



Policy and Procedures Manual

4.0 Tryouts and Evaluations

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 Purpose

This Guideline is to assist players, parents and members of the Macdonald Ringette Association (MRA) in outlining the processes for the Tryout, Evaluation and Seeding Skate.

4.1.2 Overview of Processes

The evaluation process provides two primary functions.

1. Provides a method of ranking players to create the framework from which to assemble competitive teams within our association.
2. Allows for a determination as to whether sufficient player count and skill level exists within the MRA to host 'A' teams at specific divisions.

Evaluations allow the tryout committee an opportunity to assess the player skill level present within the association allowing for better seeding within the Winnipeg Ringette League (WRL) in the first half of the season.

Tryouts are a method of determining which players will make up the Macdonald 'A' level team at a specific division.

4.2 Initiation

4.2.1 Tryout and Evaluation Committee

The tryout and evaluation process starts shortly after the Annual General Meeting.

After the AGM a Tryout and Evaluation Committee is formed for the next season. The committee consists of a committee chair, the registrar, the coach development portfolio and the player development portfolio. Special care is taken to avoid any conflict of interest as part of the Committee.

All of the Board members are expected to assist during tryouts and evaluations. The Board and committee will avoid conflict of interest at all levels.

4.2.2 Timing

The Evaluation must occur after local association registration, but prior to tryouts and the annual WRL Amalgamation meeting.



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4.2.3 Ice Booking

It is the responsibility of the Tryout and Evaluation Committee Chair or delegate to ensure sufficient ice has been booked to host the tryout and evaluation.

4.2.4 Evaluators

It is the responsibility of the Tryout and Evaluation Committee Chair or delegate to recruit evaluators for the tryouts and evaluations. Evaluators are typically, but not required to be, players from current and past NRL or AA U19 teams. MRA reserves the right to use evaluators from within their association for evaluations and tryouts if needed. The committee will do everything it is power to avoid conflict of interest and ensure certified evaluators are used.

MRA reserves the right to reimburse the evaluators and officials for their time and expenses in accordance with their policies and procedures.

4.2.5 Officials

It is the responsibility of the Tryout and Evaluation Committee Chair or delegate to ensure referees, timekeepers and shot clock operators have been hired, if needed, for tryouts.

4.3 Evaluations

4.3.1 Review of Evaluation Process

After the formation of the Tryout and Evaluation Committee, the chair of the committee will consult with each of the committee members to review and approve the evaluation process. It is the chair's responsibility to ensure that the process used is consistent with the current MRA, WRL and Ringette Manitoba (RM) guidelines.

The committee members are not responsible for evaluating the players. The duties of the committee are to understand the evaluation process and to assist with the coordination of the necessary volunteers, collect/enter data, move players based on the findings of the evaluators and to hear parent concerns during the process. The chair ensures the process is clearly laid out and followed by the committee and reviews the results to ensure they are in alignment with guidelines.

The chair is responsible for reviewing specific cases upon written appeal and to collect suggestions and provide recommendations for improvement in future years.

4.3.2 Team Formation

The formation of teams within its boundaries falls under the authority of the MRA. It is anticipated that the data collected through the evaluation process and the recommendations from the committee will be adopted by the board.



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4.3.3 Completion of Evaluation

The evaluation process typically consists of a single on ice session. The location for evaluations is dependent on ice availability and ice rental cost. Players will be notified by a committee member as to the time and place for evaluations.

4.3.4 Seeding

Once the evaluation process is completed and the teams are formed, but prior to the WRL Seeding meeting, the committee will submit to the board a seeding recommendation for each team.

4.3.5 Seeding Appeal

The WRL is ultimately responsible for the seeding of teams within their league.

In accordance with the WRL Policies, teams are entitled to appeal their seeding prior to the Seeding Appeal meeting. Coaches wishing to appeal are required to do so in writing, stating their grounds for appeal to the MRA board.

The board will in turn determine if said appeal should be forwarded for consideration of the WRL.

4.3.6 Costs

The Evaluation is provided by the MRA at no cost to players. All U10 to U16 players are strongly encouraged to participate.

At the discretion of the board, evaluations may also occur at U19.

4.3.7 Evaluations

Evaluations are a tool used by the MRA to determine whether sufficient player skill exists at a particular level for there to be an 'A' team in the MRA region. Evaluations are mandatory for any player wishing to try out for an 'A' level team, unless prior written approval has been granted by the Committee.

Eight (8) or more 'A' level players must have been evaluated and be willing to play within a specific division in order for there to be an 'A' team tryout at that level. Under special circumstances the Committee may determine that an 'A' team tryout will be hosted without the eight (8) player minimum.

Evaluations may also be used to determine players for age advancement when necessary. The Committee will make the recommendations to the board.



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4.3.8 Evaluation Results

As the evaluation processes are general in nature, individual results are not made available and are confidential.

4.4 Tryouts

4.4.1 Conveners

The board will assume the role of conveners during the Tryout process, where the Representative(s) will be responsible for a particular age level. It is the Committee Chair or a delegate that makes the assignments of tryout conveners. Care is taken to avoid any and all conflicts of interest.

