



Frequently Asked Questions

U16A- Move to Association-Based Model

Governance & Decision-Making

1. Why is Ringette New Brunswick moving away from a single provincial “A” team model?

Ringette Canada’s Long Term Athletic Development (LTAD) documentation cautions against over-centralization and early elite designation, particularly when it limits access, increases cost, or reduces participation.

To better align with these guidelines, Ringette New Brunswick (RNB) is transitioning to a regional association-based model to provide a more inclusive and sustainable model for player development across the province, to:

- Limit the impact of financial and geographical barriers.
- Increase accessibility to competitive programming.
- Focus on developing *more players*.
- Retain athletes by ensuring the competition development-focused ringette pathway is inclusive, accessible, and rewarding.
- Create a larger pool of athletes feeding into the High Performance (HP) AA program.

2. Who made this decision?

This decision was approved by the Ringette New Brunswick Board of Directors in response to a proposal received from the local associations recommending these changes.

3. Was there consultation with regional associations?

Yes. Feedback was gathered through meetings, and discussions with regional (local) associations, culminating in a majority vote amongst association presidents to accept and move ahead with implementation of the proposed changes in August 2025.

Due to timing considerations, and to allow for local associations to prepare and plan as needed, it was decided to defer implementation to the 2026-27 season.



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4. Is this a permanent change?

As with all RNB sanctioned programming, the model will be reviewed regularly. RNB will evaluate outcomes such as athlete development, retention, and competition quality to ensure the structure best serves athletes across New Brunswick.

Athlete Development & Competition

5. Will athletes still have access to high-level competition?

Yes. Regional teams will compete in structured RNB league play and inter-provincial play, in divisions which maintain appropriate competitive standards. Teams will also compete in RNB's HP Jamboree near the beginning of the season, Atlantics, as well as the Provincial tournament for the opportunity to represent New Brunswick at the Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships.

6. Will this reduce athlete development opportunities?

No. Development pathways will continue through regional programming, enhanced coaching education and certification, and provincial identification programs (e.g., HP tryouts and camps).

7. Will this affect athletes' chances for provincial or national team selection?

No. Selection for Team New Brunswick U16AA and national programs is based on individual performance and potential, not an athlete's current team branding or structure. AA HP Tryouts will take place as usual late Summer/early Fall prior to the formation of regional A teams.



Frequently Asked Questions

Team Formation & Tryouts

8. How will regional teams be formed?

Teams will be formed by local associations using defined tryout processes and roster guidelines recommended and approved by RNB. Any deviations from the defined guidelines will need to be approved by RNB, with justification and remedies consistent with RNB's mission to provide development opportunities to all its athletes and grow the sport of ringette across the entire province.

We anticipate the creation of 3-4 teams across the province, with team formation being balanced by interest of athletes wanting to play at a more competitive level within a region, and not solely by talent.

9. Can athletes try out outside their home association?

RNB's existing player movement, release, and boundary policies will continue to apply and be enforced. Any exceptions will be handled through the established approval processes and applied consistently.

10. Will there be parity rules to prevent "super teams"?

LTAD emphasizes *optimal challenge*, not maximum difficulty; therefore, the intention of these changes is to provide more development and meaningful competition opportunities for more players. Guidelines to prevent over-concentration of athletes will be enforced and may include mechanisms regarding roster min/max limits, tiering through a consistently applied evaluation process, and consideration of the size of available athlete pools when forming teams, to ensure fair competition.

This approach may require some RNB-approved exceptions to protect the viability of the house league division, particularly in the early stages of the new program. But it should be noted that similar model changes have been made to other divisions with successes in team balance and development shortly after implementation.



Frequently Asked Questions

Coaching & Team Staff

11. What happens to the current provincial A coaching staff?

Coaches may be encouraged to apply for regional team roles, as well as provincial HP coaching opportunities as they become available.

12. Will coaching standards be maintained?

Yes. Minimum certification requirements and ongoing coach development will be enforced across all regional teams, per Ringette Canada guidelines.

Financial, Travel & Athlete Well-Being

13. Will this reduce costs for families?

In most cases, yes. Regional teams will require less travel, fewer overnight stays, and lower centralized fees since meaningful competition will be available much closer to home.

14. Will travel still be required?

Yes, but travel will be more evenly distributed and generally closer to home than a single provincial team model where competition can only be found in neighbouring provinces.

15. How does this change support athlete well-being?

LTAD highlights the importance of balancing sport, school, family, and recovery. A regional model:

- Reduces excessive travel
- Lowers time and financial strain
- Supports healthier training-to-competition ratios



Frequently Asked Questions

Equity, Access & Inclusion

16. Does this make ringette more accessible?

Yes. LTAD stresses accessibility and retention. Regional teams reduce barriers related to geography, cost, and time commitment, supporting broader participation across New Brunswick.

17. Will smaller or rural associations benefit?

Yes. This model increases participation and development opportunities across all regions.

Championships & Long-Term Program Goals

18. How will teams qualify for the Atlantic and Eastern championships?

We fully expect that championships will continue and that all teams will represent their home association or region at Atlantics. Similar to U14 Tier 1, it is anticipated that the top team(s) from the Provincials championship will be eligible to represent their respective regions, and New Brunswick, at the Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships.

Finer details on qualification processes will be updated to reflect the regional team model and communicated before the season begins.



Frequently Asked Questions

Transition, Implementation & Evaluation

19. When does this change take effect?

The implementation of these changes will be for the 2026-27 season.

20. What support will be provided during the transition?

RNB will provide guidance documents, coaching support, communication resources, and ongoing evaluation of the program.

21. How will success be defined under this model?

Consistent with LTAD, success will be measured by:

- Athlete retention over multiple seasons
 - Skill development and performance progression
 - Competitive balance
 - Positive athlete and family experiences
- not solely by wins and losses, but overall development and satisfaction.

Communication & Feedback

22. Who can families contact with questions or concerns?

The answer to many questions and concerns can be found in RNB's *Policies and Procedures* documentation, along with this FAQ document. Further information can be directed to RNB for forwarding to the Community Committee for future consideration.

23. Will feedback be considered after implementation?

Yes. Ongoing feedback mechanisms will be in place, and adjustments may be made based on outcomes as previously articulated.



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