

# RINGETTE CANADA

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Media information kit

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RINGETTE RINGUETTE  
CANADA CANADA

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## INTRODUCTION

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To begin, thank you for your interest in ringette. This media information kit has been designed to provide you with all the background information you need to facilitate coverage on our sport. In this kit, you will find information on our current initiatives, as well as initiatives we have undertaken in the past, statistics about ringette in Canada, a look into the history of our sport, and contact information for our provincial ringette associations.

If you do not find the information you are looking for, if you have additional questions, if you would like to discuss possible story ideas to suit your audience, or if you would like to speak to a ringette athlete or administrator, please do not hesitate to contact our national media representative:

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## AN OVERVIEW OF RINGETTE

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Ringette is a 43-year-old Canadian invention that has become one of the fastest team sports on ice. Sam Jacks, a recreation director and sports enthusiast from North Bay, Ontario, invented the sport in 1963 when he saw the need for a winter team sport for girls. Interestingly enough, Sam Jacks was also responsible for the development and introduction of floor hockey in 1936.

Since the early 1960s, the sport has continued to grow and currently boasts over 25,000 registered players on over 1800 teams, with over 6500 coaches and over 1600 officials. While it is primarily a female sport, there are currently almost 600 males playing ringette across the country.

Ringette, like hockey, is played on ice with skates and sticks by six players on each of two teams. The mission is to score goals by shooting the object of play into nets at either end of the rink during stop-time periods of play. But there the comparisons between ringette and hockey really end. The stick is straight. The object being pursued by players is a rubber ring, not a puck. There is no intentional body contact. And the rules of ringette make it a wide-open and dynamic sport.

The emphasis is on play-making and skating skills. Players cannot carry the ring across the blue lines on the ice. Only three players from each team, plus the defending goalie, are allowed in the end zones at the same time, which keeps the play open, puts a premium on sharp offensive moves, and requires defending players to skate close to their opponents. These features of the game demand the development of keen skating skills that give ringette players fantastic skating speed and agility.

In 2000, a 30-second shot clock was introduced to make the game even faster. The shot

clock starts when a team gains possession of the ring, and if they have not taken a shot on the net within 30 seconds, a horn sounds and the ring is then awarded to the opposing team.

Internationally, ringette is played in a number of countries around the world, including Finland, Sweden, the United States, France, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. Canadian ringette athletes have continuously served as ambassadors of the sport, introducing ringette in countries as far away as Japan, Australia, Germany and New Zealand.

Since 1990, a world ringette championship has been held on a regular basis, with Canada and Finland being the predominant challengers. Since 1994, the world title has come down to a competition between the two countries, with the title being claimed by alternating countries at each event. Finland currently holds the world title after defeating Canada at the 2004 world ringette championship in Stockholm, Sweden. The next world ringette championship will be held in Canada in November 2007 (location still to be determined).

Over the years, ringette has noted many achievements and accomplishments. These include the establishment of a Hall of Fame, which recognizes outstanding ringette achievements and contributions to the development of the sport; the introduction of a Learn to Skate Program for four to six year olds; a successful National Team Program; the development of programs such as the National Coaching Certification Program and the National Officiating Program; and the introduction of a National Ringette League.

Ringette tournaments abound. There are local and regional invitational tournaments throughout the season. University teams play competitively across Canada. Most of the provincial and territorial associations hold an annual championship tournament. Ringette has had a presence at the Canada Winter Games since 1991. And the Canadian ringette championships have been held every year since 1979. Teams from across the country will compete in three divisions at the 2006 Tim Hortons Canadian ringette championships being held in Longueuil, Quebec from April 3-8.

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## A GLIMPSE INTO THE HISTORY OF RINGETTE

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### *The 1960's*

- 1963:** Sam Jacks invents what we know today as “ringette.” Jacks, the late director of parks and recreation for North Bay, introduced the game to the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario.
- 1963:** Red McCarthy, recreation director for Espanola, is asked to experiment with the basic set of Ringette rules by the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario (SDMRO).
- 1963-64:** Original rules are experimental in several Northern Ontario communities, including Espanola, where an Espanola high school women’s hockey team plays the first ringette game.
- 1964:** Original rules of ringette introduced to Quebec (Mount Royal) by Herb Linder, a personal friend of Sam Jacks.

