

January 6, 2026

TO: 18+B Teams

SUBJECT: 18+B Provincial Championships Update

We recognize and understand the frustration surrounding the change to the originally advertised dates for the 2026 18+B Provincial Championships. This was not an ideal outcome, nor a decision we made lightly. We sincerely regret the disruption this has caused and appreciate your patience as we worked to confirm feasible options.

Over the Christmas break, Ringette BC received a number of inquiries and was able to finalize ice availability. Please review the information below carefully, as it outlines the confirmed plans for the 18+B division and the considerations that led to these decisions.

2026 18+B Provincial Championships – Confirmed Update

Ringette BC has confirmed the ability to host an **eight (8) team 18+B division** in conjunction with the **Zone and 18+ Provincial Championships**, taking place **February 6–8, 2026, in Richmond, BC**.

Due to limited ice availability, teams must be prepared to play **one or both round-robin games on Friday, February 6, before 5:00 PM**.

To support teams in planning, we are **extending the deadline** to confirm team availability to **Friday, January 9, 2026, at 4:00 PM**.

If you have already provided your commitment, and this has not changed, you do not need to reach out. If we have not yet heard from you, or your availability has changed, please reach out by the deadline noted above.

Background and Decision-Making

When registration details for the 2026 Provincial Championships were distributed, we communicated that it was unlikely all 18+B teams could be accommodated on the originally advertised dates. This year saw exceptional growth, particularly within the 18+B and club division across the province.

This growth is exciting and reflects the continued expansion of ringette in BC. However, it also placed significant pressure on available facilities and hosting capacity.

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Ice Availability and Hosting Constraints

- Provincial Championship hosts are typically secured in the spring, often with very limited flexibility for additional ice.
- Coquitlam submitted ice requests in early 2025 for the 2026 Championships, requesting the maximum ice historically required.
- When increased registration numbers became apparent, Ringette BC attempted to secure additional ice on the original weekend in Coquitlam but was unsuccessful.

Hosting an additional weekend or location is not solely dependent on ice availability. It also requires qualified officials, substantial volunteer support and additional operational resources. Unfortunately, these requirements made alternative hosting options not operationally feasible.

Ice Requirements

- An 8-team tournament requires 16 ice times over 3 days. Securing this additional ice during the Zone and 18+ Provincial Championships was not an easy feat, and we are extremely grateful to the City of Richmond for their continued support.
- Accommodating all 14 registered 18+B teams would have required 32 ice times.

This level of expansion was not possible within existing hosting and operational constraints.

Broader Provincial Hosting Challenges

In recent years, securing hosts for Provincial Championships and year-end events has become increasingly difficult:

- For 2026, the hosting rotation identified TORL as the host for Zone and 18+A and B Provincials; however, no associations were able to take this on.
 - As a result, Ringette BC issued a province-wide call for hosts.
- Zone and 18+ Provincials were scheduled in February, during what is traditionally Ringette BC's Pacific Challenge Cup Tournament, due to the absence of a host.
- To accommodate the number of registered teams across all Year-End competitions
 - U12 CI and U14 Zone games were reduced to 1 hour lengths (from 1.25 hours).
 - U14 Club round-robin games were also shortened to 1 hour, even without the 18+B division included.

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- The U12 Year-End Event was moved to Richmond after the North was unable to host, made possible only because Richmond had proactively requested ice in early 2025 in the event a host was needed.

Looking Ahead

As registration numbers continue to grow, Ringette BC is committed to adapting our event structure. Moving forward, we will:

- Explore separate hosting opportunities for 18+B Provincials, independent of Club divisions.
- Continue offering clubs the option to host smaller, division-specific events to increase overall hosting capacity.
- Review:
 - Hosting agreements
 - Distribution of registration funds
 - Registration rates

Our goal is to make hosting Provincial events more accessible and sustainable across the province.

We strongly encourage members to engage with their local associations and consider volunteering on hosting committees. Increased volunteer involvement is essential to ensuring we can continue to offer championship opportunities across all age groups and levels of play.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding, feedback, and continued support of ringette in British Columbia. While these decisions were challenging, they were made with fairness, sustainability, and the long-term growth of the sport in mind.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Tamil Selven
Executive Director

Susan Doucette
Chief Operations Officer

Jody Ewart
Chair

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Frequently Asked Questions

Allocation of 18+B Provincial Positions

Provincial positions will be allocated based on **regional representation**, ensuring province-wide inclusion while reflecting team distribution. This approach mirrors the qualification process used prior to the open registration model.

2025–26 18+B Team Distribution across BC:

- **LMRL:** 10 teams (56%)
- **TORL:** 5 teams (28%)
- **North:** 1 team (5%)
- **Island:** 2 teams (11%)

With ice availability confirmed, the **eight (8) provincial positions** will be allocated as follows, using the percentages above to allocate positions:

- **LMRL:** 4 teams
- **TORL:** 2 teams
- **North:** 1 team
- **Island:** 1 team

If a region is unable to fill its allocated position(s), pending available teams, the first unfilled spot will be offered to LMRL and the second to TORL.

Determination of Regional Teams

Ringette BC will work with leagues to identify their top teams as of **January 1, 2026**.

- League play standings will be used where possible.
- Tournament results may be considered if required to ensure equitable comparisons.
- Rankings may be determined using points or win percentage

Leagues must declare their qualifying teams to Ringette BC **no later than January 11, 2026**, at which time the 18+B Provincial teams will be finalized.

League Play Continuation

The continuation of league play remains at the discretion of individual leagues, as league operations are not administered by Ringette BC.



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Player Pick-Up

Player pick-up for the 18+B division at Provincials will follow the existing Player Pick-Up Policy.

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