



**RINGETTE CALGARY
BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

BOUNDARY REVIEW PROPOSAL

First and most importantly, we would like to thank all members of the Boundary Review Committee (BRC) whom have volunteered their valuable time and energy to try and develop a recommendation(s) that is for the good of our entire community. The BRC was comprised of representatives from all 4 Calgary Associations and they have worked diligently to find a solution that best meets the following goals:

- Competitive Equity for teams and equitable skill development opportunities for all athletes
- Equitable access to facilities
- Reasonable transport/commutes
- Equitable cost for associations
- Equitable opportunities for growth (associations)

These have been the goals of the committee since it was formed, and it is our hope that the proposed changes are viewed from the same perspective from which they were created. We did our very best to balance the needs of the ringette associations, parents, athletes and communities with what we envision as a better environment for our athletes to play the sport that we all love so much.

Background:

The Ringette Calgary Boundaries have not been reviewed/changed since 2004. This has led to notable imbalances in numbers, competitiveness, growth opportunities, available volunteers, resources etc. In addition to this, the current association boundaries do not reflect the rapid growth our city has seen in some quadrants to provide balanced growth for our future athletes.

By viewing these problems from a citywide perspective, the BRC hopes to alleviate some of these problems.

Evaluation Criteria:

In reviewing the numerous options, we used the following criteria to narrow our choices down:

- Association size
 - Athlete numbers
 - Competitive balance
 - Individual development
 - Geographic area
- Impact of change on athletes/families
 - Travel
 - Number of athletes changing associations

- Financial Impact
 - Associations merging of finances
 - New jerseys required
 - Possible loss of NESS ice contract
- Other considerations
 - Perceived sustainability (what will this proposal look like in 3-5 years)
 - Alignment with future demographic changes
 - Continuous geography
 - Change to association governance (Board of Directors)

Demographics and Statistics

Attached as Appendix 1 is the demographic data in relation to this proposal.

All demographical information used and player registration data was based on the 2016 City Census and 2016/2017 registration numbers.

Summary of Final Options:

After extensive review,¹ the BRC has narrowed the options down to 2.

Option 1: Status Quo – no change to boundaries. The strengths of this option are:

- The current boundaries have been in place a long time and things have worked reasonably well.
- Change is hard for people and this options ensures that none of our membership will have to move associations.
- Northwest and Bowview are strong, growing associations that see no need for change.

The weaknesses of this option are:

- It does not address any of the current issues we are facing. Cal-East is struggling with registration (just over 50 athletes) and South Calgary has limited opportunities for growth due to geographic constraints.
- Does not improve competitive equity between associations or address the goal of equitable skill development for all athletes.

¹ Other options considered but not discussed in detail in this Proposal include: moving to two ringette associations (North v South or East v West); Remaining with four ringette associations but shifting the boundaries to provide more potential players to Cal East (with different boundary options being considered) or shifting the boundaries to provide more growth opportunities to South Calgary (with different options being considered); Arranging the ringette association to line up with Hockey Calgary boundaries (with multiple options, including quadrant hockey boundaries, using Hockey Calgary association boundaries to create four ringette associations and using Hockey Calgary boundaries to create three ringette associations) as well as other boundary options with three ringette associations.

Option 2: Create 3 new similar sized, Ringette Associations.

Major changes:

- The dissolution of Cal-East Ringette with respect to competitive ringette
- New “North” association will include all communities north of McKnight Boulevard
- New “West” association will include communities to south end of the city west of Macleod Trail
- New “Southeast” association will include communities south of McKnight Boulevard.

