



— JEUX DU —
CANADA
— GAMES —

**MEDIA INFORMATION PACKAGE
RINGETTE**



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A. HISTORY OF SPORT

Ringette is a Canadian team sport invention that was invented in 1963 by Sam Jacks, a recreation director and sports enthusiast from North Bay, Ontario. Ringette was born after Sam Jacks saw a need for a winter team sport for girls. Interestingly enough, Sam Jacks was also responsible for the development and introduction of floor hockey in 1936.

Originally play centered mainly in Ontario and Quebec, but quickly spread throughout the country and is now played in every province except Newfoundland, as well as in the Northwest Territories. The sport currently boasts nearly 26,000 registered players on over 2000 teams, with over 7000 coaches and over 1700 officials. While it is primarily a female sport, there are currently over 600 males playing ringette across the country.

Internationally, ringette is played in a number of countries around the world, including Finland, Sweden, the United States, France, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. Since 1990, a world ringette championship has been held on a regular basis, with Canada and Finland being the predominant challengers. Canadian ringette athletes have continuously served as ambassadors of the sport, introducing ringette in countries as far away as Japan, Australia, Germany and New Zealand.

Over the years, ringette has noted many achievements and accomplishments. These include the establishment of a Hall of Fame, which recognizes outstanding ringette achievements and contributions to the development of the sport; the introduction of a Learn to Skate Program for four to six year olds; a successful National Team Program; the development of programs such as the National Coaching Certification Program and the National Officials Certification Program; and the introduction of a National Ringette League.

Ringette has been part of the Canada Winter Games since 1991 when the event was held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Each team consists of 17 athletes who are 18 years of age or under.

B. CANADA GAMES SPORT HISTORY AND PAST RESULTS

Ringette was first contested at the Canada Games in 1991 in Charlottetown, PEI. Below are the ranking of the Provinces/Territories since the inaugural games:

	1991	1995	1999	2003
AB	1	1	4	4
BC	3	3	5	3
MB	4	2	2	2
NB	9	7	7	8
NF	10	10	11	-
NWT	11	11	10	-
NS	7	8	8	7
ON	2	4	1	1
PEI	8	9	9	9
QC	6	5	6	5
SK	5	6	3	6

YK	-	-	-	-
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C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES PER TEAM

Each team will be comprised of up to 17 females.

D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY

The rules of ringette as adopted by Ringette Canada shall apply.

The tournament will consist of an equalized pool format with two (2) divisions. One division would have four (4) teams and the other would encompass 5 teams.

Division A	Division B
Team A	Team E
Team B	Team F
Team C	Team G
Team D	Team H
Team I	

Each team plays every other team within their division during the preliminary round. At the end of the round robin, teams will be ranked from first to last for their division. The 4th place team in Division A will play the 5th place team in Division B. The winner of the game will advance to the playoff round.

Preliminary round

Division A games		Division B games	
game 1	A-B	game 2	E-F
game 3	C-D	game 4	G-H
game 5	A-C	game 6	I-E
game 7	B-D	game 8	F-G
game 9	A-D	game 10	H-I
game 11	B-C	game 12	E-G
		game 13	F-H
		game 14	I-G
		game 15	E-H
		game 16	F-I
		seeding game/game 17	4A-5B

The playoff format will be comprised of 12 games. All 8 teams making it to the playoff Round are guaranteed an additional 3 games; as games will be played for seeding (1 through 8).

Playoff round - Top 8 teams play off

game 18	1A -Winner of game 17
game 19	1B-4A
game 20	2A-3B

game 21	2B-3A	
game 22	W18-W20	
game 23	W19-W21	
game 24	L18-L20	
game 25	L19-L21	
game 26	L24-L25	7th-8th position game
game 27	W24-W25	5th-6th position game
game 28	L22-L23	3rd-4th position game
game 29	W22-W23	1st-2nd position game

E. EQUIPMENT & TERMINOLOGY

Ringette is played on ice with skates and sticks by six players on each of two teams. The mission is to score goals by shooting the object of play into nets at either end of the rink during stop-time periods of play. The stick is straight, the object being pursued by players is a rubber ring, there is no intentional body contact, and the rules of ringette make it a wide-open and dynamic sport.

The emphasis is on play-making and skating skills. Players cannot carry the ring across the blue lines on the ice. Only three players from each team, plus the defending goalie, are allowed in the end zones at the same time, which keeps the play open, puts a premium on sharp offensive moves, and requires defending players to skate close to their opponents. These features of the game demand the development of keen skating skills that give ringette players fantastic skating speed and agility.

