



To: Sherwood Park Ringette Association Members

From: Linda Gillespie
President, SPRA

Date: November 24, 2011

Re: Elimination of U12 Tiering

Although it is early in the season, we felt it was important as an association to address the potential elimination of U12 tiering next season by Ringette Alberta (RAB) as they continue to push forward with their Long Term Athlete Development program (LTAD). This rumor has been circulating for several years and it has caused players not only in Sherwood Park but across Alberta to consider other sport activities where tiering continues to exist.

Even though there has been clear opposition to the elimination of tiering at this age group by SPRA and many other associations in Alberta, the latest memo to members from Ringette Alberta clearly states that U12 tiering will be eliminated – it is just a question of when.

The mandate of Sherwood Park Ringette is to provide a place where players can grow and develop their skills of Ringette in a fun and inviting atmosphere. We believe that our athletes learn, grow and develop when they have the opportunity to play and practice with athletes of similar ability. Our belief and approach does support the principles of Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) which states "we must provide opportunities to Ringette players that will enable them to maximize their learning and growth and realize their full potential as Ringette Players"

SPRA has received positive feedback from our members and other associations on the phases that we introduced in U8 this year which supports the creation of homogeneous groups for our players. As a result, SPRA will be extending the phase concept into U10 for the 2012/2013 season. In the event that Ringette Alberta eliminates U12 Tiering then SPRA will also provide phases for U12 for the 2012/2013 season as well. The U12 Phases will be very similar to the team groupings that we have this season and will provide homogenous groups that can learn, grow and compete as Ringette players.

SPRA is committed to representing the interests of our members. While maintaining a positive environment for our athletes to develop and learn without removing the healthy competition that is essential to the success of our game. Our approach to providing phases in the U8, U10 and U12 levels, will allow us to continue to meet these fundamental goals for our members while addressing the elimination of U12 tiering when it does occur. We hope you will continue to choose Ringette as your sport and your passion.

Should you have any questions with respect to our position as an association we ask that you contact us directly as we will be happy to discuss it with you.