



## TEAM FORMATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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\*Please note that this is a live document that will be updated with more questions and answers as necessary.

### **Where do I start?**

**Q. This is my first year trying out for A/AA, where do I start?**

First, you need to research the clubs around your area. Second, you will need to complete the Ringette Ontario Player Intent to Tryout Form before the March 16<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Q. Do B/C players need to complete the Intent to Tryout Form?**

B/C players do not need to complete a Player Intent to Tryout Form if they wish to remain at the B/C level. If the player is intending to tryout for A or AA level, a Player Intent to Tryout Form must be completed.

**Q. What happens if the Intent to Tryout deadline is missed?**

If the deadline is missed, the player will not be eligible to tryout at the A or AA level. If extenuating circumstances did not allow for the form to be filled out, the player or family should reach out to the Ringette Ontario Program Manager at [savannah@ringetteontario.com](mailto:savannah@ringetteontario.com) to request an exception. Exceptions must be requested before the first tryout date.

**Q. How do I know where I should tryout?**

Once clubs are allocated their teams for the 2026-27 season, an announcement will be made. Players can then plan to attend tryouts in accordance with the policy for that level. Players must tryout out at their home and/or current association first.

**Q. How do I register for tryouts?**

Once teams are allocated, tryout dates and registration details will be made available on each Club's website. Clubs will organize and host their own tryouts.

**Q. If I change my mind about what level I want to tryout for after submitting the Player Intent to Tryout Form, what do I do?**

As long as a player has submitted an Intent to Tryout Form, they are permitted to attend tryouts at their desired level.

For example, if a player submits an intent form indicating that A is the highest level that they wish to tryout for and then changes their mind after the Intent Form closes, they will still be permitted to register and tryout for AA.

### **Questions from Players/Families**



**Q. How many clubs/teams can a player tryout at?**

| Situation  | A Level  | AA Level  |
|--|--|---|
| If your home club is hosting and your current club is hosting  | Home Club first<br>Current Club second<br>Club of your choice third      | Home Club first<br>Current Club second<br>**Goalies get a Club of their choice 3rd      |
| If your home club is hosting and your current club is NOT hosting (or you don't have a current club) | Home Club First<br>Club of your choice 2nd<br>Club of your choice 3rd    | Home Club First<br>Club of your choice 2nd<br>**Goalies get a Club of their choice 3rd  |
| If your home club is NOT hosting and your current club IS hosting                                    | Current Club First<br>Club of your choice 2nd<br>Club of your choice 3rd | Current Club 1st<br>Club of your choice 2nd<br>**Goalies get a Club of their choice 3rd |

**Q. What happens if a player tries out at more than the allowed number of teams/clubs?**

Tryout attendance will be reported to and tracked by Ringette Ontario. Any player found to be trying out at more than the permitted number of clubs could be removed from all tryouts and deemed ineligible to play at the A and/or AA level for that season.

**Q. My player is underage but wants to tryout for the older age group, can they?**

Yes, the player can attend and pay for tryouts; however, the player should be aware that underage players are not permitted on A or AA teams without being needed for team viability and the team/club being granted approval from Ringette Ontario prior to any roster spot offers being made.

Please note that tryouts in older age divisions will be counted toward the number of clubs/teams that a player can tryout for. For example, a U14 player that wants to tryout for U16A may do so, but it will count as one (1) of the three (3) permitted tryout spots for that player.

**Q. How do I know what my home club is?**

Your home club is the club to which you are eligible to play by residency or have been released to for three (3) consecutive years.

**Q. How do I know if I made the team or not?**

All players will be notified in writing whether or not they are being offered a roster spot.

**Q. What does “home club right of refusal” mean?**

If a player’s home club is hosting a team at the player’s level of play, the home club must be given the first priority to offer the player a roster spot before any other clubs are



considered. If applicable, the player's current club must be their second priority for offering a roster spot.

**Q. What happens if I decline the offer from a team?**

If a player declines a roster spot offer from a team, the player will not be permitted to play at the same level and must return to their home club to start the player movement process over at the next lower level available.

Example: A player declines a roster spot on an AA team; the player is required to return to their home club to start the player movement process again at the A level.

