

SPORT INFORMATION PACKAGE

RINGETTE

2011 Canada Games
Halifax, Nova Scotia

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- A. HISTORY OF SPORT**
- B. CANADA GAMES SPORT HISTORY AND PAST RESULTS**
- C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES PER TEAM**
- D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY**
- E. EQUIPMENT & TERMINOLOGY**
- F. ELIGIBILITY**
- G. JUDGING/SCORING SYSTEM**
- H. PLAYOFF AND TIE-BREAKING FORMAT**
- I. TECHNOLOGY OF SPORT**
- J. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT**
- K. FACILITY DESCRIPTION**
- L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE**
- M. ATHLETES TO WATCH FOR**
- N. NOTABLE PAST ATHLETES/ALUMNI**
- O. NOTABLE CANADIAN RECORDS**
- P. ATHLETE/TEAM MATCH-UPS (RIVALRIES)**

A. HISTORY OF SPORT

Ringette is a Canadian team sport 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 Territories. The sport currently boasts nearly 29,000 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 16 athletes who are 19 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	2007
AB	1	1	4	4	2
BC	3	3	5	3	5
MB	4	2	2	2	4
NB	9	7	7	8	6
NF	10	10	11	-	-
NWT	11	11	10	-	-
NS	7	8	8	7	8
NU	-	-	-	-	-

ON	2	4	1	1	1
PEI	8	9	9	9	9
QC	6	5	6	5	3
SK	5	6	3	6	7
YK	-	-	-	-	-

C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES PER TEAM

Each team will be comprised of up to 16 females.

D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY

The competition will follow Ringette Canada Rules detailed in the Official Rules 2008 – 2011 book. Any changes to game format which may not be reflected in the Ringette Canada Official Rules 2008 – 2011 book, but that will be implemented for the 2011 Canada Winter Games will be communicated via an amendment to the Technical Package.

The tournament will consist of an equalized pool format with two divisions. One division would have four teams and the other would include five teams.

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

Teams will be seeded based on the results from the 2007 Canada Winter Games and placed across divisions. For example, the first place team from the 2007 Canada Winter Games will be named Team A (first team in Division A), the second place team will be seeded as Team E (first team in Division B). The 2007 Canada Winter Games third place team will be seeded as Team B (second team in Division A), and the fourth place team will be seeded as Team F (second team in Division B), and so on.

Each team plays every other team in their division in the preliminary round. At the end of the round robin, teams will be ranked from first to last within 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 comprise 12 games. All 8 teams advancing to the playoff round are guaranteed an additional 3 games; as games will be played for final placement (1st through 8th).

Playoff round - Top 8 teams play off

game 18	B1 -Winner of game 17	
game 19	A1-B4	
game 20	A2-B3	
game 21	B2-A3	
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 (five skaters and a goalie) 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, knee and shin pads, long pants, a helmet with a triangular spaced face mask to prevent the bladeless ringette stick from penetrating it, a neck guard, a jersey and a ringette stick.

F. ELIGIBILITY

19 years of age or under as of December 31, 2010
Born on or after January 1, 1991

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 (ie. overtime will be played in the event of any tied game).

Provincial/Territorial Ranking

Following the final ranking of all teams, points for the Games Flag will be awarded as follows:

1st place - 10 points	6th place - 5 points	11th place - 1.5 points
2nd place - 9 points	7th place - 4 points	12th place - 1 point
3rd place - 8 points	8th place - 3 points	13th place - 0.5 point
4th place - 7 points	9th place - 2.5 points	
5th place - 6 points	10th place - 2 points	

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 (1) overtime period (stop time) 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 (2) 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., Goals For + Goals Against)

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 (1) 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.

J. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT

There are on-ice officials present during every ringette game and there is also an off-ice shot clock operator, scorekeeper 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 2011 Canada Games will be played at Cole Harbour Place. Cole Harbour Place consists of two (2) arenas where the competition will occur, with a seating capacity of 1,000. The complex is located 12.5 kilometres from the Athletes' Village.

