



GCRA ICE ALLOCATION POLICY (UPDATED 2026)

PREAMBLE

The Gloucester-Cumberland Ringette Association (GCRA) receives ice annually from the City of Ottawa based on registration numbers and the City's standard allocation formula. This policy ensures that all ice is distributed fairly, transparently, and consistently across all GCRA teams while supporting long-term athlete development and staying within budget. This 2025–2026 edition incorporates current season realities including reduced ice availability, increased ice costs, full-ice rotation expectations, and updated communication standards.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Equity – All teams receive a fair and consistent baseline allocation.

Transparency – Teams clearly understand how ice is distributed and billed.

Development – Ice is used to support quality practices, power skating, and skill advancement.

Fiscal Responsibility – The association ensures sustainable budgeting and fair cost distribution.

Communication – Teams follow clear processes for schedule updates, tournament notifications, and ice changes.

ICE ALLOCATION PRIORITY ORDER

When ice availability is limited or cancellations occur, GCRA allocates ice in the following priority order:

- League games (NCRRL)
- One weekly practice per team (baseline allocation)
- Competitive team second practices
- Development programs (goalie clinics, power skating, skills sessions)
- Full-ice rotation sessions
- Team-purchased extra ice

BASELINE ICE ALLOCATION

League Games

GCRA covers all home game ice for NCRRL. These hours are included in registration fees.

Practice Ice

Each team receives a minimum of 13 hours of practice ice (September–April). Shared-ice sessions count as 0.5 hours toward this total. Practice type (full or shared) depends on ice availability and division needs.

Typical Weekly Allocations

- FUN 1 – 1 full-ice practice per week (Saturdays)
- FUN 2 – 2 practices per week until November, then 1 shared practice per week
- FUN 3 – 1 shared practice per week
- U12–U19 Regional – 1 shared practice per week
- A–AA–U16B – 2 practices per week with 1–2 full-ice sessions per month on a rotating basis



FULL-ICE ROTATION RULES

Competitive teams (A, AA, U16B) receive scheduled rotating full-ice sessions.

Regional divisions may also receive periodic full-ice depending on availability.

If a full-ice session is lost due to a City cancellation, GCRA will attempt to replace it, but replacement cannot be guaranteed during peak season.

Full-ice sessions may be adjusted mid-season to balance usage across teams.

ADDITIONAL ICE BEYOND THE 13-HOUR ALLOTMENT

Any ice used beyond the 13 included hours is billed to teams at year-end. The current rate is \$238.26 per hour (including tax), subject to annual City increases. Competitive teams should budget for extra development ice. FUN and Regional teams should budget 1–2 hours for exhibition games or shared extras.

Budget Tip: 13 hours of shared ice covers roughly 26 shared practices, or 24 shared plus one full-ice session.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

GCRA supports skill development through power skating, goalie clinics, shooting and skating instruction, and other specialized development sessions. These programs depend on budget, athlete needs, and ice availability. Fees are set by the Executive and paid by participants.

DEFINITIONS: SHARED ICE & FULL ICE

Shared Ice: Two teams split a single hour; each team receives 0.5 hours toward their allotment. A half-rink layout is used.

Full Ice: One team uses the entire ice surface for one hour. This counts as 1.0 hour toward the team's allocation and is typically used for development-heavy practices and competitive teams.

SCHEDULING & COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

RAMP is the official schedule platform for all game and practice ice. Teams must check RAMP regularly for updates. Coaches or team managers must review their schedules weekly for new assignments, reallocations, game rescheduling, and cancelled or added practices. Any team-to-team ice swap or late change must be confirmed with the Ice Scheduler within 48 hours. Teams must report potential tournaments by the deadline set each season and notify the Ice Scheduler immediately when tournaments are confirmed. Late reporting may result in the team absorbing any resulting conflicts.

RETURNED ICE, NO-SHOWS & TEAM-MANAGED CHANGES

Returned Ice: Teams who cannot use practice ice must find another GCRA team to take the slot. Both teams must email the Ice Scheduler to confirm. Replacement is not guaranteed.

No-Shows: Less than one week's notice results in billing for the ice and potential loss of a future slot.



Team-to-Team Swaps: Practice ice swaps require 48-hour notice and confirmation by both teams and the Ice Scheduler.

NCRRL GAME CANCELLATION & RESCHEDULING POLICY

NCRRL rules apply to all league game cancellations.

- **Valid reasons:** inclement weather, loss of ice, tournaments with notice, league issues.
- **Invalid reasons:** lack of players, no coach or goalie, team preference.
- **Process:** Cancelling team files Cancelled Game Report and proposes two new dates (home if home cancels; away if away cancels). Must reschedule within 14 days.
- **Less Than 48 Hours:** Must call referee assignor and file report immediately.
- **Cost Responsibility:** Cancelling team responsible for ice and officials unless the City closes the facility.

**GCRA will only cover rescheduled home ice if the game was cancelled due to a City facility closure.

CITY CANCELLATIONS & MAKE-UP ICE

If the City cancels ice for any reason (renovations, mechanical issues, special events), GCRA will attempt to secure replacement ice and reassign in the priority order in Section 3. Make-up ice is not guaranteed, particularly during peak season. League games take priority over practices when assigning replacement ice. Full-ice rotations interrupted by City closures may be rescheduled at the Ice Scheduler's discretion. If a replacement practice cannot be found, the team's seasonal ice allotment will be adjusted accordingly.

MID-SEASON ICE USAGE REPORT

The Ice Scheduler provides a usage summary by the end of January to help teams plan budgets and development sessions.

END-OF-SEASON BILLING

Teams receive an invoice summarizing all ice use beyond the included 13 hours. Invoices must be paid before team bonds are refunded.

ADVOCACY & SEASONAL PLANNING

GCRA submits next-season ice requests every March based on registration trends, historical usage data, division growth, and anticipated development structure. GCRA continues to advocate for greater equity in ice allocation for ringette athletes within the City of Ottawa.

END OF POLICY – APPROVED FOR 2025–2026 SEASON.