

Gloucester-Cumberland Ringette Association (GCRA)

Player Position & Utilization Policy + Parent Guide

1. 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 principles

2. 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

3. Position Assignment (Policy)

- 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

4. Position Use & Flexibility (Policy)

- Coaches may adjust:
 - Forward / defence roles
 - Line combinations
 - In-game usage
- These decisions are based on:
 - Team needs
 - Game situations
 - Player development
- Position usage may vary throughout the season at the **Head Coach's discretion**

5. Goaltender & Skater Use (Policy)

- 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

6. Alignment with Fair 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

7. Responsibilities (Policy)

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

8. Parent & Player Guide (FAQ)

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 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.

9. Review

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