

## **GCRA Under Age Athlete Policy**

### **Applicability**

This policy applies to all Gloucester Cumberland Ringette Association athletes and teams, except those in Open (adult).

### **Definitions**

An "Under-Age Athlete" is any athlete who wishes to play in a particular age group while still being age-eligible to play in a younger age group. For example, an athlete still eligible to play at the U10 level but playing at the U12 level would be an Under-Age Athlete.

### **Preamble**

GCRA believes that athletes develop best in their age appropriate division as determined by their year of birth. As a general rule, GCRA athletes should play in their age appropriate division.

GCRA recognizes that occasionally an athlete may have the skill, physical and psychological attributes to compete at an older age division.

### **Policy**

1. **Provincial Level Teams:** GCRA athletes may register and try-out for an age division that is older than the athlete's designated age division. Formal requests are to be sent per the procedures below.
2. **Novice & Regional Teams:** GCRA does not accept requests to play outside of their designated age division. Athletes may be invited to play outside of their designated age division by the applicable VP (Regional or Novice and Bunnies) after sort outs in order to ensure team viability.

### **Procedure**

An athlete who intends on registering to try out for a Provincial level team above their age eligible division shall provide, in writing, notification to the VP Competitive with rationale supporting their decision. This must be sent no later than 7 days prior to the first tryout.

### **Evaluation of Athletes**

1. The athlete must attend tryouts / sortouts for their age appropriate team in addition to the invitational level.  
\*This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the responsible VP.
2. During the tryout process a subcommittee will be formed consisting of the VP Competitive, VP Novice or Regional, and one other executive member. This subcommittee will be responsible for determining if an athlete will be offered a position on a team not aligned with their age. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

<b>Ringette Ontario Age Divisions</b>	<b>Clarification for GCRA Under Age Policy purposes</b>
U10 - 9 and under	Turning 9 by December 31 of playing year
U12 - 11 and under	Turning 10 or 11 by December 31 of playing year
U14 - 13 and under	Turning 12 or 13 by December 31 of playing year
U16 - 15 and under	Turning 14 or 15 by December 31 of playing year
U19 - 18 and under	Turning 16, 17 or 18 by December 31 of playing year

\*Exceptions to this policy and procedure may be approved by the GCRA executive.