



# **RINGETTE ONTARIO**

## **U14-U19 TEAM FORMATION GUIDELINES**

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Ringette Ontario, in active partnership with clubs, players, coaches, families, and the community is committed to fostering the values of fairness, sportsmanship, safety, and leadership to all members.

For 2025-26, Clubs within Western Region, North East Region, and Eastern Region will follow their own team formation policies and procedures. When the Region policies/procedures are silent, Ringette Ontario policies and procedures will prevail.

### **TEAM FORMATION OBJECTIVES**

To place all players on the team for which they are best suited, in a manner which is standardized, fair, transparent and provides meaningful competition using a series of evaluation sessions. Ringette ON provides a Long-Term Development (LTD) stage-appropriate Athlete Pathway for participants in all divisions:

- Players in the U14 to U19 divisions can choose to evaluate for placement on AA, A, B or C level teams.
- To ensure that all players have a place to play, it is essential for clubs to work cooperatively. By fostering collaboration among Clubs, we can create as many viable and competitive teams as possible at each competition and age level.

### **TEAM FORMATION**

Ringette Ontario teams will be formed in accordance with the following Ringette Ontario rules and guidelines:

RO Athlete Release Policy

RO Club Player Evaluation Process Guidelines

Player Recruitment Guidelines

Playing Outside of Age Division

\*\*Current policies can be found at [www.ringetteontario.com](http://www.ringetteontario.com)

### **Team Composition Requirements**

A Provincial (U14-U19AA or A) Team must have a minimum roster of 12 skaters plus 1 goalie. For all other levels of teams, Ringette Ontario recommends teams choose a minimum of 15 players, 13 skaters and 2 goalies for teams at U14 and up. For viability purposes, teams must have at least 10 skaters and 1 goalie on their Team Registration Form (TRF). Maximum of 18 players per team, but

registration numbers dictate the size and number of teams.

In situations where there is more than one team at a level for an age, the teams should be evenly distributed (balanced) based on skater and goaltender evaluations (except U14-U19AA). The following method is an example of how the teams can be formed: Team 1 – player 1, Team 2 – player 2, Team 3 – players 3 & 4, Team 2 – player 5, Team 1 – player 6 & 7. This is continued until all skaters are placed on a team. Goaltenders are to be divided along the same lines. A random draw will be used to determine placement order, Team 1 would get the top skater and Team 2 the top goaltender.

On completion, the teams will be reviewed to ensure balance based on evaluation results, movement may occur to ensure balance. If a player has identified a preferred position during registration, this may be considered during team formation.

### **Combined Teams**

- Neighbouring Clubs that wish to form combined teams may do so in the application process. Teams may combine as long as ONE association is identified as the closest Club in the matrix.
  - For example: Barrie and Newmarket could form a combined team because Newmarket is the closest Club to Barrie even though Newmarket's closest Club is Markham-Stouffville.
- The Combined Team must clearly identify one centre as the HOST Association in the Willing to Host form for the current playing year and have signed acknowledgement from the respective Presidents of these Associations. The host association is the centre where home games will be scheduled.
- When two teams combine and they are each other's closest Club, either team can be named the host team. In the Southern Region this includes St. Catharines/Niagara Falls, Richmond Hill/Markham-Stouffville, Hamilton/Burlington, Paris/Cambridge and Mississauga/Etobicoke. This decision will be up to the Clubs to work it out.
- When two teams combine and only ONE Club is closest, the host team must be the team that is NOT closest in the matrix.
  - For Example: Barrie's closest club is Newmarket; Newmarket's closest club is Markham-Stouffville – If Barrie and Newmarket form a combined team, the host must be Newmarket because Newmarket is closest to Markham-Stouffville, and this will prevent athletes from essentially "skipping" their obligation to follow the matrix to Markham-Stouffville.
- For the purposes of the tryout process and athlete movement, each combined club will be considered the home club.
  - For example: If Mississauga and Etobicoke decide to host U16A as a combined team, any Etobicoke player who played in Burlington for one or two years, must try-out for the

combined team as their home club is now hosting an A level team.

- The host team will also become the current club for any athletes from outside of the combined clubs.
  - For example: If an athlete from Caledonia is selected to be on the combined team of Paris and Cambridge and Paris is the host, the Caledonia athlete becomes current to Paris.

## **TEAM SELECTION COMMITTEE**

A club should start by creating a Team Selection Committee consisting of impartial coaches, caregivers and knowledgeable 18+ athletes that have experience in skill assessment and the [athlete development matrix](#) for the age group. Final team sizes and player distribution should be solely determined by the Team Selection Committee and may be adjusted at any point up until the final roster deadline as determined by Ringette Ontario. Team formation results should be posted in a timely manner.

Evaluations should be completed by knowledgeable coaches and 18+ athletes that are completely unbiased towards the athletes being evaluated and/or the team that are being formed. To simplify the process the Team Selection Committee should appoint one person to be the Evaluations Coordinator. Results of the evaluations should be submitted to the Evaluations Coordinator who then will pass the results directly to the Team Selection Committee. At no time should parents or coaches be privy to these results.

