SPORT INFORMATION PACKAGE
RINGETTE

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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 over 31,000 registered players on over 2,000 teams, with over 8,000 coaches and over 1,500 officials. While it is primarily a female sport, there are currently over 900 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, Russia, the Czech Republic, Japan, Australia, Germany, New Zealand and Abu Dabhi. 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 across the world.

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 introduction of a U19 program; the development of programs such as the National Coaching Certification Program and the National Officiating Certification Program; the development and implementation of a comprehensive Long Term Athlete Development model and a Come Try Ringette recruitment system; and an expanding 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 18 athletes who are 19 years of age or under (as of December 31, 2018).
**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:

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**C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES PER TEAM**

Each team will be comprised of up to 18 females.

**D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY**

The competition will follow Ringette Canada Rules detailed in the Official Rules 2017 – 2019 book. Any changes to game format which may not be reflected in the Ringette Canada Official Rules 2017-2019 book, but that will be implemented for the 2019 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.

<table>
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<th>Division A</th>
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<td>Team A</td>
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Teams will be seeded based on the results from the 2015 Canada Winter Games and placed across divisions. For example, the first place team from the 2015 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 2015 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.

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).

In the playoff round games 18-21; home teams will be the highest ranked team of that game. In the playoff round games 22-29; home teams will be determined by method of coin toss prior to the start of the 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, 2018
Born on or after January 1, 1999

G. JUDGING/SCORING SYSTEM

Games will consist of four (4) thirteen (13)-minute periods. 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
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 an on-ice official. 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.

I. TECHNOLOGY OF SPORT

Technology used within the sport of ringette includes the shot clock, the ringette ring and the ringette stick, which were both mentioned above. In the past ten 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 1,500 registered ringette officials in Canada.

K. FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Ringette games at the 2019 Canada Games will be played at the Collicutt Centre and the Downtown Arena. Collicutt Centre has a seating capacity of 250 fans as well as standing room and wheelchair seats. Downtown Arena has a seating capacity of 1,360 as well as standing room and wheelchair seats.

L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE

As of the 2017-2018 season, there were 31,168 registered ringette players in Canada.

These numbers represent players from every province except Newfoundland, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The following are the age categories in ringette:

- U10 – born 2000
- U12 – born 1998, 1999
+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

Some athletes to watch at the 2019 Canada Winter Games include: Mégane Fortin, Sara Plouffe, Julie Vandal, Marie-Ève Dubé, Laurence St-Denis and Camille Dumont on Team Quebec; Britney Snowdon and Chloé LeBlanc on Team New Brunswick; Alana Lesperance, Kaylee Spearing, Milica Oravec and Jenna Bazin on Team Manitoba; Claire Wyville, Maddie MacLean and Lydia Duncan on Team Ontario; Torrie Shennan, Jenna Wolsey and Ann Sauvé on Team Alberta; Hailey Takasaki on Team British Columbia; and twins Keala and Maya Fleury on Team Saskatchewan.

Eight athletes competing at the 2019 Canada Winter Games recently won gold at the 2017 World Ringette Championships with Canada’s junior national team and were also recently inducted into the Ringette Canada Hall of Fame. They include: Mégane Fortin (Team QC), Sara Plouffe (Team QC), Julie Vandal (Team QC), Britney Snowdon (Team NB), Alana Lesperance (Team MB), Kaylee Spearing (Team MB), Torrie Shennan (Team AB), and Grace MacKenzie (Team NS).

As a point of interest, at the 2019 Canada Winter Games, Britney Snowdon will be competing at her second consecutive Canada Winter Games as part of Team New Brunswick’s 2019 Canada Winter Games ringette team. She was only 15 years old at the 2015 Canada Winter Games, posting 11 points for Team New Brunswick and coming away with a bronze medal.

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.

