

Hi Cochrane U10 Ringette players and parents

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Ringette Season. Ringette at the U10 level across the province of Alberta is grouped into Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3 divisions of play. Teams will be formed at some or all of these levels in Cochrane following a period of player evaluation between Sept 9th and Sept. 22. Evaluation is an association wide activity that takes a considerable amount of time and resources.

Please review the following evaluation information.

Ringette Alberta's tiering policy that includes the use of The Universal Athlete Assessment at the U10 level. The Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA) is an assessment tool designed to better assign teams to tiers at the start of the season. The goal is to improve competitive equality between teams across Alberta. Ringette Alberta has made the Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA) mandatory for all associations again this season. The UAA consists of 3 timed skill stations at the U10 level, Ringette Alberta will examine the total average scores submitted from this session, higher overall average groups of scores will be tiered higher than lower overall average groups of scores. You can find more information about the Universal Assessment (UAA) by clicking on this link: <http://www.ringettealberta.com/universal-athlete-assessment/>

Because U10 is an entry point for ringette and many of our participants are new to ringette we are offering an optional introductory skate on September 9th where these UAA drills can be practiced, eager players can get back on the ice, try out any new equipment and socialize with old and new ringette friends. We hope that evaluation is not stressful for players and parents, all of our teams are focused on having fun, building teamwork and personal skills development throughout the season.

The goal of evaluation is:

- *to provide a fair and impartial evaluation of players*
- *to ensure that all players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill level as determined during the evaluation of the current year*

- *to form teams where players can develop and participate equitably and have fun playing ringette during the season*

It is expected that players participate in ALL evaluation sessions. The timelines to get teams submitted to Ringette Alberta are very tight and we understand that every evaluation session will not be a great fit with everyone's schedule. We hope that you can accommodate the evaluation times we have as we don't have the flexibility to extend evaluation past September 22nd. Special circumstances such as illness or family emergency will be considered by the evaluation committee to determine the best placement for that player.

In addition to UAA, players will participate in a number of on ice evaluation sessions consisting of drills and scrimmage type play. The U10 group is large, we do break the group up into two ice sessions to give the players more room to skate. The groups are split by age for the introductory skate and the UAA skill session, but we are flexible, please contact us if the earlier or later ice time works better for your family. The evaluation schedule for the U10 group is attached. Players will be expected to be available to participate in all sessions however may be notified by the evaluation coordinators that a specific session is not required.

Evaluation is not the gentlest way to be introduced to a new sport and sometimes players get anxious about their lack of experience, if this describes your child, please come and talk to us, although we encourage all players to participate in all their evaluation sessions, we can place players on a Step 1 team without evaluation, the UAA skill session does need to be completed by all players.

Evaluators for the U10 division will be individuals not affiliated with the age group being evaluated. Evaluators can not evaluate where their own children/relatives play. Potential coaches will not evaluate the division they have applied to coach. Players will remain anonymous to evaluators through the use of non-identifying jerseys or pinnies.

Evaluations will be progressive and team selections will be based on evaluator scoring input. Final placements of those players deemed "bubble" (evaluation results do not clearly indicate that the player made a team) will be made with input from potential coaches (including the evaluation sheets they fill out at each of the evaluation sessions), evaluators and the evaluation committee as needed. Coaches who are parents or relatives of players under discussion will

not participate in this selection decision.

Final coaching selections will not be announced until evaluation and team selection have been completed. Coaches are still needed for the U10 division, if you are interested in being a coach or an assistant coach please contact our coach development director Danni Martyn, (coachdevelopment@cochraneringette.com). The season gets off to a more enthusiastic start if we have coaches in place when teams are formed.

To help evaluations run smoothly an Evaluation Committee has been formed comprised of board members, the committee members leading the U10 evaluations this year are Joyce Pearson and Debra Chernesky, in addition Shannon Borbandy is our UAA committee member and Stacie Poffenroth is the U10 Step Program Director. Please direct any questions you have about evaluation, team formation or the season ahead to any of us, we are here to help.

Parents are invited to attend a pre-evaluation meeting on the day of the introduction session. Joyce and Debra will be around while the players are on the ice to answer any questions you might have. New players who are unfamiliar with ringette rules can be introduced to the basic rules on the ice during the introductory skate.

We need evaluators and off ice volunteers to be successful, the stronger our evaluation team the stronger the evaluation results will be, if you have experience and can volunteer your time to help evaluate players in another age division, please contact Chris Gall.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Sincerely,
Evaluation Committee, Cochrane Ringette

Evaluation Committee Chair and Evaluation Volunteer Coordinator
Chris Gall (viceoresident@cochraneringette.com)

U10 Evaluation Coordinators:
Joyce Pearson (secretary@cochraneringette.com) and
Debra Chernesky (recruitmentmarketing@cochraneringette.com)

U10 Step Program Coordinator:
Stacie Poffenroth (u10stepprogramdirector@cochraneringette.com)

UAA Coordinator:
Shannon Borbandy (ltadliaison@cochraneringette.com)

COCHRANE RINGETTE U10 EVALUATION SCHEDULE FOR 2017-2018 SEASON

Saturday, September 9th Optional Introductory Skate

Cochrane Arena

3:45pm - 4:45pm players born in 2010 and 2011

5:00 - 6:00pm players born in 2008 and 2009

Friday, September 15th UAA Skill Session**

Totem 1

4:15pm - 5:15pm players born in 2010 and 2011

5:30pm - 6:30pm players born in 2008 and 2009

**All players should complete the UAA, please be prepared with full equipment and stick.

Monday, September 18th Evaluation Session

Totem - 2

6:30pm - 7:30pm participants to be determined

Tuesday, September 19th Evaluation Session

Totem - 2

5:15pm - 6:15pm participants to be determined

Thursday, September 21st Evaluation Session

Cochrane Arena

6:15pm - 7:15pm participants to be determined

Friday, September 22nd Evaluation Session

Cochrane Arena

5:00pm - 6:00pm participants to be determined