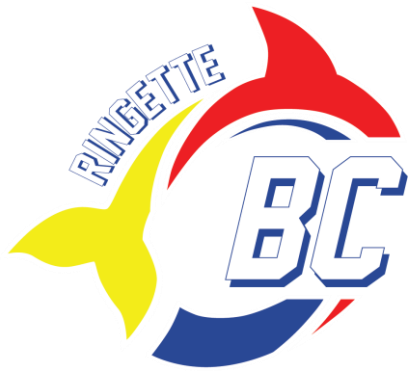




RINGETTE BC

U12 Competition Introduction

Updated: July 2026

Contents

RINGETTE BC	1
U12 Competition Introduction	1
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.1 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES.....	3
1.1 OBJECTIVES	3
1.3 GOVERNANCE	3
2. PARTICIPANTS.....	4
2.1 ELIGIBILITY	4
2.2 PARTICIPATION	4
3. COACH AND TEAM STAFF SELECTION	4
3.1. CERTIFICATION	4
3.2. TEAM STAFF SELECTION.....	4
4. PROGRAM OUTLINE.....	5
4.1 PROGRAM SCHEDULE	5
4.2 PROGRAM PHASES	5
5. FINANCES.....	6
6. U12 CI Team Formation.....	6
6.1 EVALUATIONS.....	6
6.2 ROSTER SIZES.....	7
6.3 TEAM FORMATION.....	7
6.4 TEAM SELECTION	8
7. U12 TEAM TRAINING & COMPETITION	9
7.1. TRAINING.....	9
7.2. LEAGUE PLAY.....	9
7.3. TOURNAMENTS.....	10
7.4. YEAR END COMPETITION	10
APPENDIX 1: PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES	11
APPENDIX 3: ZONES & DESIGNATED COLOURS.....	12

1. INTRODUCTION

The U12 Train to Train Competition Introduction Program is a regional program run by leagues. This program offers U12-aged participants the opportunity for further skill development and the potential of an introductory experience to the Competitive pathway before deciding whether to try out for Zone in U14. Practices will be structured, varied, game-like and provide maximum participation for all. The program will provide a high paced environment where participants can improve in a safe and fun manner. All interested athletes registered in the U12 division with their Club Association are permitted to participate in the beginning phase of the program. The Learn to Train and Train to Train stages of LTD are key stages of development for sport specific skills, including the introduction of basic individual and team tactics. The Competitive Introduction program will focus on skill development, ringette specific skills (shooting, passing, receiving the ring), physical literacy, and basic ringette strategies including both offensive and defensive tactics. On-ice sessions throughout the season will focus on periodization of skills and will have the option to add exhibition play at the end of an ice time and in the competition phase of the season.

1.1 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The U12 CI program is meant to provide development opportunities for U12-aged athletes while providing a bridge between the Community Division and the Competitive Division of play. All athletes are welcome to participate.

- access and exposure to an introductory competitive level of ringette;
- training and development opportunities for Coaches;
- co-ed participation is encouraged and facilitated;
- stronger alignment with principles of long-term athlete development; and
- increased engagement to improve athlete retention and registration.

1.1 OBJECTIVES

Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) recognizes that athletes will learn and grow at different rates with different influencing factors. Some ringette players are continually seeking new challenges to fuel their enjoyment of our unique sport. The goal is to provide a higher level of development opportunities for this age group, while also supporting all participating athletes with access to quality coaching and programming. The ringette player participating in this program is seeking to increase their skill through a gradual progression of acquisition and intends to try out for a competitive zone team in U14.

Objectives of the U12 Competitive Introduction program include:

- Providing additional opportunities for athletes to increase their skills;
- Introducing athletes to the competitive pathway of the competition model;
- Enhancing and complementing U12 Club Association team programs.

1.3 GOVERNANCE

The U12 CI Program will be operated by the Leagues with collaboration from Club Associations and support from Ringette BC. Ringette BC is responsible for providing policy, guidelines and applicable program resources. The League will be responsible for general operation of the program and teams, including but not limited to:

- Registration of all athletes;

- Coordinating Ice times and Evaluations;
- Determination of teams for Phase 2;
- Allocation of ice and resources;
- Coach selection;
- Enforcement of Codes of Conduct for coaches, athletes, spectators and officials;
- Screening any persons from the Association that are involved in a capacity with the Team Staff; and
- Referee assignment and payment.