In 2000, a 30-second shot clock was introduced to make the game even faster. The shot clock starts when a team gains possession of the ring, and if they have not taken a shot on the net within 30 seconds, a horn sounds and the ring is then awarded to the opposing team.

The equipment used to play ringette includes skates, gloves, elbow pads, shin pads, long pants, a helmet with a triangular spaced face mask to prevent the bladeless ringette stick from penetrating it, shoulder pads, a neck guard, a jersey and a ringette stick.

F. ELIGIBILITY

All players must be 18 years of age or younger, as of December 31st, 2006. Therefore, they must have been born on or after January 1st, 1988.

G. JUDGING/SCORING SYSTEM

Games are to consist of two twenty minute stop time halves. Teams receive two points for a win and zero points for a loss. The first place team, at the end of the round robin, is the team having the highest number of points. The second place team is the team having the second highest number of points, etc.

All games shall be played until a winner is declared.

H. PLAYOFF AND TIE-BREAKING FORMAT

All games will be played until a winner is declared. If the score of a game is tied at the end of regulation time, there will be one overtime period which will be sudden victory (i.e.

the first team to score in overtime will be declared the winner). If neither team scores during the first overtime period, there will be successive sudden victory overtime periods until a goal is scored to break the tie.

Possession on the free pass to start the first overtime period will be decided by the tossing of a coin by the referee. The team winning the toss will get the free pass; the other team will get the choice of ends. This coin toss shall occur immediately following regulation time.

If additional overtime periods are required, possession of the ring for the opening free pass will alternate between teams. The teams will also alternate ends. Overtime periods will be the same length as regulation periods.

Provincial/Territorial Ranking - tie-breaker

When two or more teams have an equal number of points after the completion of the round robin games, the highest of the tied teams will be determined in the following order and considering the "Official Score" of the games:

- i) The winner of more game(s) between each other during the round robin will be declared the highest position.
- ii) If still tied, the team having the greatest positive difference between goals for and against in games between the tied teams in the round robin will be declared the highest position.
- iii) If still tied, the team having the least total goals against in games between the tied teams during the round robin will be declared the highest position.
- iv) If still tied, the following formula will be used to determine the highest position: for the games between the tied teams in the round robin, divide the total goals for plus the total goals against, by the goals against.
(i.e., $(\text{Goals For} + \text{Goals Against}) / \text{Goals Against}$)

The team with the HIGHEST resulting number will be declared the highest position.

- v) If still tied, the team having the greatest positive difference between goals for and against in all games during the round robin will be declared the highest position.
- vi) If still tied, the tied team with the least total goals against in all games during the round robin will be declared the highest position.
- vii) If still tied, the same formula as in (iv) will be applied to all games during the round robin. The team with the HIGHEST resulting number will be declared the highest position.

Important Notes:

1. These shall be followed in sequence until the tie is broken (i.e., one team is eliminated from the tie). Once one team is eliminated from the tie, the procedure reverts back to (i).

2. This procedure, in most cases, will declare the team in the HIGHEST position. However, in some cases, the procedure will declare the LOWEST position between tied teams, and that team shall be dropped from the tie breaking procedure (e.g., the top two teams remain tied). In these cases, the procedure shall also revert back to (i) in order to break the tie between those teams which remain tied.

3. In all cases, the maximum difference (spread) between goals for and against in each game is seven (7) goals. This is the "Official Score".

I. TECHNOLOGY OF SPORT

Technology used within the sport of ringette includes the shot clock and the ringette stick, which were both mentioned above. In the past five years, the tip of the ringette stick has witnessed a rapid evolution, with the goal of improving a player's shot. Notably, the RingJet 500 has a new ribbed tip that offers more power, whip and accuracy. The stick is specially constructed of aspen and birch, with a hallowed out inner core, and is reinforced with a special fiberglass wrap, which makes it very light.

J. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT

There are on-ice officials present during every ringette game. The role of these officials is to call penalties and maintain order through the implementation of the Rules of ringette. There is also an off-ice shot clock operator and timekeeper. As was mentioned earlier, Ringette Canada has developed a National Officials Certification Program, which trains and certifies ringette officials. There are currently over 1700 registered ringette officials in Canada.

K. FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Ringette games at the 2007 Canada Games will be played at two different rinks, the Canada Games Centre and the Takhini Arena.

