



## Edmonton Ringette Evaluations 2009 Information for Parents

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The Evaluation Committee of the Edmonton Federation Community League Ringette Association ("EFCLRA") has compiled this document to familiarize parents with this year's evaluation process. Please read through it and take a few minutes to discuss it with your player(s). In many ways the evaluation is like a test at school: it measures the skills of the players on the day the evaluation takes place. The evaluation process can be very stressful for all involved but doesn't need to be. The evaluation committee wants each player to play at the level consistent with their skill, desire and commitment. You can assist us by making sure that your player is adequately prepared for evaluations by ensuring that they; have a good night sleep before, arrive at least half an hour before each evaluation session, have properly fitted equipment, sharpened skates and are ready to play.

Bear in mind that the driving force behind Edmonton Ringette in general, and the evaluation process in particular, is the efforts of a small group of volunteers who are doing the best job they possibly can for over 400 players. The evaluation process requires a tremendous amount of time and financial resources. We hire independent and experienced ringette players to observe and evaluate the players to ensure that the evaluation results are fair and objective. These evaluation results are used by the EFCLRA and our coaches to make balanced teams for various levels of play. The EFCLRA's objective is to ensure that players are playing at a level where they are competitive and enjoying the game and to ensure that teams in the same level of play are balanced and as competitive as possible. Sometimes the players or parents are not satisfied with the results of the evaluation process. Please help your player to overcome disappointment and focus on the fun of the game.

### Changes for 2009

Due to a shortage of ice and a later than normal start to this season, the EFCLRA has decided that there will be only 3 evaluation skates for most divisions. In some cases the skate groups may be quite large in order to most efficiently use the ice available.

The Edmonton Ringette Club which organizes and facilitates the AA team program will be using our evaluation skates to select their teams in place of their own optional tryouts. This is expected to result in a more efficient evaluation schedule and saving more ice for team practices at all levels and divisions.

### **The Evaluation Process**

The evaluations process will take place in 3 steps:

1. Seeding into Skate Groups
2. Evaluation Skate(s)
3. Adjustments to Skate Groups

### **Seeding**

At the seeding stage, division directors group the players into different skate groups based on, the level the player played at last year, the player's performance in the last year, the player's desired level of play and the overriding objective of ensuring that skate groups are of a size that is appropriate for the number of evaluators present at each session. As you would expect, there will need to be adjustments to the skate groups throughout the evaluation process. Therefore, you can expect that the composition of skate groups will change after each session. Please be prepared to attend all scheduled sessions for your age division. We expect that Novice (U10), Petite(U12) and Tween(U14) players will be divided into 3 skate groups for each division, Junior (U16) players into 2 skate groups and Belle(U19) players into 1 group. This is a function of the number of players in

each age group and the number of players that can be fairly evaluated in one session. The skate groups will be designated by color; Black, White and Blue.

### **Evaluation Skates**

There will be a maximum of 4 evaluation skate sessions. All evaluation skate times have been scheduled and allocated to a skate group. Each session will comprise of approximately 25% warmup and drills and 75% scrimmage. The technical skills portion will focus on skating, passing, shooting and checking. The scrimmage will allow evaluation of offensive and defensive skills as well as general player attributes such as ice awareness, commitment and teamwork. Players are not evaluated by position and will therefore be rotated through all positions except goal.

Please ensure that your player(s) attend **all** of their scheduled skate sessions so the Evaluators can correctly evaluate all player(s). Missed sessions could negatively impact a player's scores and their team placement.

### **Goalies**

Goalies will all attend a fun skate and come try goalie session (scheduled for Kinsmen Arena "B" on Wednesday September 9, 2009 from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm. In addition goalies will be allocated to skate groups to be evaluated in the scrimmages.

### **Adjustments to Skate Groups**

In order to evaluate players as fairly as possible we will attempt to have players grouped with players of similar skill. After each evaluation skate results from the independent evaluators will be tabulated by the division directors. Subject to group size constraints, players may be moved from one skate group to another for the next skate. In that case the player will be contacted by telephone and advised of the group (Black, White or Blue) that they should skate with for their next session. Unless you are contacted you should continue to attend the sessions for the color group to which you were originally assigned.

For the Novice (U10) division, the objective is to make balanced teams. While the same preliminary seeding approach will be used, there is expected to be little movement between groups during the skates.

In some age divisions a few players are much more skilled than the rest of the players in their division and therefore control the scrimmage sessions. If this is the case the division directors may ask those players to skip the last evaluation skate so that the remaining players can be evaluated more accurately.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

All players will be evaluated on their skills and decision making ability on a non-positional basis. Players will be required to rotate positions during the scrimmages for Tween(U14) and lower divisions. For Junior (16) and Belle (U19) organizers will do their best to accommodate player preferences. The skills on which evaluators will score players are as follows:

**Skating Ability:** Can they skate at this level? Is the player a threat to create an offensive opportunity or create a turnover because of speed/quickness?

**Ring Control Skills:** Passing, receiving, ring handling. Can they perform these skills consistently, at tempo and under pressure?

**Scoring/Shooting Ability:** Is this player a threat to score or to create a scoring opportunity? Are they willing to shoot with a variety of shots?

**Defensive Play:** Do they show a desire to check? Are they aggressive (within the limits of the rules)? Do they show an ability to anticipate play and passes?

**Team Play:** Ability to move and play when their teammate has the ring or when they are not the main defender. Move to create space for teammates – moving to the open or moving to skate away

**Personal Characteristics:** Show competitive nature, positive, confident. Proven to play well under pressure, commitment, self-motivate, willing to start first, make a mistake

At each Evaluation Skate we will need 10 parent volunteers. Please note that there is no coaching allowed, and you can't be on your child's bench during scrimmages. The volunteers required are as follows:

- 1 Coordinator to check in players, allocate jerseys, ensure that evaluators have complete player lists (without names) so that all players are evaluated. They should also ensure that coaches have player lists with names and jersey numbers for scouting purposes.
- 1 Timekeeper
- 2 Bench Managers, 1 for each bench to ensure that players are properly rotated between positions (a rotation worksheet will be provided)
- 4 Gate Operators, 2 for each bench to ensure that players are rotated between each position and know what position they will play for their shift
- 2 Dressing room managers to distribute jerseys before the scrimmage and collect jerseys after the scrimmage. Since these individuals will be entering the dressing rooms they will need to be female

**Please advise your division director if you are able to help and thank you in advance for your assistance.**

### **Significant Dates**

The following are significant dates for the upcoming evaluations:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Evaluations Start</b>	<b>Evaluations End</b>	<b>First Team Practice</b>
Goalies (U12 and up goalies and potential goalies)		September 9	
Bunny (U9 and U8)	No evaluations, fun skate on September 12		
Novice (U10)	September 12	September 20	September 26
Petite (U12)	September 12	September 19	week of September 21
Tween (U14)	September 8	September 15	September 17
Junior (U16)	September 8	September 13	September 15
Belle (U19)	September 10	September 13	September 15

***PLEASE NOTE – All dates and times are tentative and subject to change. Skate groups and dates may change for your player during the evaluation session. Your Director will notify you if this occurs.***