support the objective of providing a meaningful experience for athletes seeking a competitive ringette pathway.

### Highlight of changes:

- Completing the shift to Female only and Male only programming at all levels (U14, U16 and U19)
- Centralized Zone registration through each League
- Flexibility for Leagues to declare Zone boundaries by a deadline each season, avoiding releases and maximizing the number of teams formed in each region
- Zone Competition Calendar – designated tournaments that all Zone teams will attend each season, providing equitable opportunities for meaningful competition and allowing for proper seeding at the Provincial Championships

### Supporting Documents

For more information on the changes to the Zone Division, refer to the documents below

- [Zone Division Updates – April 2024](#)
- [Zone Division Guidelines](#)

## Excellence Ringette Program

The Excellence Ringette Program is intended to create an accessible high-performance program that provides quality development opportunities to a wider base of athletes; some of whom have historically lacked access to these opportunities and resources. After almost three seasons of the Excellence Ringette Program, we have learned what is working well, and what needs to be improved to take our program, as well as our athletes and coaches, to the next level, while continuing to offer a quality, sustainable high-performance program to a larger audience.

### Highlight of changes:

- Amendments to the Athlete Intake procedure, including both a practice and game evaluation to add ringette skills to the criteria for intake, operating as Camp #1 in the program
- Removal of the December training camp, with the addition of regional development sessions during the regular season
- Providing Team BC athletes the option to double card to a Zone team, or remain single carded to Excellence and Team BC
- Addition of Mental Performance Program integration, providing consistent group and individual access to mental performance training

### Supporting Documents

For more information on the changes to the Zone Division, refer to the documents below

- [Excellence Ringette Program Updates – April 2024](#)
- [Excellence Ringette Program Guidelines](#)

## Male Competition Development Program

Ringette BC is committed to developing and operating participation and competition opportunities for male athletes in a male-only stream of participation. Based on the 2023-2024 Male & Non-Binary registration data, the success of the Male participation development training weekend and the U12 Male showcase game hosted last season, Ringette BC will be offering a Male Competition Development Program during the 2024/2025 season.

### Program Highlights

- Ringette BC will plan, organize and implement two Male Development Competition training camps
- Athlete Eligibility includes male and non-binary athletes born between 2007 and 2012, with defined age divisions to be confirmed after the registration deadline
- The teams formed out of the Male Competition Development Program may participate at the Provincial Championships and/or the Western Canadian Ringette Championships
  - 2024/2025 Year End Competition to occur at the 2025 Western Canadian Ringette Championships in BC
  - Athletes must attending a minimum of one out of two training camps to be eligible to participate at the Provincial Championships or Western Canadian Ringette Championships, but are strongly encouraged to attend both events.

### Supporting Documents

For more information on the changes to the Zone Division, refer to the documents below

- [2024/2025 Male Competition Development Program Overview](#)
- Male Competition Development Program Guidelines - **coming May 2024**