

GREATER SUDBURY RINGETTE ASSOCIATION

COMPETITIVE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

(Updated February 2023)

This document outlines the guidelines for all competitive level teams (A or above) hosted by the Greater Sudbury Ringette Association.

GSRA's A level program offers an opportunity for talented players to develop their ringette skills at a competitive level. It introduces players to a faster pace of game play and challenges them to learn more complex game strategies. Teams will have the opportunity to test their skills against other A level teams through exhibition games played within the Northeast region and tournaments throughout the season.

Tryout Eligibility

For insurance purposes, players are required to be registered with Ringette Ontario to tryout. Players who are not registered with GSRA may tryout but must be prepared to confirm their registration in their home association. Players who are not registered with GSRA will require a release from their home association should they be offered a position on a team.

Team Formation

Coach Selection

For full details refer to GSRA Coach Recruitment and Selection Policy

For the purposes of Competitive (A/AA) Level teams, the Head Coach will be selected prior to evaluations of the specified age group. If a head coach is unable to be selected prior to the tryouts, then the responsibilities fall to the coaching director and player development coordinator.

The remainder of the bench staff will be confirmed after the team has been selected. The Head Coach will be allowed to propose their own bench staff and their preferences will be respected unless there are compelling reasons to decline their selection. The bench staff must be approved by the GSRA coach selection committee and executive if necessary.

Coaches must have the appropriate level of qualifications prior to the RO deadline. Fees associated with attaining coaching qualifications can be requested to be reimbursed by the coach's home association if applicable.

Selection of Players

For full details refer to GSRA Team Formation Policy Competitive (A/AA) Level

It is recommended that coaches select a skilled full bench (2 goalies, 9 forwards and 6 defense). However, coaches may choose to shorten the bench to maintain the caliber of the team.

Players must tryout in their age-appropriate division. However, they may also tryout in a higher age division if there is a risk that no team will run at their age group. In this situation, players would have to tryout in both age groups in order to be eligible to be considered at the higher age division. Players wishing to tryout at both levels must have approval from GSRA prior to attending the tryout.

In accordance with RO policy, Two-team agreements (where players play on both a competitive (A/AA) level team and a B/C team) should be avoided whenever teams are viable without them. The priority for Two-team players will be to their A team where conflicts arise.

Tryout Information

Tryouts will take place beginning in the spring for A teams at the U14, U16 and U19 level.

U12 A Tryouts will take place early fall in accordance with RO policy.

All interested players must pre-register for the tryout and pay the tryout fee in order to attend. Exceptions to this rule may be considered based on individual circumstances at the discretion of the Executive.

The cost of all tryout ice will be covered by all tryout fees collected. Any shortfalls will be the responsibility of GSRA. Any excess tryout fees collected will be divided between all A level teams that have been declared or may be held in an account for the following year tryout ice.

GSRA Out of Association Player Policy- Competitive teams

This Out-of-Association Player policy applies to tryouts and team formation for all AA and A teams hosted by the Greater Sudbury Ringette Association.

An "Out of Association" player is any player who, per Ringette Ontario rules, requires a Release from another association to be eligible to register with and play for Greater Sudbury Ringette Association.

All players outside of the Greater Sudbury Ringette Association will be required a temporary 1-year release to play on a GSRA A or AA team, if selected.

The out of association player may request permission to tryout and subsequently be released from their home association for the following reasons:

1. Level of play not available
2. Age group not available
3. Other

Process for out of association players to tryout for an A or AA team:

1. The player must initially be a registered player and complete part 1 of the player tryout/release form. Can be found here: [PLAYER TRYOUT NOTIFICATION FORM](#) [PLAYER RELEASE FORM](#)
2. The player must obtain the signature of the President of the Home association on the player/release form before being allowed to participate in another association's tryouts. The home association may NOT deny any request for tryout, however signing the tryout portion (part 1) of the form does not mandate the home association to sign the release portion (part II) of the form.
3. No players may be allowed to tryout on ice of an association other than their local association without submitting a "tryout/release" form.

If a player has been released to an A or AA team, for reason "Level of Play", that team will be committed to remain at the A or AA level for the remainder of the season and the team cannot retreat to any lower level of play.