The Leagues will be responsible for participating in coach selection, ensuring that coaches are teaching the appropriate skills and concepts, that game play is facilitated as per the technical requirements of ringette (i.e. the Ringette Canada rules, game time, referee schedules) and ensuring that athletes and teams are participating in meaningful competition and adhering to the True Sport Principles.

2. PARTICIPANTS

2.1 ELIGIBILITY

Athletes in the U12 CI Program are

- Any gender
- U12 aged in the respective season
- Members in good standing with Ringette BC, their League and Club Association
- Registered and actively participating on a U12 Club Association Team
- Interested in skill development opportunities and pursuing additional opportunities

2.2 PARTICIPATION

For the first half of the program (September – November) all athletes will train and participate together as a group. Coaches can create smaller squads for training and exhibition play.

During the second half of the season (December – February / March), players will be evaluated and some will be selected for U12 CI Teams. To be eligible for selection to a U12 CI roster, athletes must be registered for the U12 CI program and have attended at least 50% of the scheduled sessions in Phase 1.

3. COACH AND TEAM STAFF SELECTION

3.1. CERTIFICATION

Team Staff for U12 CI programs must meet the requirements as outlined in Ringette BC's Team Leadership Qualifications Policy.

3.2. TEAM STAFF SELECTION

Head Coaches must be selected by October 1st each season and adhere to Ringette BC's Coach and Team Staff Selection policy. Selection is facilitated by the leagues and will follow the Ringette BC Coach and Team Staff Selection Policy.

All applicants will be required to submit an Application Form to express their interest. Head Coach applicants are also required to submit references with their application. The Selection Committee may choose to contact references (i.e., the coach is new to the associations; there are several strong candidates, and the selection committee needs additional information to make a decision). Selection committees will submit their recommendations to BC Ringette for approval and can offer coaching positions after approval is confirmed.

Additional Team Staff will be recommended by the selected Head Coach and approved by the Selection Committee prior to the start of player evaluations.

4. PROGRAM OUTLINE

4.1 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The U12 CI Program will run in two phases; Skill Development and Team Training & Competition. The schedule below gives a general timeline of when leagues should aim to complete key program tasks and components.

Timeframe	Task
August – September	Coach Selection Athlete Registration
October – November	Skill Development
December	Evaluations and Team Formation Commitment to Attend Due
January – February	Team Training Exhibition Game Play
February - March	Final Competition

4.2 PROGRAM PHASES

The U12 CI Program will operate in two phases, balancing the need to provide additional skill development for all athletes with the need to provide an introductory competitive experience to bridge the gap between U12 and U14.

4.2.1 Phase 1: Skill Development

September - November

From the start of the program (Later September / Early October) through to the end of November, the U12 CI program should focus on individual skill development. Sessions should follow the content provided in the U12 Competition Introduction Season Overview and Yearly Training Plan, following Weeks 1 to 9. During Phase 1, the program should operate no more than once per week, per group.

Phase 1 is open to all U12 aged athletes who are interested in participating in the program. Leagues may opt to run Phase 1 as an entire league, or split into smaller groups by region pending resource, personnel availability and geographic barriers. By continuing to offer Phase 1 to all athletes, Leagues will be able to ensure that all interested athletes receive access to quality programming and coaching and are provided the opportunity to have a base level of knowledge prior to the beginning of Phase 2.

4.2.2 Phase 2: Team Training and Competition

December - March

Beginning in the first week of December, on or around Week 10 of the program, Leagues will organize evaluations where the participating athletes can be observed and evaluated by coaches and a designated evaluating team. Leagues will declare, at least one week prior to evaluations, how many teams they intend to create.

After evaluations, U12 CI rosters will be created following the processes noted in Section 6 below. All athletes are welcome to attend evaluations, but not all athletes will be selected for a U12 CI roster and move on to Phase 2 – Team Training and Competition.

