

Gloucester and Area Adult Ringette League (GAARA)

Team Eligibility & Registrants Policy

Membership in GAARA is by team with all team players and bench staff considered registrants of the corporation.

In accordance with the GAARA Bylaws, members must register with the Corporation, agree to abide by the Corporations bylaws, policies, procedures, rules, and regulations and meet eligibility requirements as established by the Board.

This Policy lays out the eligibility requirements for teams to be accepted as members into the Corporation.

1.0 Team Eligibility

- 1.1 All teams are required to have a minimum of thirteen (13) players to participate in league play.
- 1.2 All teams must indicate their intention to play in one of the skill divisions offered by GAARA, as outlined in the Operations Procedures - Administration, Section 4, by the pre-registration date. Teams indicating interest after this date will be accepted at the discretion of the BOD.
- 1.3 Teams must complete the online Pre-Registration Form and submit any necessary Player History Forms for player evaluation by the prescribed deadlines. The Board reserves the right to re-assign teams to different skill division if the Team Pre-Registration Form and Player History Forms warrant such action.
- 1.4 All teams must register with RO and obtain a RO Team Registration Form in one of two ways:
 - a) register with RO through GAARA;
 - b) register with RO through another Eastern Region ringette association.
- 1.5 GAARA reserves the right to accept teams registered with Ringette Quebec (RQ) through local ringette associations in Western Quebec.
- 1.6 All teams registering through an association other than GAARA must provide GAARA with an electronic copy of their team roster (players' first and last name, along with bench staff) 5 business days before the start of the first game of the playing season. Their official provincial team registration form (TRF) must be provided by October 1st. Any team which does not receive their TRF by this date must notify the GAARA Registrar and Scheduler as to when it will be submitted. Any changes to their official roster must be provided to both parties promptly.
- 1.7 All player members of the team must meet the player eligibility requirements outlined in section 2.0 below.
- 1.8 The Board reserves the right to limit the number of teams registering in any or all divisions should a lack of available resources warrant such action. The decision as to which teams will be allowed to register will be at the sole discretion of the Board. Grounds for limiting teams from any or all divisions will be considered in the following priority order:

- a) availability of resources (i.e. referees);
- b) ice time availability;
- c) date of registration;
- d) receipt of payment;
- e) history with GAARA; and
- f) number of teams within a particular division or within all divisions.

1.9 Teams will be required to identify during pre-registration if they will be using the GAARA ice pool or providing their own ice for league play.

1.9.1 Teams using the GAARA Ice pool will be required to provide payment on or before the dates set out by GAARA as per the Financial Policy.

1.9.2 Teams providing their own ice:

- a) must provide a list of thirteen (13) home ice times for league play within seven (7) days of the City of Ottawa releasing their ice allocation packages to the Ice Scheduler
- b) must have a minimum of 4 hours of ice in the months of February and March.
- c) must not be during communicated blackout dates (traditionally Thanksgiving, 3rd weekend of November, 2nd weekend of February, during Silverspoon weekend, and Easter)
- b) must obtain Board approval for the ice time before the team will be allowed to play (applies to teams providing ice for the first time or making changes to their “traditional” home ice).
- c) the Board reserves the right to refuse any home ice time that is deemed unusable given the timing that is outside of the regular GAARA season or cannot be scheduled due to unavailability of referees or other intractable league scheduling conflicts.
- d) the Board will return any unusable home ice times to teams before the City of Ottawa deadline for ice cancellations.
- e) any team not able to provide 11 hours of usable ice will be required to purchase the missing hours from the GAARA ice pool.

2.0 Player Eligibility

2.1 In accordance with Ringette Ontario (RO) guidelines, players in the Open division must be 18 years of age and over, with the player's age being determined by December 31st of the current playing season. Underaged players will not be accepted.

2.2 Players can register with RO and GAARA at any time of the year but cannot play in GAARA league games (or playoffs) unless they have registered by January 8th.

2.3 An eligible player is one that:

- a) meets the age requirements;
- b) is not under suspension;
- c) is registered on the RO (or RQ) Team Registration Form of a team playing in GAARA or on the GAARA “Spares” Team Registration Form

NOTE: Players may not be included on more than one RO Team Registration Form in GAARA each season

- 2.4 All players new to GAARA or who have not played in the GAARA league play for the previous three playing seasons must complete a Player History Form which is to be approved by the GAARA Player Evaluation Committee prior to registering in the RAMP system.
 - 2.4.1 New players will be subject to a player evaluation as per the Operations Procedures – League Rules and Regulations, Section 2.0
 - 2.4.2 New players must not exceed the skill level of the division the team (they wish to play for) plays in (see Operational Procedures – League Rules and Regulations, Section 2.6.6).
- 2.5 All players are considered members of the team on whose official provincial Team Registration Form their name appears for purposes of GAARA league play.
- 2.6 The Board reserves the right to reassign any player to a different skill division if the player's skills are deemed inappropriate for the level in which they are registered.