

**Etobicoke Ringette Association**  
**Q&A regarding 2023-2024 Season Provincial A/AA Program**

Q: Can underage players tryout/play on A/AA teams?

A: We encourage players to play at their age level. In rare circumstances it may be appropriate for a player to play up to at an older age level, however, these are considered on a case-by-case basis.

For Ringette Ontario guidance of playing outside of age division, see the following:

<https://ringetteontario.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/PLAYING-OUTSIDE-OF-AGE-DIVISION.pdf>

Q: Are overage players allowed?

A: At the U14 and above A/AA teams, there is no allowance for overage players.

Q: Is there a fee to try-out?

A: Yes. Every association can set their own process for fees and payment, but you should expect to pay for each tryout you participate in.

Q: How will head coaches be selected for A/AA teams?

A: There will be an interview by Selection Committee where there is no Conflict of Interest (i.e., members of the committee cannot have a child on the team that is being interviewed).

Q: Will there be extra practices for A/AA teams?

A: Yes, there will be more practices for Provincial teams, and therefore the cost for A/AA teams will be higher than a Regional B team.

Q: How much will an A/AA team cost?

A: Costs will be approximately double of what the ERA regional team fees are, plus tournament costs. As an example, if the regional team fee is \$1000, then an A/AA fee would be \$2000-\$2500. The fees will be clarified as the 2023-2024 budget comes together.

Q: What qualifications will the tryout evaluators have?

A: The tryout evaluators will be current or recent members of the Association who are impartial and do not have any conflict of interest with the specific team. These individuals have been involved in and have deep knowledge of the sport. It will not be "parents in the stands".

Q: Please provide advance information about what the evaluation criteria are for each of the age levels.

A: Players will be evaluated based on their skating skill, ringette skill, ability to learn/adapt, and game play. During the team formation process, additional consideration will be taken into account (e.g., preferred positions, team size, etc.).

Q: Can players receive feedback about their evaluation following tryouts?

A: Yes, following the tryout process players/parents can ask for more information about their individual evaluation. Feedback can be provided, but the evaluation forms will not be shared with players or parents. The Association will only share feedback with parents directly; information about other players will not be shared.

Q: Will there be conflict of interest if coaches are selected in advance of the team selection?

A: To be confirmed in follow-up with the executive board.

It is common for teams to identify coaches in advance of tryouts. To protect against conflict of interest concerns, the evaluations are provided by impartial members, and while the coach has input into the selection process the final approval is by the Association.

Q: What are the evaluation criteria for coaches?

A: First and foremost, coaches must adhere to the values and beliefs of the Etobicoke Ringette Association. Coaches must also demonstrate their commitment to the role, and to developing the team and players for the specific age group and level of play, and be in good standing with all required coaching certifications and training.

Q: Is there a deadline for coaches to declare their interest and be selected?

A: For any team with tryouts, coaches must declare their interest in coaching by the end of the player intent window (March 20, 2023). A/AA Coaches will be selected before the tryouts begin. Regional B coaches will follow the same selection criteria and will be selected in advance of the B sort-out process.

Q: What is the expectation for female coaches on the bench next year?

A: Ringette Ontario sets the rules for requiring female coaches on the bench. It noted that Etobicoke's efforts to recruit female coaches from parents and players, including from our adult program, has been successful as there are a number of new female coaches joining our younger teams. The Association is aligned with the direction from Ringette Ontario and will continue to recruit in these areas. The Association will also look for additional opportunities for our members to experience coaching by females, such as from female power skating instructors, guest coaches etc.

Q: Will there be an effort to coordinate the tryouts between associations to ensure that players do not have conflict between associations.

A: Given the limitations on ice availability, it may not be possible to avoid tryout conflicts between nearby associations. We will communicate our tryout schedule with nearby associations as soon as we have it confirmed in an attempt to avoid conflicts.

Q: How does the goalie tryout differ from the regular tryouts?

A: The goalies will have the same broad evaluation criteria as other positions, but tailored for goalie skills.

Q: Will a 14A player that does not make the ERA U14A team be released if they make a non-ERA U14A team?

A: If a player is offered a spot on another Association U14A team, they can be released by ERA provided they are offered a spot with a team following the Closest Association Matrix. Alternatively, the player can choose to play on the U14B team in Etobicoke.

Q: When will play start in September?

A: This will be communicated once the ice contract with the City of Toronto is finalized. If any non-city ice is secured, that will be communicated to the applicable groups.

Q: Will there be another meeting as the process continues?

A: The ERA executive remains available to answer questions as they arise throughout the process. This FAQ will be updated as well.

A followup meeting will be held in early April to answer questions once the teams have been approved.

Q: Who does the game scheduling for the A/AA teams?

A: The regular season game schedule is done by the Great Lakes Ringette League, and they typically schedule the entire season at once.

Q: Does ERA need any volunteers to help with the organization or coordination of these new teams beyond the parent help that naturally occurs on the team themselves?

A: Yes, the association is always looking for volunteers.

Q: Will the U12 teams be tiered or balanced?

A: At this time, the expectation is that we will offer a U12A team and U12B team.

Q: Would double-header games be scheduled, in particular when games are far away?

A: Yes, the league does look at trying to schedule double-headers when long distance travel is required for a game.