

Zone Division Participation 2023/24 season

Dear League and Club Association Presidents,

April 27, 2023

As outlined in the [2019-2023 Strategic Plan](#) and through the [Athlete Experience Pathways report](#), Ringette BC introduced female-only and male-only ringette ongoing at the U14 Zone division at the beginning of the 2020/21 season. While U14 female-only team have been formed since the that season, male-only teams are permitted at all Zone division ages. Further, in response to the impacts of COVID-19 on registration and recruitment, an exemption was provided to allow for mixed ringette to continue in the U16 and U19 divisions. This exemption was extended for an additional year for the 2022/23 season.

For the 2023/24 season, U14 and U16 Zone will be female only and male only. Mixed gender teams at the U19 Zone level will be permitted for one additional season. Consideration of any additional extensions at U19 Zone will be reviewed at the end of the 2023/24 season.

Please also note that Ringette BC wants to ensure that athletes are participating at the appropriate age division and calibre for their individual skills. As the governing body, we reserve the right to advance players of skill, calibre and ability to compete at a higher age category, in accordance with the Player Movement Policy. Lastly, please be reminded that U19 Zone Teams are required to follow the Western Canadian Ringette Championships (WCRC) Technical Package that requires teams to dress at least 80 per cent females on their roster to be eligible to compete.

In summary, Ringette BC has determined the following for the 2023/24 season:

- U14 and U16 Zone will be female-only or male-only
 - U14 and U16 Zone male-only teams are permitted and encouraged
- U19 Zone – extension of the exemption for mixed gender teams for the 2023/24 season.
 - Further extensions will be reviewed at the end of the 2023/24 season.

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.

For your reference, please refer to the [Player Movement Policy](#), the [Team Formation Policy](#), [Zone Division Guidelines](#) and the [standardized evaluation criteria](#).

Ringette BC remains committed to the implementation of a male competitive pathway and for providing a competitive experience for both female and male participants.

Yours in Ringette,

Lesley Driscoll
Chair, Board of Directors

Rick Benson
Sport Operations Manager

*Our Values: Community Focus, Partnership,
Integrity, Respect, Sportsmanship*