The Canada Games Centre is a state of the art facility built as a legacy to the 2007 Canada Games that will help to further athlete development for years to come in Whitehorse. The Centre features three rinks (Olympic size, NHL size, and a leisure rink), one Fieldhouse, one Flexi-Hall, one Aquatic Centre, and an indoor running track.

Takhini Arena is a 2,000 seat multi-purpose arena in Whitehorse which is the home to the Yukon Claim Jumpers hockey club.

L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE

As of the 2005-2006 season, there were 25,287 registered ringette players in Canada. These numbers represent players from every province except Newfoundland, as well as in the Northwest Territories. There are currently 10 age categories in ringette:

Masters - 30 and over

Intermediate - 21 and over

Open - 19 and over

Deb - 23 and under

Belle - 18 and under (*this is the category represented at Canada Winter Games*)

Junior - 15 and under

Tween - 13 and under

Petite - 11 and under

Novice - 9 and under

Bunnies - 7 and under

Ringette Canada is the national body that governs the sport of ringette in Canada and there are provincial ringette associations operating across the country. The local associations, within the provinces, are volunteer-led associations and look to the provincial associations and Ringette Canada for guidance and support.

M. ATHLETES TO WATCH FOR

Alberta

- Dailyn Bell* -likely fastest skater on Team Alberta, strong defensively and creative in the offensive end.
- Kelsey Gerwing* -adaptable player with a very quick and hard shot, also a very physical player who works hard every shift and creates scoring chances.
- Jennifer Hartley* -fast, hard-working player who reads and controls the ice well and drives to the net.

Ontario

- Meghan Pittaway* -very sound and strong goalie.
- Lindsay Armstrong* -may possibly be the best checking forward at the event.
- Amanda Voisin* -outstanding athletic ability.
- Kelsey Gallant* -exceptional ring movement.

Manitoba

- Kayla Krentz* -leading scorer for Team Manitoba.
- Sheri Friesen* -rock-solid defense.

N. NOTABLE PAST ATHLETES/ALUMNI

Many past Canada Winter Games athletes have gone onto achieve ringette success on a national and international level by participating at the Canadian Ringette Championships, the World Ringette Championships and by playing in the National Ringette League.

National team members who have played at previous Canada Winter Games include:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Shannon Anderson | Team BC - 1995 |
| Sjaane Beattie | Team Saskatchewan - 2003 |
| Mel Brockman | Team Saskatchewan – 1999 |
| Dominique Carriere | Team Manitoba – 1995 |
| Catherin Cartier | Team Quebec – 1995 (player) and 1999 (as a coach) |
| Leanne Fedor | Team Alberta – 1995 |
| Jennifer Gaudet | Team Ontario – 1999 |
| Colleen Hagan | Team Ontario – 1999 |
| Michelle Henry | Team Saskatchewan – 1995 |
| Shelly Hruska | Team Manitoba – 1999 |
| Jodi Jensen | Team Alberta – 1995 (as an athlete) and 2003 (as a coach) |
| Kailee Klemmensen | Team Alberta – 1995 |
| Jill Lange | Team Alberta – 2003 |
| Katie Lugg | Team Ontario – 2003 |
| Jenna McBride | Team Ontario – 2003 |
| Mandy Nordstrom | Team Manitoba – 2003 |
| Kendra O'Brien | Team PEI - 2003 |
| Ashley Peters | Team Alberta - 2003 |

Carly Ross	Team Alberta - 1995
Stephanie Seguin	Team Quebec – 1999
Alexis Snowdon	Team Alberta – 1995
Laura Warner	Team Alberta – 1995
Sharolyn Wouters	Team Ontario – 1995 (as an athlete) and 2003/2007 (as a coach)

O. NOTABLE CANADIAN RECORDS

After winning gold at the Canada Winter Games in 1995 on Team Alberta, both Leanne Fedor and Carly Ross went on to win gold at both the 1996 and 2002 World Ringette Championships. Jodi Jensen, who was also on Team Alberta in 1995, was also a member of the 2002 gold-medal winning Team Canada.

Jennifer Gaudet won gold with Team Ontario at the 1999 Canada Winter Games and subsequently went on to pick up gold at the 2002 World Ringette Championships.

P. ATHLETE/TEAM MATCH-UPS (RIVALRIES)

Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta are all expected to be strong contenders at the 2007 Canada Winter Games. Early indications also show that Quebec will also make a strong showing.