



# RETURN TO RINGETTE PLAN 2020-21



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## Introduction

SRA recognizes the important role ringette plays in everyone's lives – mentally and physically. We are committed to providing a safe, enjoyable season even if it has to look different than what we're used to. Thank you in advance for choosing to stay involved in ringette!

Our Return to Ringette Plan for the 2020-21 season is within the COVID-19 guidelines set out by [Ringette Canada](#) and [Ringette Saskatchewan](#). It has been adapted to the context of our local association.

The health and safety of our members is our number one priority. All decisions regarding the timing and protocols for the resumption of ringette activities must adhere to guidelines set out by federal, provincial, and local health authorities. Failure to follow return to ringette guidelines may result in disciplinary sanctioning from Ringette Saskatchewan and/or SRA.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID, plans and guidelines are expected to change based on new or updated information from health authorities and/or ringette governing bodies.

Since return to ringette timelines are highly dependent on the status of COVID at a regional level, SRA's resumption of activities may differ from that of other local and provincial associations.

Inquiries pertaining to COVID guidelines and protocols can be sent to Steven Siciliano, SRA Safety Officer: [safety@saskatoonringette.com](mailto:safety@saskatoonringette.com).

## Key Guidelines

### Competition

- "Mini leagues" to be formed and comprised of no more than 50 players. Coaches and refs are no longer included in the count. Parents/spectators are also not included.
- Teams in different mini leagues cannot play each other.
- Mini leagues can be modified throughout the season, provided there is a 14-day break.

### Contact

- Game play modifications are not required at this time.
- Intentional contact should be minimized as much as possible.
- Facility restrictions may supersede these provisions.

### Competition against other local associations (Regina, Buffalo Plains, PA)

- Not permitted at this time.

### Out of province tournaments

- Not permitted at this time.

### End-of-Season Competitions

- 2021 Canadian Ringette Championships (Nationals) have been cancelled.
- 2021 Western Canadian Ringette Championships (Westerns) have been cancelled.

- 2021 Provincials have been cancelled. Ringette Saskatchewan is exploring alternatives.

See SRA's *COVID Safety Protocols* and *Rink Protocols* documents for more information on responsibilities for players, coaches, managers, officials, and parents/spectators.

## Tryouts/Evaluations & Season Start

SRA will run tryouts and evaluations within the COVID guidelines.

Contact is allowed, but will be minimized, in the skill development and timed skating/skills ice times. Scrimmages will take place in U12 and up but may be modified (e.g., 3 v 3 or 4 v 4).

In keeping with the mini leagues guidelines, athletes in divisions with more than 50 participants cannot begin team activities until 14 days following the last evaluation ice time. Teams in divisions with fewer than 50 participants can start team activities immediately following tryouts/evaluations, provided there is no exposure to new participants for 14 days.

## Division Structures & Team Formation

In order to stay within the 50-player limit for mini leagues, while still aiming to provide athletes with meaningful competition, SRA will look at different scenarios for:

- **Division structures (numbers of teams, tiers offered):** To be determined based on registration numbers and optimal mini league groupings.
- **Mini league groupings:** To be determined based on rink/ice number restrictions, division structures, meaningful competition, participation context (i.e., children's ringette, community, or competitive), and number of available officials.

Because competition outside Saskatoon isn't permitted right now, we have more flexibility around team formation at the start of the season (e.g., smaller or larger than typical team sizes may be explored depending on division and mini league structures, as well as potential on-ice number restrictions). Team structures may change if these competition restrictions are removed.

To guide SRA in making these decisions through an athlete-centred lens, athletes in U14 and up will be given an opportunity to provide feedback regarding alternative formats.

## Practices/Clinics & League Competition

Facility number restrictions may impact practice and game scheduling.

Teams scheduled to practice together or play a game will need to coordinate to ensure adherence to ice surface and spectator number restrictions. This is to be done in a fair and reasonable manner.

Ringette Canada Rule of Two: For interactions between coaches and players, teams in U19 and below are required to have at least 2 coaches within view/earshot, 1 of whom must be the same gender of the player. **This also applies to virtual interactions.** All teams are required to have a certified female coach on the bench/ice (not a new requirement).

Mini leagues will consist of 2-3 teams. We will strive to provide matchups similar to previous seasons (e.g., teams in the same tier and age division, U16AA vs. U19A, U19AA vs. 18+A).

Pick-ups and affiliates will only be permitted among teams in the same mini league. This may mean some teams will not be able to have affiliates.

Teams from different mini leagues may practice on the same ice surface as long as there is clear separation between the 2 teams and everyone maintains physical distancing.

Where possible, the Christmas break will be used as a 14-day reset period to form new mini league groupings for the second half.

A series of mini league games were held in lieu of the Bernadette Price A/AA tournament on November 14 and 15. Teams in U12 through 18+ participated. We are exploring the viability of something similar for use of the City of Bridges ice.

Goalie and other clinics can be held with athletes from different mini leagues, since there is no game play/contact involved.

## Participants in Multiple Mini Leagues

Refer to SRA's *COVID Safety Protocols* document for requirements pertaining to participants who are playing, coaching, and/or reffing in multiple mini leagues.

## Coaching and Referee Certifications

Ringette Canada is adapting most certification and training clinics to an online format. Ringette Saskatchewan is arranging for coaching and referee clinics to take place virtually.