

LRA Player Provincial Assessment Guidelines and Policies

Note: This document is to be utilized in conjunction with the WRRRA Tryout Process.

Introduction

A selection process occurs each year so that players can play on a Provincial team with players of similar age and ability. The selection process includes assessment of players of which these guidelines provide parents, players, assessors/evaluators, and coaches with consistent, transparent information about the process. These guidelines and policies will be followed unless an exception to the guidelines are approved by a vote of the LRA Board. The tryout schedule is posted on the LRA website (www.londonringette.com) as soon as the WRRRA Tryout Process permits.

Purpose:

To clearly establish a protocol to follow, in order to determine acceptable team composition (and resulting in roster size), maximizing the number of home association players of appropriate skill level.

Scope:

This policy will be applicable to all Provincial divisions of the London Ringette Association.

This policy does not apply to situations when the LRA, of its own accord, makes a decision to move players up or down age divisions to balance team rosters. In such cases the LRA Board of Directors may, in its sole and absolute discretion, move players between teams and age divisions as it deems appropriate.

Eligibility

All players need to have submitted an “Intent to Tryout Form” to Western Region website as per WORL Tryout Process prior to attending a tryout. All players attending tryouts must be registered with LRA or registered with another association with a completed player release form at the time of the first tryout session.

- A. Underage and Out of Association players will be allowed to tryout. See Underage and Out of Association Policy below).
- B. A maximum number of Chosen Association players as defined for each age and level of play in the Team Declaration Chart found in the WRRRA governing documents, may be selected from outside of LRA.

Underage and Out of Association Policy

The following must be adhered for intent to tryout outside of current age group:

- Parents must apply in writing to the LRA President for permission to tryout for a provincial team in a higher age division a minimum of 1 week prior to the first tryout.
- Players must tryout at their current age level.
- Players must be assessed/evaluated by a panel of at least 3 non-biased evaluators at all tryouts (both age groups).
- If players are continuing on (ie. Have not been cut) all player evaluations will be reviewed by both coaches, president, and vice president prior to the final trout.

Underage player movement should be considered:

- Player's skills/abilities at their own age level. Should be exceptionally stronger than their peers.
- Individual team needs at both age groups assessed (how will the affected teams be impacted by player movement?).
- Organizational needs – maintaining/building/strengthening A/AA program. (i.e. will current age players, who are capable of playing that level, going to be cut to make room for underage player.
- Player's skills/abilities at the upper age level. Player should be in a position where they will be challenged and provided opportunity to build on skills/abilities (top 50% of roster?).
- For exceptional circumstances the tryout committee and coach will work together to come to a resolution.

Expectations

All players are encouraged to play at the highest level they are comfortable with and capable of playing, however, players (and parents) need to approach the tryouts with realistic goals in mind. As a guideline, a realistic goal would be for a player to move up one skill level in the second year of an age group, and drop one skill level when moving up an age group. Of course, skill development rates are different for each player and player numbers will vary each year and at each level. No spots on a team are guaranteed or pre-selected. Any solicitation for a tryout should be reported to LRA President.

Attendance

Players are expected to attend every assessment session. The Coach must be notified in advance if a player is unable to attend any of the sessions. Any players considering education relocation and want to play for a London team must attend a minimum of one tryout.

Tryout Policy for Injured, Ill or Absent Players

For players that are injured, seriously ill or absent for all or part of the tryout process, the President will handle them on a case by case basis. Players need to contact the Coach and provide a doctor's note outlining their inability to complete the tryout. The outcome will be one of the following:

1. **There is an obvious placement:** The President immediately reserves a spot on the appropriate team based on history. Spot on team will be finalized with on-ice evaluation when player is able to return to play. Factors considered may include: performance in the tryout for the portion attended, input from previous coaches, and stats from previous years.
2. **There is no clear and obvious placement:** The President rules that the player must tryout when healthy/available.

Size of Teams

The number of players selected for any team will vary and will be dependent on the registration numbers at each level. Team composition is outlined in the WRRRA Tryout Policy and may be pre-determined if LRA deems necessary, prior to tryouts.

Assessment Cost

Details of the tryout fees will be included on the tryout registration page on the LRA website.

Assessors/Evaluators

The Coaching Coordinator will provide the Head Coach with a list of qualified assessors/evaluators to choose from. A minimum of three qualified assessors/evaluators and a goalie assessor/evaluator will be identified for each tryout session. Efforts are made to select the same assessors/evaluators for all sessions for consistency.

Qualified assessors/evaluators must be at least 18 years old and possess one of the following qualifications: CSI or CI trained or greater, Level 1 Ringette Referee or greater, player (18 years or older) not of the age category assessing. Assessors/evaluators may only participate if they have no family members on the ice.

Tryout Organization and Assessment Criteria

Tryouts are held in descending order from most competitive level (AA) to least competitive level (following the process dates outlined in the WRRRA Tryout Process). Communication of results of tryouts will be provided through emails.

Players will be evaluated using age and level specific criteria. Players are assessed on individual skills: skating, passing and stabbing and game skills: game sense, positional play and effectiveness in their position. There will usually be 4 tryout sessions with the first 3 guaranteed skates and tryout 4 will be by invitation only. Scrimmages and exhibition games may be incorporated in the tryout process. **Note** after tryout 3, some players deemed to have already made the team might be asked not to participate in tryout 4 so that evaluators can better assess the skills of the remaining players.

Assessment Process

The assessors/evaluators will complete their assessment independently for all players in attendance using the evaluation sheet and rating scale. Completed evaluation sheets will be provided to the Coach. The assessors/evaluators will use the summary and their own notes to rank players and provide comments to the Coach. Coach will meet with assessors/evaluators to gain any further information helpful in selection of players. The head coach completes their own evaluation using the assessment criteria.

Communication with Players

Typically, after 2 tryouts, the first round of cuts are made. However, coaches can make cuts after the first tryouts. This information is usually shared on the first night in a parent meeting.

Releases may be made after tryout 2 depending on number of players trying out. Player families will receive notification by email from the Head Coach. An LRA Roster Spot Not Offered letter will be provided including direction of options available to the player. The Head Coach should be contacted if the parent or player is interested in feedback.

There are usually players who are ‘on the bubble’ - those of whom are difficult to decide who should make the team. Please keep in mind:

- IF your player is ‘on the bubble’ and makes the team, they will have the opportunity to play with some players who are more skilled, and challenged to perform to the same level as the rest of the team.
- IF your player is ‘on the bubble’ and doesn’t make the team, they will have the opportunity to play with players of slightly less skill, but be a leader on the team.

Roster spot offers will be provided by the coach. An LRA Offer to Play Letter will be provided, and a response is required within 48 hours.

Questions

All questions or concerns should be directed to the President, Vice President, or WRRL/GLRL Representative from the LRA.