

Time for Change: A Proposed Ringette Model from the Recreational/Competitive Program Review Committee May 2012

Introduction

In 2010 following a review of the current ringette program model in Nova Scotia, the Ringette Nova Scotia (RNS) Board determined that changes were required to reflect the organization's strategic direction; commitment to Long Term Athlete Development; to improve program consistency with other provinces; and to prepare for the restructuring of regional and national competitive events.

The Recreational/Competitive Program Review Committee was then tasked with determining a new model that would best serve the needs of both "Recreational" athletes (currently known as Association houseleague players) and "Competitive" athletes (currently known as Provincial team players), and to keep within RNS' organizational values.

The committee quickly determined one key area of concern with the existing Ringette model was that we have a highly fragmented player base in Nova Scotia. In addition, for the U14 and higher division levels there is often becomes a broader difference in a player's skill level on Association (Houseleague) teams. This difference in skill level is creating a challenge for players at both ends of the spectrum. More importantly, this is leading to players quitting or becoming dissatisfied with the sport at an early age because they either: (i) do not have the opportunity to participate/engage in the game enough, or (ii) they feel their houseleague play does not challenge them enough. Therefore, it is felt by narrowing this gap; making divisions of teams that have more like skilled players, this will allow players to engage in the game at a level they are more comfortable in competing, and keep more of our children involved in the sport after reaching the U14 level.

To better understand the needs of RNS' membership and the implications of possible ringette program changes, the committee developed a loose concept and first presented it to the RNS Board. Since then, there have been several updated & modified versions of the concept presented to Association Presidents and many local association boards. Valuable feedback has been gathered from each of these groups. In addition, research into the practices of other provincial ringette associations was also helpful in providing insight regarding different models including their various strengths and weaknesses.

This report describes a ringette program model that the committee feels best balances the varying and sometimes conflicting needs of stakeholders in Nova Scotia. We have included an overview of the next three seasons under this proposed model, however many details of season two, three and beyond cannot be determined until the process is underway and along with it, an ongoing evaluation of what aspects are working well and areas for improvement.

This model will represent a dramatic change for the ringette athletes, coaches, officials and administrators in Nova Scotia. From the gradual elimination of double carding players and the creation of distinct Recreational and Competitive ringette streams in U14 and above, to the partnering of associations for the purpose of forming more “like skilled” teams – there are several aspects of this model that require the work and cooperation of many, however we believe that it’s in the best interest of the athletes and for that reason it’s a very worthwhile endeavour.

Definitions

Double carded: An athlete that is a member of two ringette teams in a single playing season, usually an Association (houseleague) team and a Provincial team.

Single carded: An athlete that is a member of only ringette team in a single playing season.

Blended association team: A team made up of players from two or more associations who enter into an association partnership agreement. Association partnerships must be approved by RNS.

In the case of Recreational and Competitive teams at U14 (and above divisions - as indicated in the following tables), the Association partnerships *will be as follows*:

- *Halifax-St.Margaret's Ringette Association, Halifax Chebucto Ringette Association; and*
- *Dartmouth Ringette Association, Cole Harbour Ringette Association, Eastern Shore Ringette Association; and*
- *Berwick Ringette Association (optional*), Sackville Ringette Association & Bedford Ringette Association.*

**Optional –it is felt that consideration should be given to associations and athletes that are unable to easily partner with other associations due to geographical constraints (such as Berwick).*

Association partnership agreement: An agreement that is outlined on an RNS form that must be submitted and approved before two or more associations may partner and combine players to form a team (see 'Blended association team'). This form will require information such as athlete registration procedures, coach and athlete selection processes, appeals policy, etc. and will help to prevent miscommunication between partnering associations and RNS.

2012/13

2013/14

2014/15

Table 1. Three season overview of Ringette Nova Scotia program changes.

Based upon registration projections, in the 2012/13 season it is anticipated the following:

U14 – enough players to create three “AA” teams, and complete “B” and “C” divisions for houseleague.

U16 – enough to create one “A” and one “A” team. Should numbers be larger, this could include two “AA” teams.

U14	Houseleague	Blended association 'C' and 'B' teams – athletes single carded	Blended association 'C' and 'B' teams – athletes single carded	Blended association 'C' and 'B' teams – athletes single carded
	Competitive	Blended association 'AA' teams (3) - athletes single carded	Blended association 'AA' teams (3 or more) - athletes single carded	Blended association 'AA' teams (3 or more) - athletes single carded
U16	Houseleague	Blended association 'C' and/or 'B' teams	Blended association 'C' and/or 'B' teams	Blended association 'C' and/or 'B' teams
	Competitive	1 NS 'A' and 1 NS 'AA' team – athletes single carded*	Blended association 'AA' teams (3) - athletes single carded	Blended association 'AA' teams (3 or more) - athletes single carded
U19	Houseleague	Association 'C' and/or 'B' teams – athletes double carded	Association 'C' and/or 'B' teams	Association 'C' and/or 'B' teams
	Competitive	1 NS 'A' and 1 NS 'AA' team - athletes double carded	1 NS 'A' and 1 NS 'AA' team – determine single or double carded	TBD Provincial teams or blended association teams model
18+	Houseleague	Association 'B/C' teams	Association 'B/C' teams	Association 'B/C' teams
	Competitive	1 NS 'A' and 1 NS 'AA' team - athletes double carded	1 NS 'A' and 1 NS 'AA' team – determine single or double carded	1 NS 'A' and 1 NS 'AA' team – determine single or double carded

