

## ***TEAM FORMATION POLICY***

The Executive, in consultation with the registrar, will determine potential teams for each age group.

When there are enough players that have indicated their intention (Intent to Play the Following Year form or verbally) to register in any age division, the following criteria will be taken into consideration:



1. The MRRA will take into consideration any rules, regulations or guidelines regarding team division requirements established by the ORA or other higher governing body, specific to the age division affected by this policy.
2. All players must attend season-end evaluations for their proper age division for U12 and below.
3. The maximum number of players on any team will be 17.
4. All players wanting to play Provincial Level (A or AA) at U14, U16 or U19 divisions; must register for tryouts through our website.
5. There must be at least 7 skaters plus 1 goalie evaluated at Provincial A or AA calibre attending try-outs in order for the MRRA to approve formation of the team. By the ORA established due date, the team must be defined as viable by ORA guidelines.
6. Players will be evaluated per the Player Selection Policy.

## ***PLAYER SELECTION POLICY***

The Player Selection Policy has been put in place to be able to rate all players of the applicable age division fairly and to limit bias. These ratings will be utilized to form teams based on the caliber structure of those teams as determined by the Team Formation Policy.

When there are enough players registered in any age division to facilitate the forming of more than one team in that age division, the following player evaluation process will be implemented in order to rate each player's skills and abilities.

All players will be evaluated using a pre-determined marking scheme by a group of independent evaluators with possible addition of ALL coaching applicants. Final team selection will be via deliberations in the presence of all evaluators, and moderated by an MRRA Executive member who did not evaluate the tryout.

1. There may be no less than 3 independent evaluators and not less than 4 evaluators in total; these may include ALL head coach applicants if required for numbers. All evaluation records will be kept for reference and submitted to the Coaching Development Coordinator.

## 2. Evaluator Criteria:

a. Independent evaluators: Must be qualified to coach or have experience coaching the calibre being evaluated. Independent evaluators may know some of the girls trying out, but must not have a child trying out for the team.

b. Coaching Applicants: Must have formally submitted a coaching application to coach this team. Coaching applicants must not evaluate their own children. Coaches' children must be evaluated by other evaluators and in the case of 2 or more coaches applying to coach the team; MRRRA might run tryouts before coaches are selected and announced.

c. Executive Moderators: Member of the Executive who is responsible for ensuring fair execution of the process and keeping the discussion on track. Executive member must not have a child playing at the age group being discussed.

## 4. Non MRRRA Athletes attending tryouts:

All players outside of MRRRA must submit a signed "Part I – Player Tryout" form at the first try-out. Non MRRRA players must be deemed a significant enhancement to the roster in order to be offered a position at the time (i.e. Non MRRRA athlete ranking on the bottom half of the team may not be offered a position displacing an MRRRA athlete).

All offers to play for out of town are conditional. It is the responsibility of the out of town player to obtain releases from all pertinent parties in compliance with ORA guidelines.

Players for which Markham is their "*current association*" are NOT considered non MRRRA athletes and do not have to rank top half to be offered a position; however, the signed "Part I – Player Tryout" form must be submitted at the tryout.

## 5. Underage/Overage Players – All players in MRRRA play at their birth age level.

MRRRA does not support playing out of age anywhere when teams are available. Only in extenuating circumstances, the MRRRA will permit underage / overage player(s) with prior written consent from the Executive.

## 6. Players Unable to Attend Try-Outs:

Players who do not attend try-outs will not be added to team rosters after the teams have been selected. Exceptions can be made with prior consent from the Coaching Development Chair and / or President for extenuating circumstances such as injury, pre-planned travel, or emergency. Written proof and document verification will be required.

## ***TRYOUT STRUCTURE***

### First Try-Out:

- All Provincial players **MUST** attend.
- Format includes basic skating drills to identify speed, power, agility and basic ring drills to identify shooters and passing ability.
- Evaluations given at the end of the tryout to the Executive Moderator to tally the numbers and rank the players.

### Second Try-Out:

- All provincial players **MUST** attend.
- Focus will be on ring skills, aggressiveness and game sense. Format includes a scrimmage.
- All players are to be contacted by e-mail, phone call or through the MRRRA website with an invite to the third tryout or an invite to report to their home association's Regional B Team.
- Players invited to the third tryout will be determined by all evaluators involved, the head coach and moderated by an MRRRA Executive member through a discussion after the second tryout.
- Coaches are to give feedback and discuss further options with the players not invited to the third tryout.

### Third Try-out (by invite only)

- All provincial players invited **MUST** attend.
- Final team selection is to be made by all evaluators involved, the head coach and moderated by an MRRRA Executive member through a discussion after the third tryout.
- All players are to be contacted by e-mail or phone call with offers or declines.
- Coaches are to discuss further options with players that have been declined.

**REGIONAL TEAMS:** Based on every player has a place to play.

Sport Canada's Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) and ORA dictates the team formation policies up to U12.

For Regional Teams above U12:

- Regional teams will be formed based on the year of birth that applies to each Division (age) and with a balanced skills approach.
- The MRRA Executive may decide to hold regional sort-outs when the numbers allow for more than one regional team at certain age division.
- In years where there are less than 11 players or more than 16 in any age division, there will be movement between neighbouring age divisions.
  - Players can be moved down, to a maximum of 3 players.
  - Players can be moved up, based on skills, fit with age, goalie need and impact to releasing age team.

## **TEAM FORMATION POLICY BY-LAWS:**

### ***JOINT AND COMBINED TEAMS WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS***

MRRA recognizes that there are years and divisions when there is a need to work together with neighbouring associations to ice as many teams as possible and to offer all our membership a team to play on where they will be challenged and will develop their skills.

MRRA will work together with other associations to ice a team at the Provincial-A level when there are not enough players in a certain age division to ice a competitive Provincial-A team. The aim of the two associations working together is to ice the best team possible with the best Bench Staff possible and the best players attending tryouts, regardless of home association.

Previous to tryouts, the Presidents from MRRA and other associations will decide if there is the need to work together to ice Provincial-A teams and will bring the information back to the Executive Board to get voted on and plan tryouts as needed.

a) A Combined Team will be iced when Association A has enough players to ice a team on its own; however the players are not all at the A-level so requires 4 to 5 of players from Association B to ice a stronger and more competitive Provincial A team. This team will be iced out of Association A. The tryout process for this team is outlined under Markham's Player Selection Policy.

Example: 2013-2014 U16A Newmarket and 2014-2015 U16A Markham

b) A Joint Team will be iced when both MRRA and another association don't have enough players to ice a Provincial-A team on its own. This team will be iced out of Association A with a mixed group of players from both associations, combined Bench Staff and shared practices and games between the two associations. The tryout process for this team is outlined under Markham's Player Selection Policy.

Example: 2013-2014 U19A Markham and 2014-2015 U19A Newmarket