Phase 2 will offer select athletes the opportunity to further their development and begin the introduction of individual and small team tactics through team training and exhibition play. During Phase 2, teams should train/compete no more than an average of 1.5 times per week. U12 CI teams from across the province will compete against each other in a Year End competition hosted by Ringette BC.

5. FINANCES

Leagues will determine the fee for each Phase of the U12 CI Program, and should communicate this ahead of registration. Minor variations may occur ahead of confirmation of the rosters for Phase 2.

6. U12 CI Team Formation

6.1 EVALUATIONS

Evaluations will follow the Ringette BC Standard Evaluation Criteria, and can be a combination of skill and/or game sessions. Leagues must schedule at least two evaluation sessions, and all athletes interested in participating in Phase 2 should be evaluated at least once.

Should an athlete be unable to attend tryouts due to an absence or injury, they must notify their League, in writing. A committee will be formed consisting of the Head Coach and a League representative, to review the athlete's absence and make a recommendation on whether the athlete will be provided an alternative tryout date.

Upon request, Leagues must be able to provide athletes with their evaluation data. The athlete should receive their own average ordinals, as well as the average ordinal from their group. Athletes should not receive all raw evaluation data.

6.2 ROSTER SIZES

All U12 CI teams will be permitted to a maximum of 15 players (13-14 skaters, 1-2 goalies).

Teams may opt for smaller rosters, provided they have no less than 9 players on their roster. Leagues will set the roster sizes to facilitate forming more teams in a division. All Player Pick-up within the U12 CI program will follow the Ringette BC Player Pick Up Policy.

6.3 TEAM FORMATION

It is estimated that there will be three to five teams in the Lower Mainland, two teams in TORL and one to two teams in the Northern Ringette League in each division. The number of teams formed each year will be guided by the number of players that register to participate in the U12 CI program.

Leagues may choose to create balanced teams across the entirety of their league, or develop boundaries (similar to Zone) for the purpose of forming teams geographically. Boundaries will be set each year by the league based on registration numbers, facility availability and resources such as coaches and administrative support. This decision should also be made with the consideration of ensuring opportunities for meaningful game play and balanced rosters.

Using this table, Leagues will determine how many teams to form. Leagues may opt to form more teams than the minimum listed below.

Number of athletes in the program	Minimum Number of Teams
9-25	1-2
26-40	2
41-55	3
56+	4

The vision for the program is to form as many teams as possible as smaller rosters assist with the following player development initiatives:

- increased engagement of all rostered players as they are more active during competitions and practices;
- increased opportunities to experience playing different positions;
- players have increased opportunity to develop skills and abilities with the additional access to ice and game play;
- increased opportunity for players to experience different game situations; and
- encouraging Coaches to train and develop all of the athletes on their team while also recognizing individual player skills
- increased variety of teams to play against

6.4 TEAM SELECTION

6.4.1 One team in a region / league

When a league forms one team, or splits their league into Zones for the purpose of team formation, the following process will be followed for team selection

- a. The League will
 - i. set the roster size
 - ii. rank the athletes according to their ordinal from evaluations
 - iii. determine the top 70% of the roster based on player ordinals
- b. The Head Coach will
 - i. Review the evaluation data and rankings
 - ii. Select the remaining 30% of the roster, as well as any goalies

Final player selection should reflect player ordinals with only minor variation.

6.4.2 Multiple teams in a region / league

When a league forms more than one team across the entirety of their league, or within a designated region, a draft will be used to determine the final rosters. The following process will be followed for team selection

