

May 16, 2022

## Ringette BC Update

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Dear League and Club Association Presidents,

### **Subject: Zone and Club Ringette updates for 2022/2023**

COVID-19 restrictions have eased significantly over the past couple of months of 2022; however, the recovery from COVID-19 for ringette and to general sport participation continues to be slow. Unfortunately, ringette is not immune to the impacts of COVID-19 on registration and recruitment numbers.

In 2020, as outlined in the Ringette BC Athlete Experience report, Ringette BC introduced female-only and male-only ringette at the U14 Zone division. While U14 female-only teams have been formed since the 2020/21 season, male-only teams are permitted at all Zone division ages. Further, in response to the impacts of COVID-19 on sport participation, an exemption was provided at that time to allow for mixed ringette in the U16 and U19 Zone divisions. The exemption for mixed gender teams U16 and U19 Zone was extended into the 2021/22 ringette season

After a careful review of the registration numbers within the applicable birth years, the on-going recovery to ringette as a result of COVID-19 and the capacity for Ringette BC to support a delivering an additional competition division at Zone, Ringette BC has determined the following for the 2022-2022 ringette season:

- U14 Zone will remain female-only
- U14 male-only teams are permitted and encouraged
- U16 Zone – extension of the exemption for mixed gender teams for one additional season, 2022/23 ringette season
- U19 Zone – extension of the exemption for mixed gender teams for the 2022/23 season. Further extensions will be reviewed at the end of the 2022/23 season

Ringette BC is committed to the implementation of a male competitive pathway and for providing a competitive ringette experience for male players. Currently, male athletes are approximately 15 per cent of the overall Ringette BC player population from FUNdamentals to Adult ringette.

As a reminder, Zone teams formed at U16 and U19 are required to follow the Western Canadian Ringette Championships (WCRC) technical package that required teams to maintain 80 per cent female rosters to be eligible to compete at the Championships.

To assist with team formation this fall, Ringette BC has the following tools in place to ensure that athletes are participating at the appropriate age division and calibre for their individual skills:

- Player Movement Policy

- Team Formation Policy
- Standardized evaluation criteria

If athletes are of skill, calibre and ability to compete at a higher age category, consideration should be permitted under the Player Movement policy, in accordance with both the policy and insurance.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have further questions or need assistance with individual requests.

Sincerely,



Nicole Robb

Executive Director,

Ringette BC

Cc: Ringette BC Board of Directors  
Ringette BC Staff