- 1964: First complete set of rules for ringette is composed.
- 1966: First ringette community associations formed in Sudbury and North Bay.
- 1967: Ringette is introduced to Manitoba, in Fort Garry.
- 1969: Ontario Ringette Association, the first ringette provincial sport governing body, is formed.

### ***The 1970's***

- 1971: First Invitational Ringette Tournament is held, initiated by Oshawa Ringette Association in Ontario.
- 1972: Manitoba Ringette Association is formed.
- 1973: Quebec Ringette Association is formed. (Later renamed Fédération sportive de ringuette du Québec and then Ringuette Québec.)
- 1973: Ringette makes its way over the Rocky Mountains and is introduced to Langley, British Columbia.
- 1974: Ringette is introduced in Alberta.
- 1974: Nova Scotia Ringette Association is formed.
- 1974: First invitational tournament is organized in Winnipeg; first invitational tournament for belles is organized in Kitchener.
- 1974: British Columbia becomes the fifth province to form a provincial ringette association.
- 1974: Representatives from Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec and Nova Scotia form a steering committee for Ringette Canada, the national sport governing body.
- 1974: Ringette Canada founded in November, with June Tiessen of Waterloo, Ontario, as its first president.
- 1975: Invitational tournament held in Pierrefonds, Quebec becomes the second interprovincial tournament in Canada.
- 1975: Ringette receives first major television exposure during a "Hockey Night in Canada" intermission feature film.
- 1975: First newsletter for ringette, *ORA Newsletter*, is published.
- 1975: First Ringette Week is organized and held in February.
- 1975: First regional and provincial championships are held in Ontario.
- 1976: First invitational high school ringette tournament held in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.
- 1976: Provincial ringette association formed in Alberta.
- 1976: Ringette played for the first time in the Ontario Winter Games.
- 1976: First Ringette Canada Annual General Meeting held in Halifax.
- 1976: Saskatchewan Ringette Association becomes the seventh provincial sport governing body.
- 1977: First Annual Provincial Summer Sports Camp for ringette players is held in Toronto.

- 1977:** Ontario Ringette Association Hall of Fame is initiated.
- 1978:** Fédération sportive de ringuette du Québec withdraws from Ringette Canada. (Returns in 1981.)
- 1978:** Coaching and officiating certification programs established for the first time in Ontario.
- 1978:** Ringette Canada National Coaching Committee develops the first Level 1 technical coaching manual for certification courses sanctioned by the National Coaching Certification Program.
- 1978:** First Ringette Canada planning seminar held in Banff, Alberta, to determine the direction for the national organization.
- 1979:** First-ever edition of *Ringette Review* is published.
- 1979:** First Canadian ringette team travels overseas to Europe (Finland).
- 1979:** First Canadian ringette championships are held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Ontario juniors from Oshawa, the Ontario belles from Ajax and the Ontario debs of Kitchener become the first Canadian ringette champions.
- 1979:** National Level 1 coaching certification program takes effect.

### ***The 1980's***

- 1980:** Second Canadian ringette championships are held in Waterloo. The Ontario juniors of Sudbury, belles of Waterloo and debs of Etobicoke win Canadian championships.
- 1981:** The third Canadian ringette championships are played in Sudbury. The Ontario juniors of Kitchener and belles of Gloucester, plus the debs of Fort Richmond-Winnipeg, Manitoba, win the Canadian titles. The Manitoba debs are the first non-Ontario team to win a Canadian ringette championship title.
- 1981:** Quebec teams participate in the Canadian ringette championships for first time, represented by teams from the Lac-Saint-Louis Regional Ringette Association.
- 1981:** New Brunswick becomes the eighth provincial ringette association.
- 1982:** Newfoundland forms provincial ringette association.
- 1982:** The fourth Canadian ringette championships are held in Dartmouth-Cole Harbour, with the Sudbury juniors, Gloucester belles and the Kildonan Transcona (Winnipeg) debs capturing Canadian crowns. Newfoundland participates for the first time with a belle team.
- 1982:** First Ringette Canada Women's Leadership Workshop is held in Ottawa.
- 1982:** Ringette Canada achieves full residency status at National Sports and Recreation Centre in Ottawa.
- 1982:** Ringette Canada hires first full-time employee.
- 1982:** Ringette Canada officiating program is developed, complete with manuals and resources for the certification series.
- 1983:** Ringette Canada gains control of the official ringette rules and ringette rulebook copyright with cooperation of the Ontario Ringette Association.
- 1983:** The fifth Canadian ringette championships are staged in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

The Waterloo juniors of Ontario and the Transcona Belles and Kildonan-Transcona debs of Manitoba win the Canadian ringette championships.

