

# Zone Division Program Updates Overview

April 2024

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 Provincial Championships occurring in 2020 (U14), 2022, 2023 and 2024. 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 forward by making adaptations that will support the objective of providing a meaningful experience for athletes seeking a competitive ringette pathway.

## Challenges

The challenges the Zone program currently faces, include

- consistent formation of teams within each zone
- folding of teams late in the registration process leading to releases and a heavy administrative burden
- lack of resources within zones (ice, coaches)
- disparity of athletes registered between zones
- lack of meaningful tournament competition
- difficulty meeting travel and participation requirements

## Suggestions for Improvement

### Registration Process

Each League will now host Zone Team tryout registration for their respective areas. At the time of opening registration, Leagues must be able to declare the tryout dates, or a 14-day date range, in which tryouts will be held. Leagues may opt to charge a tryout fee or deposit at the time of registration.

### Team Formation

Previously, Zone boundaries were outlined in the Zone Division Guidelines. There is a note that boundaries may be redrawn by Ringette BC. Rather than predetermining the Zones ahead of registration, Leagues will be able to collect registration and review it, along with Coach applications and available resources, to determine how many teams to form and what the boundaries of those teams will be. Leagues will follow recommendations and requirements listed in the Zone Division Guidelines to support determining how many teams to form in each division given their registration numbers. This may cause boundaries to be shifted, or they may remain the same. Further, boundaries do not have to be the same for every age division. Ultimately, Leagues should be looking to form as many teams as possible, while making decisions on boundaries that will support with equitable distribution of athletes, coaches and resources.

Roster sizes will be updated as below, aligning all divisions to the same maximum number of athletes.

- Maximum 16 rostered athletes (including 1-2 goaltenders)
- Maximum 5 affiliate athletes (up to 4 skaters and 1 goaltender)

Previously, the Ringette BC Zone guidelines used registration numbers to dictate the number of teams formed within a single Zone. Moving into the 2024/2025 season, the numbers in the guidelines will be applicable to the entire league, as they determine how many teams to form in each division.

<b>Number of athletes registered for tryouts</b>	<b>Minimum number of teams</b>
11-30	1
31-45	2
46-65	3
65+	4+

Leagues are encouraged to form as many teams as possible, and encouraged to form more teams when they are close to the number of registrants for the higher number of teams required. Zone teams with less than 13 rostered players may bring their roster to 13 with affiliates for any sanctioned game or event, without having to replace a missing player. Should a League be concerned about the viability of forming both a zone and club team in a single division, they may seek out flexible roster and/or affiliate options with Ringette BC.

Leagues will declare the number of teams along with their boundaries, in each division, to Ringette BC by the Team Declaration deadline of July 1st.

## Tryouts


Leagues may choose to host combined tryouts, or have tryouts occur in each designated zone. This process must be outlined at the time of Team Declaration. Athletes must attend a minimum of two tryouts to be considered for a position on a Zone team.

## Zone Team Registration and Formation Timeline

<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Athlete Registration Opens Head & Assistant Coach Applications Open
<b>June 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Athlete Registration Closes Head Coach Applications Close
<b>July 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Zone Team Declaration Deadline Assistant Coach Applications Close
<b>July 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Head Coaches selected
<b>August 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Zone Tryouts may begin
<b>September 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Zone tryouts must be completed
<b>September 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Zone Rosters due to Leagues & Ringette BC
<b>November 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Roster Deadline – no changes to athletes or coaches beyond this date

## Zone Competition Calendar

To address the lack of meaningful tournament competition and ensure that all teams are able to fulfill their travel requirements, a Zone Competition Calendar has been created. This calendar will designate the required Zone tournaments each season, where all Zone teams in a division will compete. The Zone competition calendar will require the designated tournaments each year to admit all Zone teams in each division, as well as work with Ringette BC to schedule games to ensure teams play each team approximately the same number of times. Tournaments not designated as the Zone Tournament in their region may still opt to host a Zone division, but participation will be optional. The Zone Competition Calendar will be released every two years with the schedule for two upcoming seasons and may not follow the previous pattern. The schedule for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 will be released in the spring of 2026.

 <b>Zone Division Competition Calendar</b>				
Region	2024/2025		2025/2026	
<b>LMRL</b>	Fraser Valley Spirit of Winter	December	Richmond West Coast Classic	January
<b>TORL</b>	Kelowna Sweetheart	February	Vernon Okanagan Autumn Blast	October
<b>Northern BC</b>	Prince George Joy Hoffman	November	Prince George Joy Hoffman	November
<b>Provincials</b>	LMRL	March	TORL	March

Should a region not form a team in a division, teams in that division will not be required to travel to that region. Instead, a second tournament will be designated in one of the remaining regions to provide three opportunities for competition.

## Zone Provincial Championship Seeding

Round Robin Games at the three designated Zone tournament will be used as seeding games for the Provincial Championships where there are more than five (5) teams in a division. Standings will be determined using Ringette BC's standard tie breaking procedures. Provincial Championships Game schedules and formats would be as follows:

6 Teams		7 Teams		8 Teams	
Pool A	Pool B	Team	Opponents	Pool A	Pool B
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	3, 4, 6, 7	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3, 4, 5, 6	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	1, 2, 5, 7	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Finals</b>		4 <sup>th</sup> Place	1, 2, 5, 7	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
1 <sup>st</sup> in each pool – bye to SF		5 <sup>th</sup> Place	2, 3, 4, 6	<b>Finals</b>	
QF – A2 vs B3, B2 vs A3		6 <sup>th</sup> Place	1, 2, 5, 7	1 <sup>st</sup> in each pool bye to SF	
SF – A1 vs WQF2, B1 vs WQF1		7 <sup>th</sup> Place	1, 3, 4, 6	QF – A2 vs B3, B2 vs B3	
Finals – Gold and Bronze		<b>Finals</b>		SF – A1 vs WQF2, B1 vs WQF1	
Consolation – LQF1 vs LQF2		SF – 1 <sup>st</sup> vs 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> vs 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Consolation – A4 vs B4	
		Finals – Gold and Bronze		<b>*pending ice availability</b>	
		Consolation – 5th vs 6th *			

## Supporting Documents

For more information, please refer to the supporting documents below

- [Zone Division Guidelines](#)