- a. The League will
 - i. set the roster sizes
 - ii. rank the athletes according to their ordinal from evaluations
 - iii. determine the top 70% of the athlete pool for selection based on player ordinals
- b. The Head Coaches will
 - i. Review the evaluation data and rankings
 - ii. Collaborate and select the remaining 30% of athlete pool for selection
 - i. If the coaches cannot come to an agreement, the League will allocate an equal number of selections to each coach based on the number of unresolved positions
- c. Once the athlete pool has been finalized, the Head Coaches will follow the drafting process below
 - i. Skaters and goaltenders shall be drafted in separate drafts
 - ii. Coaches will flip a coin to determine who is Coach #1. The winner of the coin toss (Coach #1) will have the choice of drafting either goaltenders or skaters first and gets 1st pick of the 1st draft.
 - iii. The loser of the coin toss (Coach #2) will receive first pick of the second draft
 - iv. Draft order shall remain confidential to the coaching staff and a League designated representative.
 - v. The League designated representative will observe the draft and ensure Coaches are following this drafting process.
 - vi. Each team is permitted a maximum of two staff members to attend the draft (e.g. Head Coach and Assistant Coach or Manager)
 - vii. Except under exceptional circumstances, requests for specific Coaches or placement on a certain team will not be entertained. The League designated representative shall be responsible for assessing and deciding upon exceptional circumstances. In each case, the League designated representative's decision is final.
 - viii. When two or more teams are to be formed where Head and/or Assistant Coaches are parents of players involved, the Coaching Staff of all teams and the League designated representative shall meet

prior to the draft and to determine in which round of the draft that parents shall select their child. All Coaches and the League designated representative must agree prior to the start of the draft. During the draft, they child shall be picked in that position, no exceptions. If unanimous agreement cannot be reached, then the League designated representative shall make the decision and that decision shall be final

ix. Coaches will follow the draft order below

Round 1	Coach #1	Coach #2
1	1 st pick	2 nd pick
2	4 th pick	3 rd pick
3	5 th pick	6 th pick
4	8 th pick	7 th pick
5	9 th pick	10 th pick
6	12 th pick	11 th pick
Continue this pattern		

7. U12 TEAM TRAINING & COMPETITION

From December to March, U12 CI teams will enter the Team Training and Competition Phase of the Program (Phase 2). Not including the week of the final competition, teams will not have more than 2 ice times per week, but should average 1.5 sessions per week over the entirety of Phase 2.

7.1. TRAINING

Once teams are drafted, they should continue to practice one day a week, following the contents of the U12 CI Yearly Training Plan weeks 11 and onward. The focus of this portion of the program is individual and small team tactics.

7.2. LEAGUE PLAY

Leagues may choose to schedule exhibition games within their League schedule for the U12 CI teams. They may play games against

- Other U12 CI teams
- U14 Zone Teams
- U14 Club teams who have opted to participate in exhibition games

Games should take place approximately every other week.

7.3. TOURNAMENTS

Teams in the U12 CI program are not required to attend any additional tournaments. Leagues may permit their teams to attend no more than one (1) tournament in a season, permitted that it does not conflict with any Ringette BC sanctioned tournaments or events.

7.4. YEAR END COMPETITION

Ringette BC will aim to host a year-end competition for the U12 CI Program each season. Pending resources and facility availability, the U12 CI division will be hosted at a Provincial Championship event.

APPENDIX 1: PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

The general responsibilities and/or leadership for specific areas of responsibility are as in the table below:

	Ringette BC	League	Club Associations	Head Coach	Team Staff
Program Guidelines	X				
Coach Selection		X			
Coach Support & Evaluation		X			
Team Staff Selection		X			
Team Staff Approval		X			
Registration		X			
Player Evaluations		X		X	X
Team Formation		X		X	X
Team Roster		X		X	X
Team Budget		X		X	X
Tournament Registration		X		X	X
Ice Allocation		X	X		
Discipline		X			
Scoresheets		X		X	
Referee Scheduling		X	X		
Referee Payment		X			

APPENDIX 3: ZONES & DESIGNATED COLOURS

To Support with avoiding jersey conflicts, associations have been assigned the following colours to utilize for their U12 CI teams. Ringette BC will provide a spare set of white jerseys at the Year End Competition should the referees deem the competing team's jerseys a conflict. If additional jersey colours are needed, Ringette BC will assign them to the league upon notification of the number of teams to be formed.

Lower Mainland Ringette League:

- Orange
- Grey
- Black
- White

Thompson Okanagan Ringette League:

- Purple
- Red

Northern Ringette League:

- Blue
- Yellow

Island Ringette League:

- Green