

Competitive Teams Overview - Approved by a motion of the GCRA Executive July, 2003  
(Amended by the GCRA Executive August 15, 2015)

## **GLOUCESTER-CUMBERLAND DEVILS COMPETITIVE TEAMS**

### **GENERAL**

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

Gloucester-Cumberland Devils competitive teams play in the La Ligue Elite de Ringuette du Quebec (LERQ), or La Ligue de Ringuette du Quebec (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 the parents to determine a list of tournaments the team wishes to attend to submit to ORA. ORA will assign teams to tournaments in late August (AA and A) or mid-September (U12 Provincial). Teams can participate in a maximum of 6 tournaments during a playing season and no more than 3 out of region (not including Provincials). Any team that wishes to participate in more than six tournaments in a season must receive board approval.

Players are expected to attend all team activities, i.e. games, practices, tournaments, playoffs, Provincials (during March Break), fundraising events and all other organized team activities. As teams cannot pick up players during playoffs, and Provincials, you will appreciate the importance of ensuring players and parents honour the commitment they make to their team.

It is the policy of the Gloucester-Cumberland Ringette Association that players be given fair (not necessarily equal at all times) ice time. Having said that, players that do not fully participate place an unfair burden on the rest of the team. Obviously, education and health issues take precedence in all situations - but in a competitive team situation players and parents are expected to balance these issues on their own accord. Participants that chronically miss practices or games, arrive late, or otherwise disrupt the efficient operation of the team can expect to be approached by the team staff and requested to correct their pattern of participation. Coaching staff contribute considerable time and effort in preparing for games and writing practice plans, and expect to be advised well in advance when a player will be absent - barring illness. Please remember that it is the player/parent's responsibility to ensure they have transportation to and from practices, games and other team activities.

Team training will consist of well-organized practices, drills and game tactics for individual development and team development on and off ice. Practices may also include off ice training, conditioning and seminars relating to fitness/sports/nutrition etc.

The GCRA emphasized fair play and therefore the following:

- Respecting the rules of the game;
- Respecting officials and coaching staff and accepting decisions;
- Respecting the opponent; and
- Providing all participants with equal opportunities in return for equal commitment

### **TRYOUTS**

In order to evaluate the players properly, all players must attend a minimum of 2 of the scheduled tryout sessions. In cases where special circumstances arise preventing a player from attending the required number of sessions these circumstances must be presented to the executive for Board approval. The tryout fee provides for a minimum of 2 hours at each competitive level (includes AA and A). Tryouts at the

competitive level are open to all players from all associations unless otherwise posted. See Policy for out of area players for additional information.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Once the team has been formed, a team budget outlining additional costs not included in your registration fee shall be submitted to players/parents for consultation. These costs could include additional ice time in excess of the practice hours covered by the registration fee, costs associated with tournament fees, etc. Additional expenses can be up to \$1000 per player, depending upon the level of team and philosophy of the coaching staff.

Additional funds beyond \$1000 per player must be realized from fundraising activities. Non Parental coaching staff travel expenses are not to exceed \$1500.00 for a season but does not include any elite competitions i.e. Provincials, Easterns or Nationals. Any budget that requires additional costs in excess of \$1000 per player or has expenses exceeding the amounts listed above must be approved by the GCRA executive.

Once any additional team fee is established, it must be paid to the team by January 20th of that playing season. Failure to make the team payment could result in player being excluded from tournament play. Since the extra fees collected by the teams are used to cover the costs of these events.

Teams can do fundraising to pay for or offset their expenses however; it is not the sole responsibility of the manager or coaching staff to organize these fundraising events. If players/parents would like to help keep costs down they must get involved. All team money received from players, fundraising, or otherwise shall be an integral part of the team budget and shall be used for team expenses.

Players/parents should note that in addition to team fees, there will be expenses such as traveling and accommodation expenses which will be borne by them. Parents and coaches sometimes decide to acquire other equipment or clothing - which is strictly a team issue.

When the season is completed, a year-end team financial statement shall be distributed to all players/parents. Any remaining team funds shall be divided amongst players/parents, on the basis of their contribution to the team's funds. Each individual family may decide to donate their refund or a portion of it to GCRA's Bernie Cockburn On Ice Benevolent Fund. At the end of a season the team bank account should be brought to zero.

If you have any other questions, feel free to contact the VP, Competitive League.