



Centralized “A” Tryouts & Team Formation Policy

As passed by all local associations, centralized “A” tryouts will take place for the 2026-2027 season at the U12A, U14A, U16A & U19A levels.

The aim of the centralized “A” tryouts is to provide consistency of evaluation for all participating players while providing players who are released from their own host association/team the opportunity to be drafted by another team.

1) Centralized “A” Tryout Committee

- a) Tryouts will be hosted by the Centralized “A” Tryout Committee (CATC). A variety of venues within the Local Associations’ (LAs) catchment areas will be used to host tryouts for all participating age groups.
- b) CATC is made up of a minimum of one representative from each association.
- c) Volunteers from each association will be required to help at CAT. A volunteer sign up sheet will be sent out prior to tryouts. Association volunteer requirements will be based on the percentage of players from that association participating in tryouts.
- d) Volunteers must avoid conflicts of interest. No parents will be allowed on the same bench as their child during tryouts.

2) Host Selection

- a) Host teams will be determined prior to CAT and will be communicated to registrants.
- b) This will occur through an amalgamation process involving all participating associations.
- c) The process of amalgamation will follow Ringette Manitoba’s policy, with the nearest associations amalgamating first. Host associations will be determined based on a variety of factors including number and caliber of participating players at each age, coaching staff availability, ice availability, goalie availability and the impact on other players at the local associations.

3) Registration: Players will register with their home association. Associations will gather the following information to be compiled and shared with CATC:

- Name, age loop, contact information
- Home association



- Position (only one position may be selected)
- Participation in draft - yes or no
- If entering draft – list all associations/teams where player is willing to go
- Jersey size

Registrations for Centralized “A” Tryouts are non-refundable.

4) Position:

- a) Players must list one position on the CAT registration. This is the position that they will be assigned for tryouts and that will be referenced on evaluation forms.
- b) Should a member of the relevant coaching staff wish to see a player participate in a tryout session in a different position, that request should be made to the CAT committee for consideration. If approved, it will be communicated to the player in advance of the ice time. The change will also be noted in their evaluation form.
- c) Players may be asked to move position during a tryout if there is a shortage or abundance of players in a specific position on a squad. This will not impact their score and they will not be evaluated in their alternate position. The player will only do a few shifts in the alternate position.

5) Draft:

- a) Any player wishing to participate in the draft must declare their intent at the time of registration.
- b) Blank or maybe responses will be considered a NO.
- c) Players can choose specific associations that they are willing to be drafted to. This must be indicated at the time of registration.

6) Player Withdrawal:

Player withdrawal from CAT either during tryouts or after team formation is strongly discouraged as it has a negative impact on the team and denies another player the opportunity.

Fines will apply, as follows:

- U12 Withdrawal Prior to Second Skate - \$160 Fine
- U12 Withdrawal After Second Skate - \$250 Fine



- U14-U19 Withdrawal Anytime After Registration - \$250 Fine; this includes withdrawal following the draft/team formation
- Fines are payable by September 30 to a player's home association.
- Players on a Ringette Manitoba roster will not be able to play until the fine is paid.

7) Age advancement:

- a) Host association forming a team exclusively from their own players - host local association policy to be followed.
- b) Amalgamated team. NO age advancement allowed unless by prior agreement between the amalgamated LAs at the time of amalgamation.
- c) Age advanced players must be in the top 25% of all players within the amalgamated host associations, to be eligible to make Host/Amalgamated association team. Age-advanced players not in the top 25% may be considered eligible for team placement at the discretion of the amalgamated host associations. Those deemed ineligible will go back to their home association for team placement.
- d) Age advanced players are NOT eligible to enter the draft process

8) Dressing Rooms - CATC operates in accordance with Safe Sport Legislation.

- a) Only players and CAT Committee reps who have completed Criminal Record Checks, Child Abuse Registry and Screening Disclosure are allowed in dressing rooms.
- b) CATC reps will abide by the Rule of Two for any required presence within a dressing room.
- a) No parents/siblings/friends etc. are permitted in the dressing rooms.
- b) Players needing assistance with equipment are to go outside the dressing room for help.
- c) There is zero tolerance for violation of this requirement.

9) Uniforms/Attire - CAT Committee STRONGLY DISCOURAGES any player or goalie from wearing Team Manitoba, AA, or A attire during tryouts.

10) Tryout Attendance

- a) Players must attend all tryout sessions, with the following **VALID REASON** exceptions:
 - a) family emergency
 - b) school sanctioned event
 - c) sickness or injury, accompanied by a doctor's note



d) religious beliefs

Players must present a letter to the CAT Committee, stating the dates they are unable to attend and the reason for their absence. This should be provided as soon as they are aware of their planned absence.

Missed sessions may impact scoring/rank, as follows:

Missed session with valid reason - the average of the player's other sessions will be applied as their score for the missed session.

Missed session without valid reason - the average of the player's other sessions will be applied, minus a 25% penalty to be deducted from their average score. The resulting score will be applied as their score for the missed session.

Where injury/illness results in multiple missed sessions with an injury or illness (accompanied by a doctor's note), scores/ranking/coach feedback from a previous season may be used to aid coaches in their selection.

Where injury/illness results in a player being pulled from tryouts and removed from any consideration for an A team, presentation of a doctor's note may result in a reimbursement of CAT fees.

Consideration of reimbursement is at the discretion of the CATC and any reimbursement approved would be prorated for any sessions that the player participated in.

Where players registered for tryouts miss multiple sessions without a valid reason, a fine equal to that imposed for withdrawal from CAT will be applied. Fines will be required to be paid to the player's host association by September 30 in order for the player to be placed on a roster.