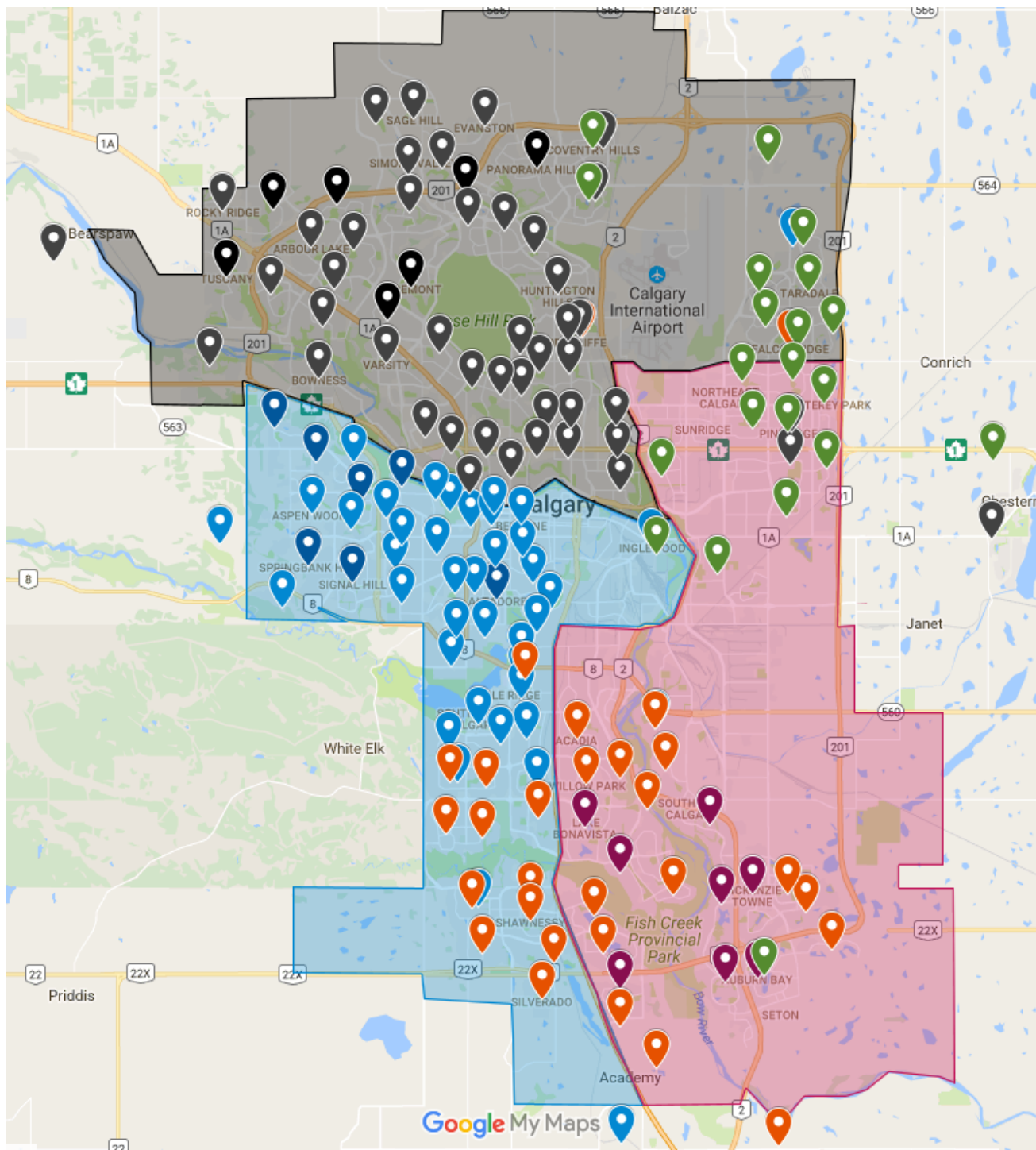
The strengths of this option are:

- Each association will have approximately 450 athletes. This is a good size which should allow for a reasonable number of teams at each level.
- It addresses our first and most important goal of competitive equity and equitable skill development opportunities for all athletes.
- There is strong opportunity for growth for all 3 Associations.
- Volunteer resources can be consolidated from 4 Boards to 3.

The weaknesses of this option are:

- The loss of Cal-East Ringette.
- Significant change for a good number of our membership.
- Potential cost of change (new jerseys, etc.)
- The volunteer time (association board members) needed to address the administrative details necessary to bring about these changes

The proposed boundaries for this option are as follows:²



² Note: the coloured pins represent communities with current players. Grey and dark black are current NWRA players (dark black being communities with more than 15 currently registered players). Green are current Cal East players. Orange and Purple are current BVRA players (purple being communities with more than 15 currently registered players). Light and dark blue are SCRA players (dark blue being communities with more than 15 currently registered players)

Recommendation:

It is our unanimous recommendation that the board vote on adopting Option 2. If this vote is not passed, then by default, Option 1 (no change) would remain in place. The BRC feels it is important to note that if Option 2 is not adopted, that the following should occur:

- A discussion of potential changes to the Option 2 boundaries take place to determine if the board feels that a revised version of this option is a possible solution.
- If status quo is the final decision, the BRC strongly recommends that Ringette Calgary work to find other options to support the goals of this committee. Specifically, addressing the low registration in Cal-East and the lack of growth opportunities for South Calgary.

