



SASKATCHEWAN NRL PROGRAM INFORMATION



The National Ringette League (NRL) is a high-performance training and competition program conducted and administered by Ringette Canada. It is the showcase league for the highest level of ringette in Canada and strives to be the premiere women's sport league in the country.

Message from the Head Coach

Hello to all Saskatchewan's ringette athletes. My name is Colleen Butz-Purdue and it is with great honor to be selected the Head Coach of Saskatchewan's NRL team.

This is a very exciting time for ringette in our province with the re-launching of the National Ringette League. Many young athletes dream of one day playing at this esteemed level and now that possibility has been made a reality. We have all watched in awe at one point or another in our ringette careers the incredible skill and talent of these amazing NRL teams. Now you have this great opportunity to a part of one of those teams. If you are looking for a challenging, high performance elite experience with quality programming, then this is for you.

Countless hours of behind the scenes work has been done by Ringette Canada, Ringette Saskatchewan and the Sask. NRL subcommittee over the past few months to bring NRL back to our province and our coaching staff is so excited to be a part of this new adventure.

I invite you to share in this excitement. The door has been opened, all you have to do is walk through it and join us in this incredible journey. Take your chance and register today! Our coaching staff is looking forward to meeting and working with you.

Make your dreams a reality!

General Information

- Primary contact: Colleen Butz-Purdue, Head Coach, sask1nrl@gmail.com
- Athletes competing within the NRL are in either the Train to Compete or Train to Win stages of [Long Term Athlete Development](#).
- A typical NRL schedule would begin as normal in September.
- Exhibition play will consist of 2-4 games prior to competition beginning. These games will be with other NRL teams or suitable competition.
- Competition format for the 2021/22 season will be hub weekends with Saskatchewan potentially hosting one.
- NRL Championships will be at CRC's in Calgary April 3-9th, 2022.
- NRL website – <https://www.nationalringetteleague.ca/en/>

Program Eligibility

- Athletes must be at least 19 years of age as of December 31st of the current playing season to play and be capable of training at a Train to Compete stage of development.

- Athletes must be registered participants in good standing with Ringette Saskatchewan to play in the NRL.
- Athletes must be registered with a local association.
- ROSTERED ATHLETES - Athletes choosing to be rostered athletes on the NRL team would register through Ringette Saskatchewan and may not be rostered to any other 18+ team.
- AFFILIATED ATHLETES - Athletes choosing to be affiliated on the NRL team would be registered to an 18+A team in Saskatchewan and also play on the NRL team.

Key Expectations

Athletes striving to earn a roster spot should have the following qualities:

- Year-round commitment to being an elite ringette athlete: staying fit, leading a healthy lifestyle, and regularly engaging in ringette-specific training activities.
- Strong fundamental skating and ring skills.
- Ability to understand and execute more advanced tactical and strategic aspects of the game (e.g., breakout, support, use of timing to create opportunities).
- Plays with grit and confidence; isn't afraid to take risks or make mistakes.
- Desire to constantly work hard, learn, and improve.
- Openness and resilience to adapt to change and adversity, accept feedback, and learn from mistakes.
- Contributes to a positive team culture by meeting expectations, being a good teammate, and always putting the team first.
- Respectful and sportsmanlike conduct as a representative of Ringette Saskatchewan.
- Athletes must make every effort to attend NRL camps and tournaments.

Athlete Selection Policy

- A Ringette Saskatchewan Athlete Selection Policy is in development and will outline areas such as decision making authority and criteria for selecting and releasing athletes.
- Athletes will be evaluated through tryouts in September.

Cost

As the NRL Hub locations and dates have not been finalized, we can only provide an estimate at this time, but we do anticipate it to be cheaper than an A/AA season.

Tentative Schedule

NRL has not released their schedule yet so we cannot disclose what an entire season looks however this is a tentative schedule of things the coaching staff have planned. When the schedule is released we will send it off to all athletes interested in the program.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
August 31 st , 2021	NRL Town Hall	Zoom
September 11/12, 2021	Tryout Camp	Pilot Butte
September 15, 2021	Team Selection	Virtual
September 17-21, 2021	Coach/Athlete Meetings	Virtual
September 25/26, 2021	Team Camp	Pilot Butte
October 9/10, 2021	Tentative Team Camp	Saskatoon/Warman
October 23/24, 2021	Tentative Team Camp	Saskatoon/Warman

Early November 2021	Team Camp/Exhibition Games	Regina/BP
Late November 2021	Team Camp/Exhibition Games	Saskatoon

- Hub Competition weekends schedule TBA.
- Meet in the Middle ice sessions during the week will be scheduled and determined once the team is selected and will happen weekly starting at the end of October and adjusted as necessary, dependent on athletes' schedules.

Tryouts

- Dates:
 - Saturday, September 11 – 12:45pm-2:15pm
 - Saturday, September 11 – 6:00pm-7:30pm
 - Sunday, September 12 – 11:00am-12:30pm (scrimmage)
- Location: Pilot Butte Arena (222 Diamond Place, Pilot Butte, SK)
- Cost: \$50 etransfer to sask1nrl@gmail.com or bring cash/cheque to tryouts.
- Click here to register [Tryout Registration](#)
- Once registered for tryouts you will be included on all communication as it relates to NRL

Information Session

Ringette Saskatchewan and the Sask NRL Team Staff are hosting a Town Hall on Tuesday, August 31st at 8:00pm for potential athletes and parents/guardians to learn more about the brand new National Ringette League team in Saskatchewan.