- 1984: Tom Mayenknecht, Ringette Canada director of public relations, wins first-ever national sports award for ringette. *Ringette Review* is awarded the Doug Gilbert Media Medallion at Canadian Sports Federation National Awards, selected as the best Canadian amateur sports magazine produced by a volunteer editor.
- 1984: Ringette Canada coaching program and officiating manuals achieve bilingual status.
- 1984: The sixth Canadian ringette championships are held in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia.
- 1985: Ringette Canada representatives travel to the Soviet Union, Finland and Sweden to promote Ringette.
- 1985: St. James Ringette Association of Winnipeg introduces ringette to the Soviet Union.
- 1985: Barry Mattern introduces ringette to Japan.
- 1985: Ringette Canada breaks reaches 20,000 player mark with registrations.
- 1985: Prince Edward Island becomes the 10th provincial ringette member.
- 1985: Ringette Canada holds first marketing meeting.
- 1986: Members approve change in rules to “extended zone” concept.
- 1986: Northwest Territories becomes the 11th provincial ringette member.
- 1986: Betty Shields becomes a finalist for the Air Canada Executive of the Year.
- 1986: International Ringette Federation is formed. Canada, Finland, France, Sweden and the United States are the founding countries.
- 1986: First International ringette tournament is held in Finland.
- 1986: Ringette is introduced to Australia and New Zealand by the Maples ringette tour.
- 1987: New format adopted for the Canadian ringette championships.
- 1987: Graeme Rodden wins Doug Gilbert Media Award from the Sports Federation of Canada.
- 1988: Ringette Canada’s Hall of Fame established.

### ***The 1990’s***

- 1990: The first-ever world ringette championship is held in Gloucester. Team Alberta takes the gold and the all-new Sam Jacks Trophy.
- 1990: CTV televises the Canadian ringette championships from Calgary.
- 1991: Ringette is part of the 1991 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island.
- 1991: TSN televises the Canadian ringette championships from Hull, Quebec. RDS, the French network, re-transmits the event.
- 1991: Ringette Canada completes the level three technical component of the National Coaching Certification Program.
- 1992: The second world ringette championship is held in Helsinki. Russia, the United States, Sweden, France, Finland and two teams from Canada participate. Canada

West wins the gold.

- 1992:** TSN televises the Canadian ringette championships from Port Coquitlam.
- 1992:** Experimental rules are introduced for the 1992-93 season and the 1993 Canadian ringette championships.
- 1993:** TSN televises the Canadian ringette championships from Kitchener.
- 1994:** The third world ringette championship is held in St. Paul, Minnesota. Finland wins the gold medal.
- 1995:** Ringette is part of the 1995 Canada Winter Games in Grande Prairie, Alberta.
- 1995:** TSN broadcasts a one-hour special on the 1995 Canadian ringette championships in Winnipeg.
- 1996:** The fourth world ringette championship is held in Stockholm, Sweden. Canada wins the gold medal.
- 1997:** RDS broadcasts highlights of the gold medal games from the Canadian ringette championships in Montréal.
- 1997:** Ringette Canada's national marketing campaign is launched.
- 1998:** The first-ever truly national ringette team travels to Europe to participate in an International Summit Series against Finland. The Finnish national team wins the series three games to two.
- 1998:** TSN broadcasts a one-hour special on the Canadian ringette championships in Edmonton.
- 1999:** Ringette is part of the Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. Ringette Canada announces the Women's National Team program, player selection camps are held across the country.

