

AGM Questions - LTAD

1. Why do we have U9 and U10?

- a. The reason for this change was to enable late entry athletes to have a clear path to be able to 'play down' and age division. This does not change the fact for current 8 year olds in the system to play in the U10 division. This was simply done to enable the process along for those who need it.

2. Why are the names being changed to Uages?

- a. As part of Ringette Canada's strategic plan and its vision that 'Ringette is played by people of all ages and all abilities on all rinks in Canada' changes towards gender neutral terminology have been brought about. Changing to the U ages also makes it easier to understand for those outside the Ringette community. Being able to identify to a category based on age is easier for an outsider than to a Petite division as an example. (How old is that, which division should my child be in?)

3. Who developed LTAD? Who developed the LTAD specific model? Why were they selected?

- a. Generic model was developed by Sport Canada with the following experts:
 - i. **Istvan Balyi**, M.A., Pacific Sport Canadian Sport Centre Vancouver
 - ii. **Charles Cardinal**, M.Sc en Activité Physique, Canadian Sport Centre
 - iii. **Colin Higgs**, Ph.D., Memorial University of Newfoundland
 - iv. **Steve Norris**, Ph.D., Canadian Sport Centre, Calgary
 - v. **Richard Way**, MBA, Pacific Sport Canadian Sport Centre Victoria
 - vi. **Mary Bluechardt**, Ph.D., Memorial University of Newfoundland

4. Did any consultation outside of Ringette Canada occur?

- a. Ringette was assigned two sport consultants from the list above – Mary Bluechardt and Charles Cardinal. They brought with them all of the experience in developing other sport LTAD in addition to consulting with those organization during our development process. Our LTAD Writer Cathy Haines had also been involved with other sport LTAD and was able to provide guidance on many topics as well.
- b. At the start of this process a summit was held which brought in key people from across the spot from across the country to assess the current state of our sport. What does Ringette look like now? Coaches, parents, officials, administrators, volunteers, athletes all representing all levels of our sport where represented at the summit.
- c. Ringette Created its own steering committee (Laura Pitt, Carrie Chard, John Francis, Carolyn Moutjoy, Donnell Shoenhofen, Phyllis Sadoway) to lead the process. During this process sub committees for each stage of development were brought together to review their specific section.
 - i. Dave LaRoche, Jenn Falloon, Nicole Lark, Keith Doering, Tracy Townsend, Lyndsay Wheelans, Marion Clark, Bernie Cockburn, Maria Thompson, Andie Johnston, Karen Duguay, Shannon Bettles, Jackie Deschenes, Jane Marshall, Sue Reid, Carol Mydlo, Tracey Tulloch, Lauraine Prefontaine, Sheri Markle, Jeff Francom.

5. Why are we doing LTAD now?

- a. As this is a National Sport community endeavour we have been directed by sport Canada to line up our sport with the LTAD principles. The process for Ringette began in December of 2006. Over the course of the years to follow work went into developing our sport specific model. Once that was completed an implementation plan was developed which brings us to now, year one of our implementation plan.

6. What are the impacts for the upcoming seasons?

- a. Download LTAD implementation plan from our resources section:
<http://www.ringette.ca/content/LTAD/Resources.asp?langid=1>

7. Are we the only sport to do this? What other sports are taking this on?

- a. LTAD is being developed by all sports in Canada. Not all sports are at the same stage of development as we did not all start that the same time. Sports like Baseball, Soccer and Volleyball were some of the initial sports to get started with LTAD, thus they are further along in their implementation plan. You are encouraged to visit other sport site to see what they are up to on the LTAD front.
 - i. http://www.baseball.ca/eng_home.cfm (scroll down, LTAD info on main page)
 - ii. <http://www.canadasoccer.com/home.asp?lang=en> (click on wellness to world cup icon – bottom right)
 - iii. http://www.hockeycanada.ca/index.php/ci_id/58611/la_id/1.htm (They are doing it, they just aren't calling it LTAD)

8. Will there be consistency in the implementation of Ringette LTAD across Canada.

- a. There will be consistency in implementation as we move forward. Although some changes will be piloted in certain regions as an initial step, the implementation expectations will be the same across the country. At the April 2009 Ringette Canada Board of Directors Meeting the following motion was passed:

This is the first step towards ensuring a consistent implementation across the country.

9. Do we have a choice when it comes to these suggested changes?

- a. In order to have consistency across the country when it comes to implementation there will come a time were certain changes become mandatory. However as we move forward in this process we are looking for feedback, suggestions and help in ensuring that we are on the right track. As the proposed changes come forward please do not hesitate.

10. Will there be documentations and/or handouts available?

- a. The long document will be available by June 2009.
 - i. Hard copies distributed to PSO Staff and Presidents
 - ii. PDF is online. <http://www.ringette.ca/content/LTAD/Resources.asp?langid=1>
- b. Information brochures are now available.

- c. RC Website has been updated to reflect all of the information found in documentation. <http://www.ringette.ca/Content/LTAD/Home.asp?langid=1>
- d. Ringette Skills Video – shooting begins Sept 23rd.

11. Are we aware of the ‘risks’ involved with the implementation of LTAD?

- a. Yes, we are aware of the risks that are in place. This is reason for pilot implementation steps as we roll out our plan. We are certain of the direction and the reasons why to make certain changes, however we are aware that certain aspects might need to be adjusted slightly.

12. Why are Tween AA to be taken out of Westerns/Easterns?

- a. When we look at the athlete development process we notice that in many cases our athletes are competing at levels that they themselves are not ready for (physically and emotionally). The format that is currently used to compete at Westerns is not ideal for athletes at the ‘tween’ level. Because it is a closed event by which one must qualify, we are not offering the same opportunity to all athletes at this level of play. Thus adding yet another tier. By indentifying only a select group (in this case those who won their way to the event) we are closing the door for many other athletes. At this stage we are better off to provide more opportunities for these athletes as these athletes are still developing. Taken Tweens out of the current format for Westerns is ideal. Providing an event for all athletes and changing the season’s competition structure to provide more opportunity for all is the next step.

13. Was a SWOT analysis of our sport done prior to the development of LTAD?

- a. Yes, this was done twice in the development process. At the start a summit was held which brought in key people from across the sport from across the country to assess the current state of our sport. What does Ringette look like now? A second analysis was done during the writing process of the document. A SWOT analysis of the seven pillars of our sport (Athletes, Coaching, Officiating, Competitions, Facilities, Parents and Facilities) was completed. This is featured in the full document that will be available shortly. (Website)

14. Will coach training resources be provided to help us deliver LTAD principles?

- a. Our current coach certification program is in line with LTAD. We will continue to add to this but it is important to note that what we currently have is very good.
- b. Supplementary resources will be made available as we move forward. Stage by Stage detail books (Ringette for dummies), Skill teaching videos, skill development matrix, etc.
- c. See resources section of our LTAD site for available documents.

NOTE: BC Ringette has a great Q&A section on their site. It might be helpful to some:

<http://www.bcringette.org/Content/Development/LTAD%20FAQ.asp>