Ringette Saskatchewan staff along with Team Staff from the Sask NRL team will be providing info and answering questions regarding eligibility, expectations, cost, schedule, and more!

Click here to register [Town Hall Registration](#)

Organizational Group

- Team Operator – Ringette Saskatchewan
- Head Coach – Colleen Butz-Purdue
- Assistant Coach – Scott Purdue
- Assistant Coach – Kelly Markwart
- Trainor – Carnen Agar
- Media/Public Relations Rep – TBD
- Athlete Rep – TBD
- Manager – TBD

In addition to the coaching staff listed RAS and Colleen are committed to involving more coaches in this program. We have already started formulating a list of high-performance coaches in each centre to help develop you as an athlete and this program.

If you are a coach and interested in assisting with camps and training sessions, please email technicaldirector@ringettesask.com.

Coach Introductions

Colleen Butz-Purdue – Head Coach

Colleen has been involved with this amazing sport in many facets for over 30 years. She has held board positions, been a referee, organized and ran training camps, is a current player of 32 years and is actively coaching. Colleen got involved with coaching eight years ago and has been coaching competitively for the past seven.

Every aspect of Colleen's ringette career has allowed her the opportunity to meet so many great people and develop lifelong friendships, as a player and as a coach. This sport has influenced her life in so many ways. Giving back to this sport gives Colleen such great satisfaction and she is very much looking forward to the journey that she will be taking with our provinces National Ringette League team.

Colleen had the distinct pleasure of being involved with the 2015 Canada Winter Games program as an apprentice coach and the 2019 Canada Winter Games program as an Assistant Coach, and she is excited to be here coaching NRL.

Colleen is looking forward to sharing her passion for this sport with others who share the same passion; from the coaches and support staff to the incredible families, and unbelievably talented Saskatchewan athletes. Nothing will make Colleen prouder than to be by their sides, representing our province and competing in this sport that has given so much to all of us.

Colleen would like to thank those who trusted in her to give her this amazing opportunity.

Scott Purdue – Assistant Coach

Hi my name is Scott Purdue. I've been involved with high performance sports from a very young age and throughout my adult life. It is a passion that has been with me from my youth to my present. I loved competing as an athlete and now enjoy instructing and coaching.

I was involved with high performance hockey as a goalie. I've had the privilege of being instructed at a young age by both WHL and NHL goaltenders.

I am the head goaltending instructor for Buffalo Plains ringette, I also help instruct with other associations both hockey and ringette. I was involved as the goaltending coach for both Sask. CWG 2015 and 2019 teams, I have contributed in the development of some of our top goaltenders in our province.

One of my most exhilarating experiences came in 2014 when our Sask First team won Gold against a powerhouse Alberta team. Ringette is such an amazing sport to be a part of and having the opportunity to coach at the most elite level as the NRL is an experience and challenge I am looking forward to.

Kelly Markwart – Assistant Coach

Kelly brings a wealth of experience from both teaching and coaching hockey and ringette for many years. He simply loves being on the ice, developing players and teams to reach higher levels of play.

Many of the AA ringette teams and AAA female hockey teams he has helped coach to successful tournament results and seasons. He draws on his years of learning as a member of the Regina Pats, Saskatoon Blades, University of Regina and

professional hockey in Norway. Skill Development, On-Ice Awareness, Game Strategy, and Athletic Development are all areas that are very similar between ringette and hockey, and providing enjoyment for all players and parents are the reasons why he spends countless hours contributing to Ringette.

Kelly has previously been an Asst. Coach with U16AA and U14AA programs in Regina and Buffalo Plains Ringette Associations, with a Silver Medal (2013) and Gold Medal (2014) at the Western Canadian Ringette Championships. Kelly also represented Saskatchewan at the 2019 Canada Winter Games as an Assistant Coach.

Carmen Agar – Trainer

I hold a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) certification and a Clinical Exercise Physiologist (CEP) certification and have been working as an Exercise Therapist and S&C Coach for the past five years. I worked as the Head Strength and Conditioning Coach for the University of Regina Women's Soccer Team for three years. I am currently the Head Strength Coach for the UofR Men's and Women's Swim Teams, a position I have held for five years. During that time, I have also worked with several athletes who have competed at the Olympic Trials for Swimming Canada. I have professional experience working with athletes in ringette, hockey, football, soccer, and swimming. I have been involved with ringette for the past 23 years in a variety of different roles, including as a A/AA player competing at Western Canadian Championships, National Championships, and the Canada Winter Games, 7 years coaching at the A/AA level, and 3 years experience as a strength and conditioning coach in the sport. I continue to be extremely passionate about the sport of ringette and love that my professional career allows me to contribute in an even greater way while also combining the knowledge I gained as a player and coach. I am looking forward to the challenge of serving as the S&C Coach for the NRL Team in Saskatchewan and contributing to building a championship caliber team.