L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE

As of the 2009-2010 season, there were 28,905 registered ringette players in Canada. These numbers represent players from every province except Newfoundland, as well as in the Northwest Territories. The following are the age categories in ringette:

U9 – born in 2001, 2002

U10 – born 2000

U12 – born 1998, 1999

U14 – born 1996, 1997

U16 – born 1994, 1995

U19 – born 1991, 1992, 1993 (this is the category represented at Canada Winter Games)

+18 – born 1991 or earlier

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

There are many athletes participating at the Canada Winter Games who have demonstrated exceptional skill in their sport. The following are a few athletes to watch during the event:

Team Ontario

#6 Emily Bakker from Mitchell, Ontario. Emily was a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (east) that won silver at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic. She plays center on the Cambridge Turbos, the top team in the Eastern Conference in the National Ringette League and is currently the leading rookie scorer in the entire league with 16 goals and 29 assists in 23 games.

#9 Alex Bateman from Ottawa, Ontario. Alex was a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (east) that won silver at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic. She plays center on the Ottawa Ice, the number three team in the Eastern Conference in the National Ringette League and is currently the 4th leading rookie scorer in the entire league with 16 goals and 16 assists in 17 games.

#13 Sammy McIntosh from London, Ontario. Sammy was a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (east) that won silver at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic. She plays forward on the Whitby Wild in the Eastern Conference in the National Ringette League and is currently the 6th leading rookie scorer in the entire league with 14 goals and 11 assists in 18 games.

#3 Kelsey Youldon from Nepean, Ontario. Kelsey was a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (east) that won silver at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic.

#1 Ashley Miller from St. Mary's, Ontario. Ashley was a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (east) that won silver at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic.

Team Alberta

#5 Carolina Romeo from Calgary, Alberta. Carolina was a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (west) that came in fourth at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic. In 2008, at age 15 she was the youngest athlete to ever play on the University of Calgary Dinos field hockey team. Her sister Paolo Romeo is also on Team Alberta at the Canada Winter Games.

#18 Christianne Varty from Calgary, Alberta. Christianne was a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (west) that came in fourth at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic.

Team Manitoba

#77 Sarah Lesperance from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Sarah was a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (west) that came in fourth at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic.

#9 Melissa Sieben from Winnipeg Manitoba. Melissa was a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (west) that came in fourth at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic.

Team Quebec

#37 Elizabeth Audette Bourdeau from Chambly, Quebec. Elizabeth was a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (east) that won silver at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic.

Team Saskatchewan

#37 Carmen Agar from Emerald Park, Saskatchewan. Carmen is a goalie with Team Saskatchewan and is expected to lead the team's defense efforts. The day after competition ends in Halifax, she will travel to Cuba where she will compete as a member of the junior girls national baseball team.

Team New Brunswick

#7 Jessica Snowdon from Moncton, New Brunswick. This is the second appearance at Canada Winter Games for Jessica. She was on Team New Brunswick at the 2007 event in Whitehorse and placed sixth. Jessica was also a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (east) that won silver at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic.

Team Nova Scotia

#12 Lauren Morse from Berwick, Nova Scotia. This is the second appearance at Canada Winter Games for Lauren. She was on Team Nova Scotia at the 2007 event in Whitehorse and placed eight. Lauren was also a member of the U19 world junior ringette team (east) that won silver at the 2009 world junior ringette championship that took place in Prague, Czech Republic.

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:

Julie Blanchette – Team Quebec 1999
Lindsay Burns – Team Manitoba 2003
Vanessa Cowlen – Team Ontario 1999
Erin Cumpstone – Team Saskatchewan 1999
Andrea Ferguson – Team Manitoba 1999
Jackie Gaudet – Team Ontario 1999
Colleen Hagan – Team Ontario 1999
Jennifer Hartley – Team Alberta 2007
Abbey Hoes – Team Alberta 1999
Kailee Klemmensen – Team Alberta 1995
Katie Lugg – Team Ontario 2003
Bobbi Mattson – Team Alberta 2007
Jenna McBride – Team Ontario 2003
Ashley Peters – Team Alberta 2003

Meghan Pittaway – Team Ontario 2007
Dallas Robbins – Team BC 2003
Victoria Russell – Team Alberta 2003
Stephanie Seguin – Team Quebec 1999
Jennifer Wakefield – Team Ontario 1999

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 Wakefield, Jackie Gaudet and Colleen Hagan 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 2011 Canada Winter Games. Early indications also show that Quebec will also make a strong showing.