

Gloucester-Cumberland Devils Competitive Teams Policy – 2026

GENERAL

The Gloucester-Cumberland Devils competitive teams provide competition for those who wish to participate at a higher level of ringette.

Gloucester-Cumberland Devils competitive teams play in the La Ligue Élite de Ringette du Québec (LERQ), La Ligue de Ringette du Québec (LRQ), or the National Capital Region Ringette League (NCRRL). Teams participate in approximately 20 league games, as well as exhibition games, weekly practices, and training sessions. Teams playing in the LERQ or LRQ will travel to communities in Quebec (Montreal area and/or Quebec City) for games at least twice per season.

Teams participate in approximately 4 to 6 tournaments during the season, Provincials, and potentially Eastern or National events. Team coaching staff work with parents to determine tournament selections to submit to Ringette Ontario, which assigns teams in late August (AA and A) or mid-September (U12 Provincial). Teams may participate in a maximum of six (6) tournaments per season, with no more than three (3) out-of-region (excluding Provincials). Any request to exceed this must receive GCRA Executive approval.

COMPETITIVE COMMITMENT

Participation on a competitive team represents a significant commitment from both the player and their family.

Players are expected to attend all team activities, including but not limited to:

- Practices
- Games
- Tournaments
- Provincials
- Dryland training and team activities

Participation may also include Eastern or National Championships if the team qualifies.

Players and parents are expected to honour their commitment, particularly during playoffs and Provincials where teams cannot pick up replacement players.

Coaching staff dedicate significant time to planning and preparation and expect to be advised in advance of absences (barring illness). Players and parents are responsible for transportation to and from all team activities.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Participation on a competitive team includes a financial commitment beyond the base registration fee.

Additional team costs may include, but are not limited to:

- Tournament entry fees
- Additional ice time
- Team training and development activities
- Team events and apparel
- Travel and accommodation expenses

Based on typical competitive team programming, **additional costs are generally estimated to range between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per player**, depending on the level of play, tournament schedule, and team activities.

A detailed team budget outlining anticipated costs will be provided to families following team selection.

Players and families are expected to:

- Review and understand the anticipated costs prior to accepting a roster position
- Fulfill all financial obligations associated with the team once a roster spot is accepted

Teams may conduct fundraising activities to offset expenses; however, participation in fundraising is a shared responsibility among team members.

GCRA recognizes that financial circumstances may vary. Families experiencing financial difficulty are encouraged to contact the Club to discuss available options or payment arrangements. Financial assistance programs may be available where applicable.

Failure to meet financial commitments, **without prior communication**, may result in restrictions on participation in team activities, in accordance with GCRA policies.

By accepting a roster position, players and families acknowledge and accept both the time and financial commitments associated with competitive participation.

TEAM EXPECTATIONS

It is the policy of GCRA that players be given **fair (not necessarily equal)** ice time. Ice time may be influenced by attendance, effort, and commitment.

Players who do not consistently participate, arrive late, or disrupt team operations may be addressed by team staff.

Team training includes structured practices, drills, and game tactics for individual and team development, both on and off the ice.

GCRA emphasizes fair play:

- Respecting the rules of the game
- Respecting officials and coaching staff and accepting decisions
- Respecting opponents
- Providing opportunities aligned with commitment level

All players and families are expected to adhere to the Ringette Ontario Athlete Code of Conduct.

TRYOUTS AND TEAM SELECTION

Players are expected to attend all scheduled tryout sessions where possible to allow for a complete evaluation.

In accordance with Ringette Ontario policy, players must attend at least **one (1) on-ice tryout session** to be eligible for selection.

While releases may occur after the first tryout, GCRA aims to provide athletes with a **minimum of two (2) evaluation opportunities** where possible.

Where a player is unable to attend due to illness, injury, or extenuating circumstances, this must be communicated to the Club in advance and will be considered in accordance with Ringette Ontario guidelines.

All players must be registered and have paid the tryout fee prior to participating in tryouts.

Tryouts at the competitive level are open to all eligible players in accordance with Ringette Ontario policies. Please refer to the GCRA Out of Area Player Policy for additional information.

Team selection is based primarily on **evaluator rankings and documented evaluation results**. Independent evaluators are used to ensure a fair and consistent process.

Evaluators are selected to avoid conflicts of interest, and each player is assessed by multiple evaluators.

Coaches do not participate in evaluations during early tryout sessions and are only involved in the **final stage of team selection**.

All evaluations are conducted in accordance with Ringette Ontario Team Formation guidelines.

FINAL TEAM SELECTION

Upon completion of the final session:

- Player scores are compiled and reviewed
- Team selection is based on evaluator rankings and documented results

Coaches provide input at the final stage to support:

- Positional balance
- Team composition

Final rosters are approved prior to player notification.

All offers and releases are:

- Communicated in writing via email
- Issued using Ringette Ontario templates
- Reported in accordance with Ringette Ontario requirements

Players will have **48 hours** to accept or decline a roster offer.

By accepting a roster position, players are committing to the team for the season and are expected to honour that commitment.

TEAM SELECTION RULES

AA Teams:

The best available players are selected, regardless of home association.

A Teams:

Team selection must comply with Ringette Ontario:

- Home/Current player composition requirements
- Right-of-refusal pathway (home → current → choice)

All player movement and selection decisions follow Ringette Ontario policies.

CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact the Competitive Committee

GOVERNING POLICY

This document is intended to align with Ringette Ontario Team Formation policies. In the event of any discrepancy, **Ringette Ontario policy shall prevail.**