2012/13 Ringette Season Detail

U14 Houseleague 2012/13		
Area	Description	Action Items & Timeframe
Type of Teams	Blended association teams (HSM/Halifax-Chebucto; Dartmouth/Cole Harbour/Eastern Shore; Bedford/Sackville/Berwick-optional)	None
Coach Selections	Selected by blended associations with process outlined in <i>Association Partnership Agreement</i> ; meets RNS minimum standards.	None
Athlete Registration	Association responsibility. RNS online registration opens July 1, closing deadline of August 15 th .	None
Carding	Athletes single carded. Consideration for double carding will only be given to athletes from	RNS Athlete Carding Policy developed – Rec/Comp.

	associations that are unable to easily partner with other associations due to geographic constraints (such as Berwick).	Committee (2012)
Team Registration	Teams registered with RNS as either "C" or "B" teams. Partnering associations may be able to host more than one team at each division, depending on registration numbers.	RNS Team Registration Policy updated – Rec/Comp. Committee (2012)
Player releases/transfers	CRRA and association responsibility. Transfer form submitted to RNS.	RNS Player Transfer Form developed – Rec./Comp. Committee (2012)
Athlete Evaluations and/or Selections	RNS will provide associations with a common evaluation/scoring tool to determine proper placement of players to a "B" or "C" team.	Determine if there will be houseleague tiering – CRRA
Team size	Association responsibility. Subject to RNS policy.	None
Season Length	CRRA and association responsibility. Subject to RNS policy.	None
Jerseys	Association responsibility	None
Ice Time	Association and team responsibility	None
Team Budgets	Association and team responsibility	None
Regular Season Play	CRRA league play	None
Officials Scheduling	CRRA responsibility	None
Invitational Tournaments	Association and team responsibility; requires RNS sanctioning. Subject to RNS policies regarding number of tournaments.	RNS Practice to Competition Ratio Guidelines – LTAD Committee (August 2012)
Provincial/Regional Competition	U14 "B" and "C" Provincial Ringette Championships	None
Coach Evaluations	Association responsibility	None

U14 Competitive 2012/13		
Area	Description	Action Items & Timeframe
Type of Teams	Blended association teams managed by RNS for introductory season (Berwick/Bedford/Sackville; HSM/Halifax-Chebucto; Dartmouth/Cole Harbour/Eastern Shore)	None
Coach Selections	Selected by RNS as per policy (introductory season only). Coaches to be selected by June 15 th .	None
Athlete Registration	Athletes must register with home association before trying out for a competitive blended team. Additional competitive team fees determined by	None

	RNS. RNS online registration opens July 1 st , registration deadline of August 15 th .	
Carding	Athletes single carded. Consideration for double carding will only be given to athletes from associations that are unable to easily partner with other associations due to geographic constraints (such as Berwick).	RNS Athlete Carding Policy developed – Rec/Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Team Registration	Teams registered with RNS as “AA” teams.	RNS Team Registration Policy updated – Rec/Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Player releases/transfers	Maximum of 3 out-of-area players and 1 out-of-area goaltender per team. Athletes may be selected to an out-of-area team if they are released from their own blended association competitive team. Transfers must be approved by RNS. Out-of-area players must rank higher than any released players from the team they are being selected for.	RNS Player Transfer Policy developed – Rec./Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Athlete Evaluations and/or Selections	Consistent evaluation forms used across all associations. RNS Conflict of Interest Policy will be in effect. Tryout ice time and fees managed by RNS with tryout proceeds disbursed equally between all teams. Athletes declare whether they are willing to play out-of-area. Tryouts starting end August/early September.	RNS Competitive Teams Policy developed – Rec./Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Team size	Mandatory 15 skaters, two goaltenders.	RNS Competitive Teams Policy developed – Rec./Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Season Length	Tryouts and team selections in August/ early September. Season ending in April.	RNS Competitive Teams Policy developed – Rec./Comp. Committee
Jerseys	Association jerseys. Team winning U14 “AA” Provincial Championships will wear Nova Scotia jerseys at Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships.	Association Partnership Agreement developed – Rec/Comp. Committee (April 2012)
Ice Time	RNS managed with ice time supplied by associations (and supplemented with RNS ice if required). Amount of ice time must be within RNS’ Practice to Competition Ratio Guidelines.	RNS Practice to Competition Ratio Guidelines – LTAD Committee (August 2012)
Team Budgets	RNS and team responsibility. RNS to cover registration fee for all teams attending Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships.	None
Regular Season Play	Play in competitive U14 “AA” loop this loop may include the U16 “A” team .	
Officials Scheduling	RNS responsibility. Scheduling for interprovincial	None

	competition to be managed through RNS Director of Officiating.	
Invitational Tournaments	RNS and team responsibility. Subject to RNS policies regarding number of tournaments.	<i>RNS Practice to Competition Ratio Guidelines</i> – LTAD Committee (August 2012)
Provincial/Regional Competitions	Atlantic Ringette Championships; U14 “AA” Provincial Ringette Championships; Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships (all teams will compete at ECRC’s in 2013 when Nova Scotia hosts; minimum of two teams will compete in 2014 and beyond)	Notify ARC’s governing body of increased participation at 2013 event (June 2012)
Coach Evaluations	RNS responsibility	None