### ***2000 to now***

- 2000:** TSN broadcasts a one-hour special on the 2000 Tim Hortons Canadian ringette championships from Prince George, British Columbia.
- 2000:** The fifth world ringette championship is held in Helsinki, Finland. Finland wins the gold medal and Canada takes silver.
- 2001:** TSN broadcasts a one-hour special on the 2001 Tim Hortons Canadian ringette championships from Moncton, New Brunswick.
- 2001:** Ringette Canada begins transition to Competency Based Education Training (CBET) for coaches (August).
- 2002:** 30-second shot clock rules come into effect for the junior, belle and open divisions.
- 2002:** Participant Development Model (PDM) and Coach Development Model (CDM) produced and approved by Ringette Canada's Board of Directors in January.
- 2002:** Community Sport - Initiation (CSI) workshop developed in May. CSI workshops are piloted in Calgary, Alberta in June and Halifax, Nova Scotia in July.
- 2002:** Ringette Canada presents their CSI workshop model at the Coaching Association of Canada's Partner Days in September.

- 2002:** Agnes Jacks is inducted as a Member of the Order of Canada on October 26, 2002 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- 2002:** First Leadership Retreat for High-Performance Women Coaches takes place in October.
- 2002:** Canada hosts the sixth world ringette championship in Edmonton, Alberta. Canada reclaims the world title after posting a 3-1 win over Finland. A sell-out crowd of 3850 attends the final game, which was also televised live on CBC Sports to 144,000 viewers.
- 2003:** Ringette is part of the Canada Winter Games in Bathurst/Campbellton, New Brunswick. Ontario wins gold, Manitoba takes home silver and British Columbia claims bronze.
- 2003:** The 2003 Canadian ringette championships are held in Waterloo, Ontario.
- 2003:** Facilitator training for CSI workshop takes place in Waterloo, Ontario in April.
- 2003:** The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ringette is celebrated throughout Canada.
- 2003:** In September, the CSI workshop will be launched across Canada and the first pilot of integrated CSI workshop for ringette and Special Olympics floor hockey coaches.
- 2003:** 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Leadership Retreat for High-Performance Women Coaches (October).
- 2004:** The 2004 Canadian ringette championships are held in Calgary, Alberta.
- 2004:** The National Ringette League is launched (November), which features Canada's elite athletes participating on 17 teams in three divisions across the country (Western - eight teams, Ontario - four teams and Quebec - five teams).
- 2004:** Sweden hosts the seventh world ringette championship in Stockholm. Finland reclaims the world title after defeating Canada 9-3.
- 2005:** The first edition of the *Ringette eReview* is posted on the Ringette Canada website. The online publication replaces the former *Ringette Review* (a print publication) and is published every two months during the ringette season.
- 2005:** The 2005 Canadian ringette championships are held in Winnipeg, Manitoba from April 11-16.
- 2005:** The National Ringette League enters its second season with 19 teams participating in four divisions across the country (Western – five teams, Central – five teams, Ontario – five teams and Quebec – four teams). The inaugural NRL championship game will be held in Montreal, Quebec on April 1, 2006.
- 2006:** The 2006 Tim Hortons Canadian ringette championships to be held in Longueuil, Quebec from April 3-8.

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## WORLD RINGETTE CHAMPIONSHIP

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On a regular basis, Ringette Canada selects and prepares a national team to participate in the world ringette championship. While a world ringette championship was not held in 1998, teams from Canada and Finland toured Europe in a promotional Summit Series. In Colmar, France, Team Finland beat Canada 10-8 in the 5th and deciding game to win the Summit Series 3-2. This series between the two best teams in the world displayed ringette at its best and sparked great interest at stops in Germany, France, Sweden and France.

The next world ringette championship will be held in 2007.

*2004 world ringette championship (Stockholm, Sweden)*

Gold: Finland  
Silver: **Canada**  
Bronze: U.S.A.  
4. Sweden

*2002 world ringette championship (Edmonton, Alberta)*

Gold: **Canada**  
Silver: Finland  
Bronze: U.S.A.  
4. Sweden

*2000 world ringette championship (Helsinki, Finland)*

Gold: Finland  
Silver: **Canada**  
Bronze: U.S.A.  
4. Sweden

*1996 world ringette championship (Stockholm, Sweden)*

Gold: **Canada**  
Silver: Finland  
Bronze: U.S.A.  
4. Sweden

*1994 world ringette championship (St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A.)*

Gold: Finland  
Silver: **Canada East**  
Bronze: **Canada West**  
4. U.S.A.  
5. Russia  
6. Sweden

*1992 world ringette championship (Helsinki, Finland)*

Gold: **Canada West**  
Silver: **Canada East**  
Bronze: Finland  
4. U.S.A.  
5. Russia  
6. Sweden

*1990 world ringette championship (Gloucester, Ontario, Canada)*

Gold: **Alberta**  
Silver: **Ontario**  
Bronze: **Quebec**  
4. **Host (Gloucester)**  
5. **Manitoba**  
6. **Saskatchewan**  
7. Finland  
8. U.S.A.