4.4.2 Roles

As the committee members shall not be responsible for evaluating players trying out for placement on the MRA 'A' teams. The duties of the committee are to understand the tryout process and to assist with the coordination of the necessary volunteers, collect/enter data, select players based on the findings of the evaluators, to notify all participating players and to receive parent concerns during the process.

The chair ensures the process is clearly laid out and followed by the committee, reviews the results to ensure they are in alignment with guidelines, reviews specific cases upon written appeal, collects suggestions and provides recommendations for improvement in future years.

4.4.3 Tryout Process

The tryout process typically consists of three on ice sessions following the Evaluation. The tryouts will be comprised of two (2) skills sessions and one (1) game session, with the exception of U16 and higher in which the tryouts will consist of three (3) game sessions.

The location is dependent on ice availability and ice rental cost. Players will be notified by the Committee as to the time and place for Tryouts.

4.4.4 Timing

The Tryouts must not start before the WRL Amalgamation meeting and must be completed prior to the WRL Seeding Meeting.

4.4.5 Team Size

Team size for all 'A' teams is typically set at fourteen (14) with thirteen (13) skaters and one (1) goalie. A larger team roster may be chosen at the discretion of the Committee and approved by the Board.



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In the case in which a team is composed of multiple associations through amalgamations, the team hosted in MRA must consist of 50% +1 players from MRA, or a minimum of eight (8) players from within the MRA region (e.g. a team of 15 would need 9 MRA players).

4.4.6 Grading System

Players and goalies will be evaluated on their skills and overall game sense during tryouts. The skills will be assessed based on the specific age level.

4.4.7 Interaction with Evaluators

Players, parents, coaches, or others are not permitted to be present within the section of the rink reserved for evaluators, nor should they approach or otherwise communicate with the evaluators during the tryout process.

4.4.8 Dress

To avoid possible influence of the evaluators, players participating in the tryouts are not permitted to wear any team identifying equipment or clothing, such as team pants or jerseys on the ice during tryouts.

4.4.9 Age Advancement

Underage players may try out for 'A' teams.

Selection of an underage player to an 'A' roster is only permitted under the following circumstances: (Both conditions must apply.)

1. No 'A' team within their respective age category exists within the MRA, or in the case where an 'A' team does exist, but has in excess of the number of players required to form the team.
2. The player evaluates in the top 25% of players trying out at the respective level.

4.4.10 Fees

In order to cover the cost of ice rental and evaluators a nominal tryout fee will be charged to each player electing to participate within the tryout process.

The MRA Board will define the tryout fee value and reserve the right to change the tryout fee up to the date of the tryouts.

4.4.11 Injured or Absent Players

Players unable to attend any or all of the evaluation or tryout skates due to injury, but who wish to be considered, must provide a doctor's note to the committee chair before the commencement of the affected session(s).



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1. In the case where one or two tryout sessions are missed due to injury or illness, the evaluation at the end of the attended session(s) will be used.
2. In the case where all tryout sessions are missed due to injury, the committee may in its discretion use the prior year's information in ranking the player.

4.4.12 Team Formation

All players who participate in the tryout process at a particular level are ranked based on their accumulative scores through the tryout process. A minimum of two (2) Board members including the committee chair has the responsibility to select 75% of the team (including one goalie) based on those results. The head coach then selects the remaining 25% of the team from the remaining tryout participants. Any member of the committee, including committee chair, that may be affiliated with a player of a team cannot participate in its formation (i.e. a member whose child is trying out for U14 cannot participate in the formation of the U14 team).

4.4.13 Notice

All players participating in the tryout process will be notified by email within 48 hours of the completion of the final Tryout session.

Players who are successful, but wish to decline play at the 'A' level are required to do so within 24 hours of receiving the notice.

4.4.14 Appeal

Process Appeals of player placement must be made in writing to the Committee chair within 48 hours after the team selection and notification process has taken place.

The grounds for appeal must be clearly stated. Appeals are reviewed by the Committee Members.

Decisions rendered by the Committee members are final.

4.4.15 Tryout Results

Due to the sensitive nature of the information, the results / player ranking associated with the tryout evaluations are the property of MRA and will remain confidential.

4.5 Evaluation & Tryout Closure

4.5.1 Storage of Records

Once tryout and evaluation processes are complete the committee chair must provide to the secretary of the MRA all records associated with the tryout and evaluation process so that they can be stored in confidence for a period of 24 months.



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4.5.2 Adherence to the Code of Conduct

The tryout and evaluation processes can be a stressful part of the season. Therefore, strict adherence to the “code of conduct” must be maintained all times.

4.5.3 Over-Rulings

At any point in time the MRA board, at their discretion, may overrule any policy in the tryout and evaluation guideline. Any policy overruling by the MRA board must be determined through a majority vote of the board as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws.

4.5.4 Suggestions or Comments

The evaluation and tryout process is an honest effort utilizing volunteers and/or paid, independent third party evaluators who commit many personal hours to ensuring a fair and consistent process for all players.

No process is perfect, and the MRA will look at continuously improving the process for the ultimate enjoyment of the game for all players at all skill levels. Should anyone have a suggestion that may improve the process in future years, these suggestions should be forwarded it in writing to the committee and the Board.

All suggestions and comments are reviewed by the MRA each year and where applicable will be implemented. Positive involvement in this process is a fundamental part to ensuring its success!