

Frequently Asked Questions about “A” level ringette:

Question: 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.

Question: 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).

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.

Question: 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
- 16 games league games (normal WRL league)
- 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 U14A, Western Canadian Ringette Championships (WCRC's)

- (U16 and U19) for eligible teams. Westerns is a three-day competition plus two travel days.

Question: 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.

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).

Question: What if our association does not have enough players that want to try out for A? Or what if we do not have the 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. 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.

Question: 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. From this information, the association will determine the need and appropriateness of amalgamations.

Communication will be sent by the association and the centralized tryout committee about the tryouts.

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

Most 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.

Question: Do I get to see my daughter's evaluation?

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

Question: Can a girl 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 her 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.

Question: How are the coaches selected for each team?

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.

Question: How do I get more information on A 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.