11) Evaluators and Scoring

- a) The CATC will organize and employ all evaluators.
- b) Any conflicts of interest will be declared prior to the start of tryouts. This includes evaluators, coaches, and local association representatives who may have access to scoring/selection information.
- c) Standardized evaluation will be used and a rubric communicated to players prior to tryouts.
- d) Presidents will be provided with a master list of player name, squad, and number for players from their amalgamated host association.



- e) Scores will consist of an average across all skates. Each skate will be worth the same value, with an average calculated from the scores across all skates. The lowest score will NOT be removed from the calculation.
- f) U12-U14 will consist of one skill skate and three scrimmages.
- g) U16-U19 will consist of four scrimmages.
- h) Goalies will participate in one goalie skill session for all divisions as well as scrimmages with their squad. Goalies will be scheduled to participate in player skill sessions. While goalies will not be evaluated during these sessions, they are expected to attend as a member of their squad.
- i) Evaluations scores will be tabulated and kept secure. Head Coaches and Local Association Representatives will be sent scores after each complete session (ie. after all players within the age group have skated once, twice, etc.). Rankings are anonymous and confidential. They may not be copied or shared with parties not directly involved in the team formation process.
- j) Coaches can see evaluator comments in person only. No pictures will be allowed.

12) Rankings

- a) Players:
 - i) Band A will be formed from the top 75% of players trying out
 - ii) Band B will consist of players ranked in the bottom 25%
 - iii) Only players ranked in Band A are eligible for team selection
- b) Goalies:
 - i) Goalies will be evaluated/assessed as being A level potential to play or as B level.
 - ii) The top ranked A goalie within a host/amalgamated group must be taken before a second goalie may be chosen.
- c) Band B
 - i) Band B player requests may be made by a coach/host association. The request must be submitted to the CATC using the "CAT Band B Player Request Form". For this request to be considered, the form must include justification as well as signatures of the Head Coach, Host LA President and Player's Home Association President.
 - ii) Available Band A players must have been selected in order for a Band B player request to be considered. In situations where an amalgamated association has exhausted their available A Band and A Draft picks and requires additional players for their roster, B Band player requests may be considered. (See section 15 for draft/Band B request information.)



- iii) All goalies assessed as A level must be placed on a team before a B level goalie may be selected.

13) Coaches

- a) The hosting association will select the coaches for their hosted A team.
- b) If a coach is selected who has a child participating in tryouts and who is ranked in Band B, their child cannot be selected until all other eligible players in Band A have been picked or released.

14) Team Formation

- a) The organizations involved in team formation are those associations hosting an A team (and their amalgamation partners). The host LA team formation policy will be used. In the event of a conflict between the CAT policy and the LA policy, the CAT policy will take precedence.
- b) The team formation meeting will be held within five days of all age group tryouts being completed. Meeting time/date will be set by those involved and communicated. All LAs with players participating in tryouts are to be represented at the meeting.
- c) Associations will declare their initial protected players (Draft round 1) no later than 24 hours prior to the Team Formation meeting. Host association and amalgamation partners must sign off on the protected player list prior to the draft. Failure to do so will result in that association forfeiting their first round draft pick.
- d) Chair of age group/tryouts will review the list of released players and distribute this to head coaches and local association presidents at least 24 hours prior to the team formation meeting.
- e) Team size for all "A" teams is typically set at 14, with 13 skaters and one goalie. A different roster size may be chosen at the discretion of the host association and their amalgamation partners.

15) Draft Process:

- a) The list of players who have selected YES to draft will be shared with coaches at the start of tryouts.
- b) A player's Host/Amalgamated association is automatically considered as part of a player's draft pickup choice.
- c) Presidents will be provided with the draft list including squad, jersey number and player name for their amalgamated host association prior to the draft.
- d) Round 1 (Protected List): Each association/team hosting will submit a provisional roster of protected players from those eligible to them (i.e. Band A players belonging to the host /



amalgamated LA's). Coaches may submit a smaller roster with the intent of picking up players in round 2. The provisional roster will provide the foundation to begin the draft.

- e) Round 2: Draft pick – if an association did not protect a full roster in round 1, they may complete their roster from those players released/available and willing to play in the host association.
- f) Round 3: B Band pick - where an amalgamated association has exhausted their available A Band and A Draft picks and requires additional players for their roster, B Band player requests may be considered. Host associations are to complete the CAT B Band form and submit it to CATC with justification and signatures of the host association president, any amalgamated association presidents and the player's home association president.
- g) Draft order will start with the association/host team that has the lowest ranked player from Band A on their protected list and proceed in ascending order.
- h) Teams with a smaller protected roster size due to a small number of available Band A players will be allowed to select draft players up to a minimum roster size (to be determined prior to the draft) before other teams can select players.
- i) Following draft, the finalized roster for each team must be approved by host association and amalgamation partners. If associations cannot agree on an approved roster, the final decision will be made by the CAT Committee.
- j) Players not selected to play on an "A" Team will go back to their home association for team placement.

16) All Teams will be announced at the same time, via email, by the CAT committee.

17) Requests for Feedback

- a) Scores and rankings are not to be shared with players/parents after tryouts.
- b) Evaluator comments can be requested by players who were NOT selected for an A team. Requests may be made 48 hours after team formation emails have been distributed. Requests will be accepted for one week. Requests outside this timeframe will not be considered.
- c) Comments will be shared by email within 30 days of the end of tryouts to those who requested. No in-person or virtual meetings will be scheduled to discuss scores or comments with player families.