U16 Houseleague 2012/13		
Area	Description	Action Items & Timeframe
Type of Teams	Blended association teams (HSM/Halifax-Chebucto; Dartmouth/Cole Harbour/Eastern Shore; Bedford/Sackville/Berwick-optional)	None
Coach Selections	Selected by blended associations with process outlined in <i>Association Partnership Agreement</i> ; meets RNS minimum standards.	None
Athlete Registration	Association responsibility. RNS online registration opens July 1, closing deadline of August 15 th .	None
Carding	Athletes single carded. Consideration for double carding will only be given to athletes from associations that are unable to easily partner with other associations due to geographic constraints (such as Berwick).	RNS Athlete Carding Policy developed – Rec/Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Team Registration	Teams registered with RNS as either “C” or “B” teams.	RNS Team Registration Policy updated – Rec/Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Player releases/transfers	CRRA and association responsibility. Transfer form submitted to RNS.	RNS Player Transfer Form developed – Rec./Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Athlete Evaluations and/or Selections	RNS will provide associations with a common evaluation/scoring tool to determine proper placement of players to a “B” or “C” team.	Determine if there will be houseleague tiering – CRRA
Team size	Association responsibility. Subject to RNS policy.	None
Season Length	CRRA and association responsibility. Subject to RNS policy.	None
Jerseys	Association responsibility	None
Ice Time	Association and team responsibility	None
Team Budgets	Association and team responsibility	None
Regular Season Play	CRRA league play	None
Officials Scheduling	CRRA responsibility	None
Invitational Tournaments	Association and team responsibility; requires RNS sanctioning. Subject to RNS policies regarding number of tournaments.	RNS Practice to Competition Ratio Guidelines – LTAD Committee (August 2012)
Provincial/Regional Competition	U16 “B” and/or “C” Provincial Ringette Championships	None
Coach Evaluations	Association responsibility	None

U16 Competitive 2012/13		
Area	Description	Action Items & Timeframe
Type of Teams	1 NS 'A' and 1 NS 'AA' team (Provincial teams) – athletes single carded	None
Coach Selections	Current Ringette Nova Scotia Provincial Coach Selection process.	None
Athlete Registration	Athletes must register with home association before trying out for a provincial team. Registration fees will be forwarded to RNS from local associations following team selections. RNS online registration opens July 1, closing deadline of August 15 th .	None
Carding	Athletes single carded. Consideration for double carding will only be given to athletes from associations that are unable to easily partner with other associations due to geographic constraints (such as Berwick).	RNS Athlete Carding Policy developed – Rec/Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Team Registration	Teams registered with RNS as "A" and "AA"	RNS Team Registration Policy updated – Rec/Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Player releases/transfers	Not applicable.	None
Athlete Evaluations and/or Selections	RNS Conflict of Interest Policy will be in effect. Tryout ice time and fees managed by RNS with tryout proceeds disbursed equally between both teams.	RNS Competitive Teams Policy developed – Rec./Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Team size	15 skaters, two goaltenders.	RNS Competitive Teams Policy developed – Rec./Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Season Length	Tryouts and team selections end August/early September. Season ending in April.	RNS Competitive Teams Policy developed – Rec./Comp. Committee (March 2012)
Jerseys	RNS provincial teams jerseys.	None.
Ice Time	RNS responsibility. Amount of ice time will be within RNS' Practice to Competition Ratio Guidelines.	RNS Practice to Competition Ratio Guidelines – LTAD Committee (August 2012)
Team Budgets	RNS and team responsibility. RNS to cover registration fee for "A" team attending Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships, "AA" team attending Canadian Ringette Championships, and both teams attending Atlantic Ringette Championships.	None
Regular Season Play	U16 "A" participate in the competitive U14 "AA"	None

	division. U16 “AA” participate in the CRRRA U19 houseleague division	
Officials Scheduling	RNS responsibility. Scheduling for interprovincial competition to be managed through RNS Director of Officiating.	None
Invitational Tournaments	RNS and team responsibility; requires RNS sanctioning. Subject to RNS policies regarding number of tournaments.	<i>RNS Practice to Competition Ratio Guidelines</i> – LTAD Committee (August 2012)
Provincial/Regional Competitions	Both teams attend Atlantic Ringette Championships (mandatory for “AA” team); U16 “A” team attends Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships; U16 “AA” team attends Canadian Ringette Championships. No Provincial Championship for U16 “AA” competitive team in 2012/13 only. U16 “A” Provincial team shall be eligible to compete at U14 “AA” Provincials.	None
Coach Evaluations	RNS responsibility	None