



JOINT MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

July 24, 2019

OVERVIEW

Hockey Alberta and Ringette Alberta have adopted age appropriate programming so that our youngest players receive the right start in a fun and safe environment. A key part of our age appropriate programming is a reduction in the playing surface size for game play, to ensure that programming is suitable to the age, size and skill level of the player.

1. Rink Dividers

Effective for the 2019-20 hockey season, all Hockey Alberta Initiation and Novice games will be played on a surface no larger than 8500 sq./ft. (100' x 85'). All Ringette

Playing Surface Size for Game Play					
Hockey Alberta	2019-20	Ringette Alberta	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Initiation	100' x 85'	Fun 1	85' x ~60'	85' x ~60'	85' x ~60'
Initiation	100' x 85'	Fun 2	100' x 85'	100' x 85'	100' x 85'
Novice	100' x 85'	Learn 1		100' x 85'	100' x 85'
Novice	100' x 85'	Learn 2			100' x 85'

Alberta games at Fun 1 will be cross ice (85' x ~60') and Fun 2 will be half ice. (100' x 85') Over the next three years, Ringette Alberta is also phasing in a modified playing surface for Learn 1 and 2.

Hockey Alberta and Ringette Alberta have encouraged associations to use rink dividers to separate the ice to achieve the optimal playing surface for players in these age groups. The two most common divider systems are the foam dividers and full board dividers.

2. Size of Nets

Another aspect of age appropriate programming is to reduce the size of nets to suit the size of the goaltenders. Hockey Alberta has recommended that a net size of 4' x 3' be used for Initiation and either a 4' x 3' or regulation 6' x 4' net be used for Novice. Ringette Alberta requires the 4' x 3' nets for their Active Start and U10 game play.

3. Ice Markings

The final aspect of age appropriate programming to consider based on the new ice orientation would be the markings on the ice to aid in the safety and development of our youngest players. Attached are the ice diagrams for hockey and ringette. Including these ice markings as a normal part of ice installation will support our programming.

REQUEST TO OUR MEMBERS

Hockey Alberta and Ringette Alberta encourage our members to work together within your community and with your facility operators to come up with a mutually agreeable solution for the similar challenges faced by each organization:

- Using and storing rink dividers
- Obtaining, using and storing small nets
- Including small ice surface markings as part of regular ice installation.

Our hope is that we can avoid duplicate equipment being purchased and together the most fiscally responsible solution for all partners – Hockey Alberta, Ringette Alberta, our members and our facility operators – can be reached.