



GCRA Player Position & Utilization Policy + Parent Guide

Policy Statement

The Gloucester-Cumberland Ringette Association (GCRA) is committed to fair, transparent, and development-focused team operations. Player position assignment and usage are determined in alignment with Ringette Ontario Team Formation and Fair Ice guidelines, and are based on:

- Objective evaluation results
- Team composition and needs
- Athlete development principle

Policy Application

This policy applies to all GCRA competitive teams (A and AA) and should be read in conjunction with:

- GCRA Tryout Policy
- GCRA Fair Ice Policy

Position Assignment

Players are evaluated and selected as either:

- Skaters, or
- Goaltenders

Position assignment reflects:

- Tryout evaluations
- Input from multiple evaluators
- Team formation decisions

Players are expected to **primarily play the position** for which they were selected n.

Position Use & Flexibility

Coaches may adjust:

- Forward / defence roles
- Line combinations
- In-game usage

These decisions are based on:

- Team needs o Game situations
- Player development

Position usage may vary throughout the season at the Head Coach's discretion

Goaltender & Skater Use



- Goaltenders are expected to remain in the goaltender role
- Skaters are not expected to play goal

Exceptions may occur only in limited circumstances

- Injury or absence
- Emergency roster situations

All decisions must prioritize:

- Player safety
- Reasonableness
- Clear communication

Alignment with Fair Play Ice Policy

Position usage directly impacts ice time and must align with GCRA Fair Ice principles:

- Fair ice does not mean equal ice time

Ice time may vary based on:

- Position
- Game situations
- Competitive level
- Development needs

Coaches must apply decisions:

- Fairly
- Consistently
- Transparently

Responsibilities

Head Coach

- Assigns positions and manages player usage
- Communicates expectations clearly
- Ensures alignment with evaluation outcomes

GCRA Competitive Committee

- Provides oversight where required
- Ensures alignment with Ringette Ontario policies

Parents & Players Guide

What does my child's "position" mean?

Your child is selected as either a skater or goaltender based on tryout evaluations and team needs.

Will my child always play the same role?

Not exactly:



- Skaters may play forward or defence
- Line combinations and roles may change
- This is part of normal development

This is a role adjustment, not a position change.

Why does position affect ice time?

Different positions are used differently in games:

- Special teams (power play / penalty kill)
- Defensive vs offensive roles
- Game situations

GCRA follows a Fair Play Ice model:

- Fair opportunity
- Not equal ice time in all situations

Can players switch to goalie or vice versa?

Not typically.

- Goaltenders are selected for that role
- Skaters are not expected to play goal Exceptions only occur in rare, necessary situations.

Who decides how players are used?

The Head Coach, based on:

- Tryout evaluations
- Team strategy
- Player development

Will positions change during the season?

Possibly — within reason:

- Adjustments may be made for development
- Usage may change based on performance and team needs
- Major changes are not made arbitrarily

How is this communicated?

- Coaches are expected to:
- Set expectations early
- Communicate clearly and respectfully
- Be available to discuss concerns

What should parents expect?

- Flexibility in team roles
- Development over the season
- Fair (not equal) ice time

Key Takeaway



Player position and usage are designed to support both: Team success AND athlete development, in alignment with Ringette Ontario standards.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure alignment with Ringette Ontario guidelines and GCRA policies.