

“A” Level FAQ

What is “A” Ringette?

“A” Ringette involves tryouts from U12-U19. It is fast, competitive and requires more commitment than club ringette. The purpose is to have like-minded and like-skilled players together, which allows them to grow and evolve in a more challenging environment.

What is the financial commitment?

The financial commitment will vary amongst the A teams and the age level. There are some basic costs such as provincial fees, extra practice ice, dryland training and mandatory team wear for both players and coaches that are standard, but other costs are team decisions. At the U12 level – the financial commitment is likely between \$800 and \$1800 (which is in addition to association registration costs). Registration costs for A-level teams will be higher, as the league is moving to a 20 game regular season format for the High Performance division

Additional variable costs that contribute to the financial commitment:

- The number of tournaments, both home and away, that a team decides to participate in.
- The types of away tournaments they may attend (driving vs. flying). (Families may choose to use Airmiles or points to decrease the expense when flying.)
- Flying trips do not occur at the younger age level (might happen only in U16 and U19 levels)
- The additional type of training that a team may want to add to their own program (power skating, etc.).
- Additional team bonding functions or optional team apparel.
- Number of players on the team which will split all shared costs.
- Coaching costs (e.g. Team Jacket, accommodations, travel) are covered by the team.
- Each team has the option to help offset the costs by doing team fundraising.
- Team will participate in 3-5 tournaments, one being out of town.

What is the time commitment?

Like the financial commitment, this could vary from team to team and between age levels. A good guideline is as follows:

- 2 to 3 weekly ringette sessions (ice and dryland) of 60 to 90 minutes each
- 20 games league games, plus exhibition and meet-in-the-middle games
- Practice and League game days will vary depending upon ice availability
- Practice and dryland schedules are provided as soon as they are available, to try and avoid conflicts with other commitments
- Poor attendance commitment may lead to decreased playing time

“A” Ringette Timelines:

- August – Preconditioning Camps are available please look for them and take advantage of them prior to tryouts.
- September – Tryouts, teams are announced, first team meeting
- October – Preseason training and tournament
- February – Provincials for U16A and U19A; WRL playoffs start for U14 and younger
- March/April – WRL Playoffs, Provincials for U12A and U14A, Western Canadian Ringette Championships (U16A and U19A). Westerns is a four-day competition plus two travel days.

Who organizes the tryouts?

- Tryouts are organized by a centralized “A” Tryout committee, which operates in conjunction with the High-Performance program of Ringette Manitoba. This Committee is not a part of an individual ringette association, it is an independent group whose purpose is to facilitate and oversee the tryout process for all A level teams in the ringette league.
- Tryouts occur in early September, and take place in rinks throughout Winnipeg.
- Tryout skates are a mix of skill-based skates and game-play.
- Neutral and independent ringette assessors will conduct evaluations during each skate. While the skate occurs with players from other associations, Macdonald Ringette receives the assessments for their own skaters only (and assessments for any skaters who belong to an association who is amalgamating with Macdonald to make a team).

**What if our association does not have enough players that want to try out for A?
Or what if we do not have the appropriate skill level to host an A team?**

- Evaluations are conducted to ensure the association has enough ranked A players at each age level. In the event our association does not have enough players, they will work with other associations and amalgamate to make a team. Amalgamation meetings take place in early August. Depending on the number of players MRA may or may not host the team. You will be notified after amalgamations the decision made and where the tryouts will be hosted.

When is the A Tryout registration?

- You must first register with Macdonald Ringette Association in June. During that process, you will have the option to choose to participate in A Tryouts. There is an additional fee to register for A-level tryouts. In early August, MRA submits the names of all MRA players that have registered to tryout at the A-level. In late August, communication will be sent by the association and the centralized tryout committee about the tryout dates and squad formations for the tryout skates.

Are there camps available to players wishing to try-out for A?

- Many associations will host a pre-tryout conditioning camp prior to the tryouts to give all returning, as well as any newcomers, the chance to get in condition. Please check your email or the MRA website for dates/times. If you cannot make the MRA camps please do not hesitate to take advantage of other Association's camps. It is important to be conditioned before tryouts.

Do I get to see my participant's evaluation scores?

- At present, the centralized tryout committee does not allow this. If you would like feedback regarding your participant's tryout, please request this in writing the Macdonald Ringette Association, and a representative can make inquiries on your behalf.

Can a player tryout for a position or are they all evaluated as one group and then assigned positions when they are placed on a team?

- A player is encouraged to put their position preference on the registration form. Coaches have the discretion to have a player tryout at a different position than indicated. In the end, the coaches will have final say in what position they feel the player would be best suited.

How are players chosen for a team?

- Rules for team formation are governed by the Centralized A Tryout Policy.
- All players trying out at each age level are ranked according to their assessment scores. Players ranking in the top 75% are placed in “Band A” – those players are eligible to be placed on A-level teams. Players ranked in “Band B” are not eligible to be placed on A-Level teams.
- The local associations that are hosting teams are given a list of eligible Band A players that are available for team selection. This list includes players from that association and players from any associations that have amalgamated to form the team.
- Coaches from each team choose their rosters, subject to review by the amalgamated associations.

How are the coaches selected for each team?

- Coaches for A-level teams are chosen at the association level. All coaches wishing to coach at the A level must complete the MRA coaching application once the call for coaches has been made. Coaches applying must have required certifications or a plan to certify by the required timeframe. The local association then conducts individual coaching interviews to select the coach.

How do I get more information on A-level Ringette?

- Another source is to contact the Player Development Rep or your Local Town Convenor and information is located on our Website in our policies and procedures manual.