Athletes who have played at previous Canada Winter Games and have gone on to play on Ringette Canada’s national teams include:

Emily Bakker – Team Ontario 2011
Ryann Bannerman - Team Manitoba 2015
Sarah-Lynne Begin - Team Ontario 2015
Jamie Bell – Team Alberta 2011
Marie-Pier Blanchard - Team Quebec 2015
Julie Blanchette – Team Quebec 1999
Madison Bonsel - Team Alberta 2015
Shaundra Bruvall – Team Alberta 2011
Lindsay Burns – Team Manitoba 2003
Kelsie Caine - Team Alberta 2015
Emily Chénier - Team Quebec 2015
Vanessa Cowlen – Team Ontario 1999
Erin Cumpstone – Team Saskatchewan 1999
Annie Debaji - Team Alberta 2015
Justine Exner - Team Alberta 2015
Andrea Ferguson – Team Manitoba 1999
Talia Gallant - Team Manitoba 2015
Jennifer Gaudet – Team Ontario 1999
Jackie Gaudet – Team Ontario 1999
Chantal Gauthier - Team Ontario 2015
Robyn Gillespie - Team Alberta 2015
Colleen Hagan – Team Ontario 1999
Kacy Hannesson – Team BC 2011
Jennifer Hartley – Team Alberta 2007
Lauren Henderson - Team Alberta 2015
Ellen Hoban - Team Alberta 2015
Abbey Hoes – Team Alberta 1999
Kailee Klemmensen – Team Alberta 1995
Justine Lapointe - Team Quebec 2015
Jasmine Leblanc – Team New Brunswick 2011
Molly Lewis - Team Ontario 2015
Katie Lugg – Team Ontario 2003
Erin Markle - Team Ontario 2015
Bobbi Mattson – Team Alberta 2007
Jenna McBride – Team Ontario 2003
Sydney Nosal - Team Ontario 2015
Ashley Peters – Team Alberta 2003
Meghan Pittaway – Team Ontario 2007
Shae-Lynn Reaman - Team Ontario 2015
Samantha Renooy - Team Manitoba 2015
Abby Richardson - Team Ontario 2015
Dallas Robbins – Team BC 2003
Catherine Ruel - Team Quebec 2015
Victoria Russell – Team Alberta 2003
Stephanie Seguin – Team Quebec 1999
Britney Snowdon - Team NB 2015
Jenny Snowdon - Team NB 2015
Laurie St-Pierre - Team Quebec 2015
Keyona Tomiuk - Team Manitoba 2015
Erica Voss - Team Ontario 2015
Kelsey Youldon – Team Ontario 2011

O. NOTABLE CANADIAN RECORDS

A number of athletes who have won gold at previous Canada Winter Games have gone on to win gold with Team Canada at the World Ringette Championship. For example, after winning gold at the 2015 Canada Winter Games on Team Manitoba, Ryann Bannerman, Talia Gallant, Samantha Renooy and Keyona Tomiuk went on to win gold at the 2016 World Ringette Championships with Canada’s junior national team. 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 Championship. Jodi Jensen, who was also on Team Alberta in 1995, was also a member of the 2002 gold-medal winning Team Canada. Jennifer Gaudet, 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 Championship.

Four athletes who competed at the 2015 Canada Winter Games went on to win two consecutive gold medals with Canada’s junior team at the 2016 and 2017 World Ringette Championships. These include: Sydney Nosal who finished second with Team Ontario in 2015; sisters Britney and Jenny Snowdon who finished third with Team New Brunswick in 2015; and Laurie St-Pierre who finished fourth with Team Quebec in 2015.

P. ATHLETE/TEAM MATCH-UPS (RIVALRIES)

The teams competing at the 2019 Canada Winter Games will be showcasing the best ringette players in the country and all nine teams have been working hard to achieve their goals. Going into the games, any of the predicted top teams (Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario, and New Brunswick) can beat each other, so there isn’t a clear team to watch going into competition.

Pool A consists of Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and some very tight competition is expected. Team Manitoba came away with the gold medal at the 2015 Canada Winter Games and the current team has been strong in the pre-2019 Canada Winter Games matchups. Manitoba also boasts the strength of Team Canada athletes Alana Lesperance and Kaylee Spearing.

Pool B consists of British Columbia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan and it is expected that a good fight will be put up by all teams, however, the possibility exists to witness some surprises in the preliminary round. Team Quebec has dominated many of the pre-2019 Canada Winter Games matchups that they have participated in and they boast the strength of Team Canada athletes Mégane Fortin, Sara Plouffe and Julie Vandal, as well as solid goaltending and defence.

As competition moves into the playoff round, we expect to see some very tight games and that will certainly continue into the finals, with any number of teams being able to walk away with the gold medal.