On completion of the evaluations the respective Evaluation Coordinator should collect the results and meet with the Selection Committee to form the teams. It is recommended that the Head Coach be included in the team formation process once the official evaluations have been completed.

Things taken into consideration in team formation, but not necessarily limited to or constrained by, are:

- Team Viability: At B/C - minimum 10 skaters + 1 goalie required; at AA/A minimum of 12 skaters + 1 goalie required
- Competitive Expectation at the Various Levels (AA, A, B, C, or Balanced Formation)
- Long Term Development (LTD)
- Availability of Coaches
- Availability of Ice
- Player Placement Requests (Children's Ringette, including U10 New Players Only)
- Goaltender allocation
- Player Positions

Once formed, the team has certain obligations to and certain expectations to their Club and to Ringette Ontario. The team personnel, players, and parents have certain rights with respect to the team and how it operates.

Responsibilities include:

- Qualified team staff and support staff at all team functions
- Season plan
- Transparency and regular updates to the team budget
- Familiarity with all timelines, guidelines and policies required by Ringette Ontario
- Completion of a safe sport training module by at least one guardian of each athlete ([Respect in Sport for Parents](#)).

#### Coach Selection

The Head Coaches should be selected prior to evaluations whenever possible. Additional bench staff for the AA/A level teams may be selected prior to evaluations. All other coaches may be named after Team Formation is completed.

### TRYOUTS

- A player may attend as many tryouts as they wish. Through this process it is the responsibility of the player to make sure that their Home Club knows where she/he is trying out and it is the responsibility of the club running tryouts to report the players' attendance.
- Tryouts are conducted by each Club in keeping with their established Operating Procedures. However, the timelines contained in this document should be incorporated into these various procedures.
- Athletes MUST go to tryouts at their home and then current Club if they offer the age and level the athlete intends to try out for. A bona fide effort must be given by the athlete and release obtained before an offer can be given by another Club.
- NO roster spot can be offered to an athlete that does not follow the rules of movement.
- Ringette Ontario will have the authority to ensure that proper tryout procedures are being followed by Clubs and to recommend the levy of up to a \$500 fine and loss of team for Clubs not following the rules and processes in place.

Player evaluations are recommended, and should be conducted at the beginning of each ringette season. Evaluations should be done according to the Clubs Player Evaluation processes. Notice should be provided via the Club Website and the Club Board of Directors outlining the evaluation process for the current season.

The Club reserves the right to advise the top and bottom skaters that they no longer need further evaluations after two skates, thereby allowing the bubble skaters greater opportunities for evaluation.

There will be circumstances where a player may not be available to be evaluated either due to absence, sickness, or injury. In such situations, the player may be placed at the level where they

have consistently played without evaluation. The decision for team placement should be made by the Club Board after consultation from the Selection Committee. Clubs should only transfer players in and out of the Club where it is needed to form teams, or in situations where a neighbouring Club has too many players at the applicable age group or does not have enough players to form a team at the level of the players.

### **Player Release Form and Closest Club Matrix:**

Player Recruitment Guidelines

Ringette Ontario Player Movement Distance Matrix Grid

Athlete Release Form

**\*\*Current policies and resources can be found at [www.ringetteontario.com](http://www.ringetteontario.com)**

- It is critical that all parties understand and treat the Player Release Form like a contract. Once signed, the parties are bound by the agreement. The team is committed to the athlete and the athlete is committed to the team.
  
- If an athlete receives an offer from an outside association, the acceptance must be in accordance with the Closest Association Rule in the following priority order:
  1. from your home club, or then
  2. from your then current club, or then
  3. from the closest club, then the next closest and so on according to the Ringette Ontario Player Movement Distance Matrix Grid.
  
- When a club representative emails out a roster spot offered letter, and the athlete is from an outside club, they will also include the release form.
  
- Any recruitment or solicitation of players by clubs, Coaches/Bench Staff is completely prohibited, and the consequence of this action may result in a fine and loss of team.
  
- No Offers to Play may be made until the Home and/or Current Clubs have made "Roster Spot Not Offered" releases or no team is being hosted by the Home or Current Clubs. This process must follow the Ringette Ontario Player Movement Matrix.

### **ROSTER STATUS**

#### **Decline or Refusing a Roster Spot**

A player who declines a roster spot on an AA or A team, must return to their home club and start the player movement process again. This means if a player tries out for AA at home or another centre; is offered a spot and declines the offer, then their next option is to begin the player movement process (Home-Current-Closest) over again.

#### **Accepting a Roster Spot**

- Athletes who accept a roster spot must treat it as a contract. If the athlete chooses to leave the team, they originally agreed to play on; they cannot play on an AA or A team in any other club.
- Neighbouring clubs will do their best to work together to coordinate tryout dates, but this is not a guarantee. If an athlete is pursuing a higher-level team in another Club, the athlete may ask for an extension on the roster spot offered agreement. The coach or Club member is not required to give the extension.
- If an athlete has accepted to play on a AA or A team but is then offered a spot on a NRL or University team, they may only play NRL or University as an Affiliated Player (AP) player.

## **APPEALS**

Appeals may be filed in accordance with the Ringette Ontario Appeal Policy.