Impacts of Change:

Association Size

Current size difference – 916%

Proposed size difference – 103%

The current boundaries result in a large difference between the number of players between the smallest and largest association. Currently there is an over 400 player difference between the smallest association (Cal-East) and the largest (Bowview). The proposed boundaries will cut the difference between the smallest and largest associations down to less than 20.

This represents a much healthier difference in association size. This will result in better development opportunities for our players by allowing all associations to field teams where the relative skill gap on every team is much smaller. A further benefit will be the fostering of a better level of competition between each association. Smaller skill gaps on individual teams should not only make our coaches jobs easier, but more importantly, create a healthy team environment where all players can contribute as team members and grow together throughout the season.

This move to fewer more evenly sized associations will also provide a more balanced development of players to Calgary AA (instead of one or two associations losing a higher percentage of their players).

Sustainability and growth

The new boundaries proposed are specifically designed to help balance our city and player growth. This is accomplished by balancing the growth and mature communities within ringette associations as much as geographically possible. The current boundaries pose limitations, particularly for South Calgary, which has the smallest population (particularly of ringette aged girls) and lowest growth over the last five years of any of the current associations. This problem is expected to worsen in the future as the current boundaries

do not provide any existing or potential “new community” development within the South Calgary boundaries, apart from any urban renewal / infilling of mature communities.

We believe Option 2 should make for more stable player populations across the age divisions within each association, as well as making the boundaries proposed more sustainable as they allow for growth in each association.

Other Recommendations:

Should Option 2 be adopted, the BRC recommends the following:

Grandfathering: The BRC recommends that all athletes who are 2nd year U14 and up, be allowed the opportunity to remain with their original association, if they so choose. In addition, any younger family members (currently registered) of those athletes that are being grandfathered, also be allowed to remain with their original association. This means that it will take 6 years for the full effect of these changes to be recognized. The BRC feels this is a reasonable compromise as it recognizes the importance of the family ties derived from community ringette and we hope that allowing these older athletes the opportunity to finish playing in their current associations will minimize the emotional impact caused by the proposed boundary changes.

Implementation: It is our view that these changes should be implemented for the 2018/2019 season. The BRC recognizes that there are multiple issues that need to be addressed/resolved prior to successful implementation of a boundary change. Keeping that in mind, the BRC highly recommends that an “Implementation Committee” be formed to aid all Associations with the implementation. This committee would support all members with the following:

- Ensuring that the ice sheets at the Northeast Sportsplex continue to be provided for Ringette use.
- Ensuring that any families currently requiring financial support (working bingos) continue to have the same opportunities to offset their ringette fees. In addition, that these opportunities be made available for any new registrants requiring the same.
- Discussion of maintaining Cal-East Ringette for development of brand new players and/or a rec ringette league.
- Ensuring the sustainability of the Lonnie Krahn tournament.
- All 3 new associations consider a name change.
- Ensure that implementation does not cause undue financial stress on any of the associations. Specifically, with respect to jerseys.

Next Boundary Review: It is the recommendation that the boundaries be reviewed again in 3-5 years dependent on a review of growth and competition. This timeline will ensure growing communities can be re-evaluated.

Conclusion:

This proposal will be voted on April 12th 2017 at the regularly scheduled Ringette Calgary board meeting. Again, the BRC would like to thank the stakeholders of this committee whom have put in tremendous time and effort into putting this proposal together.

