



Elora Fergus Ringette Association Team Formation Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that EFRA teams are formed in a manner that is:

- Fair, transparent, consistent, and developmentally appropriate;
- Aligned with Ringette Ontario (RO) and Ringette Canada (RC) policies;
- Appropriate to the competitive stream and league in which the team will participate (GLRL or LORL); and
- Supportive of a positive athlete, coach, and family experience.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All EFRA divisions U12 and above;
- All competitive streams (AA, A, B, C);
- All team formation activities, including:
 - Evaluations and tryouts
 - Team selection and balancing
 - Goaltender evaluation and placement
 - Player movement (releases, two-team players, relocation, playing outside age division)
 - Resolution of team-formation-related concerns

FUNdamentals / Children's Ringette programming follows a development-based placement model and is not subject to competitive team selection.

GOVERNING AUTHORITY

This policy operates under the authority of:

1. Ringette Canada policies (Safe Sport, Screening, Discipline & Complaints);
2. Ringette Ontario policies and guidelines; and
3. EFRA bylaws, policies, and board-approved procedures.

Where conflicts arise, the higher governing body prevails.

EFRA GOVERNANCE & ROLES

Board of Directors

The EFRA Board:

- Approves this policy and any material amendments;
- Appoints the **Programming Committee**
- Ensures compliance with RO and RC governance requirements.

The Board does **not** participate in individual player placement decisions.

Programming Committee

The Programming Committee is responsible for:

- Overseeing the team formation process;
- Ensuring alignment with this policy and RO/RC requirements;
- Approving evaluation methodology and timelines;
- Ratifying final team rosters before submission to leagues.

The Programming Committee acts as the Team Selection Committee for the purposes of Ringette Ontario compliance.



The Programming Committee also:

- Selects and approves Head Coaches;
- Ensures coaches meet RO and RC screening and certification requirements;

Evaluation Coordinator

An Evaluation Coordinator:

- Is appointed by the Programming Committee;
- Designs and administers the on-ice evaluation process;
- Recruits and manages evaluators and on-ice instructors;
- Collects and compiles evaluation data;
- Does **not** make final team selection decisions.

Evaluators and On-Ice Instructors

- Evaluators score athletes according to established criteria;
- On-ice instructors run drills and scrimmages but do not score athletes;
- Individuals with a conflict of interest (e.g., evaluating their own child) may not act as evaluators.

COMPETITIVE STREAMS & LEAGUE ALIGNMENT

EFRA teams participate in different leagues depending on competitive level:

- **U14-19 A and AA teams** compete in the **GLRL (Great Lakes Ringette League)**
- **U12 (all), and U14 to U19 B/C teams** compete in the **LORL (Lower Ontario Ringette League)**

Team formation methods reflect the expectations of each league.

Team Formation Principles by League

GLRL Teams

- Teams are formed primarily through **ranked selection** based on try-out/evaluation results;
- Evaluation scores are the primary input, with consideration for:
 - Positional needs
 - Goaltender placement
 - Roster viability
- Selection reflects competitive ranking. Only in such cases that EFRA hosts 2 teams in the same age division, must they be **balanced** against one another.

LORL Teams

- Teams are formed using a **balanced-team model**;
- Athletes are grouped into ability bands based on evaluations and then distributed evenly;
- The goal is parity and development, not ranking.

Goaltenders

- Goaltenders are evaluated separately using position-appropriate criteria;
- Goaltender placement considers:
 - Evaluation results
 - Team balance (for LORL teams)
 - Competitive readiness (for GLRL teams).

PLAYER MOVEMENT

All player movement follows Ringette Ontario policy, including:

- Athlete releases;
- Two-team player agreements;



- Playing outside age division;
- Player relocation.

EFRA will not approve exceptions outside RO policy.

COMMUNICATION & CONFIDENTIALITY

- EFRA will publish evaluation schedules, formats, and timelines in advance;
- Evaluation scores and evaluator notes are confidential;
- Families may request clarification of **process**, not re-evaluation of athletes.

CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

- Process-related concerns are directed to the Programming Committee
- Allegations involving conduct, bias, harassment, or Safe Sport are handled under EFRA, RO, and RC complaint procedures.