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## THE NATIONAL RINGETTE LEAGUE

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The National Ringette League (NRL) is the showcase league for ringette in Canada. Officially launched in November 2004, the league currently has 19 teams in four divisions across Canada – a Western Division (five teams), a Central Division (five teams), an Ontario Division (five teams), and a Québec Division (four teams). In addition to vying for the league championship title, which will be decided at the inaugural NRL championship game on April 1, 2006 in Montreal, Quebec, teams in the NRL are also competing for a berth at the 2006 Tim Hortons Canadian ringette championships being held from April 3-8, 2006 in Longueuil, Quebec.

The objectives of the NRL are to enhance ringette's position in the mainstream of Canadian sports activity, encourage greater public awareness of ringette, create more and better competitive opportunities for athletes, and achieve positive financial results at both a league and team level.

The NRL functions as a committee under Ringette Canada, the national governing body of ringette in Canada. It has an established Board of Governors which includes: Jim Dawson as president, George McKenzie as director of the Western Division, Sue Reid as director of the Central Division, Glen Gaudet as director of the Ontario Division, and Kassy Chhim as director of the Québec Division.

Teams participating the 2005-2006 NRL season include:

*Western Division* – BC Reign, Calgary RATH, Edmonton Edge, Edmonton WAMI, and Saskatoon Wild.

*Central Division* – APFG Sixers, Bonivital Angels, Eastman Flames, Hix with Stix and Manitoba Moose.

*Ontario Division* – Cambridge Turbos, Gloucester Devils, Ottawa Ice, Richmond Hill Lightning and Waterloo Wildfire.

*Québec Division* – B.L.L. (Bourassa-Laval-Lanaudière), Cyclones de Québec, Montréal Mission, and Rive-Sud.

More information on the NRL, including schedules, team rosters and athlete profiles, can be found on the NRL website at [www.nationalringetteleague.ca](http://www.nationalringetteleague.ca).

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## RINGETTE FACTS AND FIGURES

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### *The rules*

The original rules of ringette were written in 1963, and have been revised over the years to encourage fast-moving team play that is safe and free of intentional body contact.

- Each team may have up to 18 players, six of whom are on the ice at any given time.
- The objective is to control the ring while moving it down the ice in order to score goals. A goal is scored when the ring passes completely over the opponent's goal line into the net.
- The ring must be passed rather than carried over each blue line, although players may precede the ring into each zone.
- No more than three players from each team, plus the defending goalie, are allowed in the end zone at any one time.

### *Age categories*

Masters - 30 and over  
Intermediate - 21 and over  
Open - 19 and over  
Deb - 23 and under  
Belle - 18 and under

Junior - 15 and under  
Tween - 13 and under  
Petite - 11 and under  
Novice - 9 and under  
Bunnies - 7 and under

### *Some numbers*

Total number of registered players in Canada during 2004-2005 season: 25,477

Provincial breakdowns:

British Columbia:	2,246
Alberta:	4,578
Saskatchewan:	935
Manitoba:	2,386
Ontario:	9,464
Quebec:	3,805
New Brunswick:	979
Nova Scotia:	814
Prince Edward Island:	259
Newfoundland and Labrador:	0
Northwest Territories	11
Number of teams:	1,992
Number of coaches:	6,596
Number of officials:	1,629
Number of boys:	590

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## RINGETTE CONTACTS

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The national office of Ringette Canada and each of the provincial/territorial ringette association offices are available to answer questions and provide additional information on the sport of ringette. Contact information for each of these offices can be found below. As was mentioned earlier, media who would like further information or would like to receive Ringette Canada media releases can contact Ringette Canada's national media representative, Alayne Martell-Crocker at telephone: 902-839-2532 or E-mail: [alaynemartell@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:alaynemartell@ns.sympatico.ca).

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