**Q. As a third year U19 player, if I do not know where I want to play at the time of tryouts, what should I do?**

The player should fill out the Player Intent to Tryout Form with all the information stating where they are considering trying out. The player should communicate with the clubs that they are attending tryouts at so that the clubs/coaches are aware of the various options that the player is considering and can work with the player and plan their roster formation accordingly.

**Q. What is a sort-out and how does it work?**

Clubs that are hosting two (2) or more B/C level teams use sort-outs to determine which level(s) the teams should be and to create balanced teams if the multiple teams will be the same level. Eligible players will attend the sort-out and take part in drills while being evaluated by a team of evaluators. After the sort-out, the evaluations will be used to divide the players into a B and a C team or teams at the same level that are balanced.

**Q. Can a B/C player play for a club other than their home club?**

B/C players must play for their home club unless the home club does not offer a team for their age group. In this case, release policies must be followed to allow players to join B/C level teams at other clubs.

**Q. If a player wants to tryout for A if they do not make a AA team, do they need to submit more than one (1) intent form?**

Only one (1) Player Intent to Tryout Form will be accepted per player. Players must select the highest level that they intend to tryout for on their intent form. If a player submits an intent to tryout for AA level and does not make a team, they will then be permitted to tryout for the next available level.

**Q. If a player tries out at one (1) or two (2) choice clubs for AA tryouts and does not make a AA team, does the player have to tryout at the same choice club(s) for A tryouts?**



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A player who gets to choose one (1) or two (2) clubs to tryout at for AA because their home and/or current club is not hosting, does not automatically have to tryout at the same choice club(s) for A tryouts.



## Questions from Clubs

### Q. How do I apply to host a team?

Clubs must complete a Willing to Host Form for each team they wish to host by the March 23<sup>rd</sup> submission deadline.

### Q. How many teams can a club apply to host?

Clubs can request to host as many teams as they would like; while taking into account the program standards outlined in the policy and the number of players they have in each age group and skill level.

### Q. Can a club apply to host both AA and A in the same age group?

Yes, if the club has enough players in the age group and skill level to host two teams, this is possible.

### Q. We have worked with a neighbouring club and agreed to host a team together. How do we apply?

The Willing to Host Forms should be submitted by the President of the host club. The President of the neighbouring club must be copied on the email submission.

### Q. What does a club need to do to get ready to host tryouts?

All clubs should become familiar with the Team Formation Policy and Procedure documents. Applications to host teams must be submitted by the deadline, and ice time should be secured.

### Q. Who will pay for the tryout process and ice time required?

Tryouts will be organized by the hosting club. Players will register and pay for tryouts with each club that they plan to tryout at.

### Q. Who is responsible for organizing tryouts?

Tryouts will be organized by the hosting club including coach selection, running tryouts, and organizing the evaluation committee. The Team Formation Policy and Procedures will assist clubs in setting up the appropriate processes and systems to run tryouts.

### Q. When can a club request coach applications?

There is no defined date for when clubs can open coach applications. If the club wishes to open coach applications before teams are allocated, the posting description should include verbiage stating what levels the coaches are applying for "if the club is allocated the team".



**Q. Why does the club need to submit attendance from tryouts?**

Attendance tracking must be reported to Ringette Ontario within 24 hours of the completion of each tryout to ensure that player movement policies are being followed.

**Q. To have a viable team, we will need to have one (1) underage player. What do we need to do to have this approved?**

Complete the request for underage players form on the Ringette Ontario website with the business case and reasons that an underage player is needed. Expect that additional questions will come from Ringette Ontario to validate, and a decision will be made by Ringette Ontario. Any requests to offer a roster spot to an underage player must be submitted and approved prior to the roster spot offer being sent.

**Q. When can the team roster be officially announced?**

All rosters must be approved by Ringette Ontario before they are officially announced or posted on social media/websites.

**Q. If a player's home and current clubs are not hosting tryouts for their level of play, does another club get the first right of refusal for that player?**

A player whose home and current clubs are not hosting tryouts for their level of play can choose up to two (2) AA clubs and/or three (3) A clubs to tryout at. Since the player is not home or current to either/any of the clubs that they are trying out at, there is no first right of refusal, and the player can receive and accept an offer from either/any of the clubs.