Sincerely,

Paul Geddes & Michele Wheeler – Co-Chair BRC

BRC Representation provided by the Following Ringette Associations:

- Bow View Ringette Association – Patricia Jarlawski
- Cal East Ringette – Mary Pelland, Derek Bigelow
- Calgary Northwest Ringette – Ashley Stappler
- South Calgary Ringette – Mike Mysak

Appendix 1

The following numbers are based on the 2016 City of Calgary Census data as well as the 2016-17 registration data from each association. Registration data may not be exact due to athletes who played AA but did not register within their own community. However, they are reflective of the overall registration numbers. Population figures are based on the City figures for each community, with each community counted as part of its respective ringette association.

Total Population

The following is the total population in each of the four current ringette associations (Option 1) compared to the three associations proposed in Option 2.

Total Civic Population per Ringette Association

Option 1		Option 2	
Cal East	262,639		
NWRA	390,246	NCRA	500,327
BVRA	326,203	BVRA	369,971
SCRA	256,071	SCRA	364,861
Total	1,235,159	Total	1,235,159

Population of Ringette and Future Ringette Aged Girls

The City of Calgary provides data on the number of girls aged 0-4, 5-14, etc. The following tables show the number of girls aged 5-14 in each community. This covers the majority of ringette players (Active Start through first year of U16, or approximately 85% of current players).

5-14 year old Girls per ringette association

Option 1		Option 2	
Cal East	16,750		
NWRA	21,721	NCRA	29,472
BVRA	20,289	BVRA	22,561
SCRA	11,890	SCRA	18,617
Total	70,650	Total	70,650

The following table shows the number of 0-4 year old girls (ie, those who might be expected to start playing in the next number of years):

0-4 year old girls per ringette association

Option 1		Option 2	
Cal East	10,020		
NWRA	12,413	NCRA	16,874

BVRA	11,892	BVRA	14,043
SCRA	7,531	SCRA	10,939
Total	41,856	Total	41,856

Growth

The following table shows the population change in each of the ringette associations between the City of Calgary 2011 Census and 2016 Census.

Total Population Growth Per Ringette Association (2011-2016)

Option 1		Option 2	
Cal East	30,834		
NWRA	41,735	NWRA	65,594
BVRA	49,376	BVRA	50,437
SCRA	24,346	SCRA	30,260
Total	146,291	Total	146,291

Ringette Players

The following table shows the number of registered ringette players in each association under Options 1 and 2. Note: for the purposes of this comparison, only those players who played for one of the ringette associations in 2016-17 are included. AA players are therefore not included. Further, on the Option 2 consideration, this table assumes all current players were to switch and play with the new ringette association for their communities (ice, as though there were no grandfathering)

Registered Ringette Players Per Ringette Association (2016-17)

Option 1		Option 2	
Cal East	50		
NWRA	410	NCRA	438
BVRA	458	BVRA	436
SCRA	378	SCRA	422
Total	1,296	Total	1,296

Ringette Player Penetration

The following table shows the number of current ringette players per 1,000 “ringette aged girls” (i.e. 5-14 year old girls):

Ringette Players Registered per 1,000 5-14 year old girls

Option 1		Option 2	
Cal East	3.0		
NWRA	18.9	NCRA	14.9
BVRA	22.6	BVRA	19.3
SCRA	31.8	SCRA	22.7

Potential Ringette Player Penetration

Noting that there is a discrepancy in the penetration between the different associations, there are two further considerations that might be made.

First, one can assume that the high level of players / 1,000 girls that SCRA has recently achieved³ is something that can be achieved in other areas of the city.

Accordingly, the following table shows what the number of ringette players in each association would look like assuming that all associations had the same rate of players / 1,000 girls as the current highest (i.e., if all associations had the same number of skaters / 1,000 girls as South Calgary’s 31.8 players / 1,000 girls)

Cal East	532.51
NWRA	690.54
BVRA	645.02
SCRA	378.00

Alternatively, one could assume the current high level of players per 1,000 girls in SCRA is an outlier and a more reasonably expected number would be somewhere in the average of the three largest ringette associations. Averaging the number of players per 1,000 in BVRA, SCRA and NWRA would yield 24.4 skaters per 1,000 5-14 year old girls. If one applied that average to the current populations, it would yield the following number of potential skaters in each association.

Cal East	408.70
NWRA	529.99
BVRA	495.05
SCRA	290.12

³ Between 2011 and 2016 SCRA’s registration numbers increased from 275 to 378 players.