A Player Release granted on "Level of Play" will only be released to the closest association offering that level of play. This association is considered the player's "Current Association" and has first right to receive the players if released by the player's "Home Association". Closest association shall be governed by the player's Home Region Policy.

All out of association players who are offered a spot on the Greater Sudbury Ringette Association A or AA teams must complete this Ringette Ontario Player Release form

<https://ringetteontario.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/RO-Player-Release-Form-Update.pdf>

This form must be signed in the following order of priority:

The Player Tryout/Release Form is to be signed in the following order of priority:

1. Parent/Player
2. Releasing Association
3. Releasing Region (if different than Receiving Region)
4. Receiving Region

For the Ringette Ontario Player Tryout/Release Policy visit:

https://ringetteontario.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/PLAYER-TRYOUT_RELEASE.pdf

Team Formation- Out of Association Players:

“Out of Association” players may try out for any Greater Sudbury Ringette competitive team provided that they are properly registered with their home association. The decision to take out- of-association players is the discretion of the coach and the availability of the athlete for events such as practices, dryland and exhibition games.

Approval

This policy was approved by the Greater Sudbury Executive on February 22, 2023

General Team Expectations

Uniforms

All Greater Sudbury Ringette Association A level teams will wear GSRA North Stars jerseys which will be provided by the association. Pants will be black or teams may purchase matching pants as approved by GSRA. Each coach may enforce over and above this policy for their team such as black helmets, mandatory GSR copperall ringette pants etc..

Each team can select appropriate team attire for their team. It is recommended that teams have a uniform when attending games to showcase the team. Matching team hoodies bearing the GSRA North Stars logo, t-shirts, jackets, pants/leggings are strongly recommended for team cohesiveness.

Sponsorship logos are discouraged on team apparel. Sponsors should be offered acknowledgement on a team banner to be displayed at all team events. They may also be acknowledged on the GSRA website and social media platforms.

As per the GSRA jersey policy, jerseys may not be altered in any way. Sponsorship bars or name banners may not be applied to the jerseys as it leads

to additional wear and tear and shortens the lifespan of the jerseys. Teams may choose to purchase the Home (dark) jersey and affix a name banner but the team must arrange to replace the full set prior to season end.

Any changes to the GRSA North Stars logo are strictly prohibited as per GRSA policy.

Tournament Selection

U14-U19 teams must select and submit their tournaments prior to the RO deadline (usually in the summer). U12 teams select their tournaments later in the fall.

The GRSA Player Development Coordinator (PDC) will work together with all GRSA Competitive level teams to help select their tournaments. Where possible, they will endeavor to attend the same tournaments to reduce the burden on our GRSA families with multiple players in different age groups. However, this cannot be guaranteed.

It is encouraged that U14, U16 and U19 teams attend 4 tournaments plus provincials (2 before Christmas and 2 after).

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It is recommended that the U12A attend a minimum of 3 tournaments plus Regionals. If NER is unable to host a Regional division for U12A, they may request to participate at another region's Regional tournament.

Ice Times/ Practice

- All ice times and practices shall be organized by the specific team and approved by the PDC. PDC will work with all involved associations to avoid pre-existing ringette schedules, if applicable.
- Ice must be purchased through the city or arena they are dealing with or an agreement can be made to purchase ice from any association. • It is recommended that provincial teams have at least 1-3 hours of ice per week.
- In the case of Two-Team Players, Competitive teams must make every effort to work with the house league schedules. Where conflicts arise, the player's priority is to the Competitive (A/AA) team.

Exhibition Games

Teams may choose to organize exhibition games against neighboring associations. Typically ice costs would be split between both teams. Refs and shot clocks may be borrowed from associations with sufficient notice given.

Equipment

Each team is responsible to purchase any additional equipment they deem necessary. These costs should be accounted for in the team budget run by a team manager. Rings will be provided by GSRA.

Dryland

Dryland activities offer opportunities to focus on player conditioning and game strategy as well as team bonding. Competitive level teams are expected to participate in off-ice training. The choice of activity and location is at the discretion of the team. Any costs for dryland activities should be built into the team budget.

It is recommended that dryland sessions are run a minimum of twice per month as long as the schedule allows.

Summer dryland activities are only permitted at U14 and above.

Team management

Each team manager and/or head coach is responsible for ensuring that all information is delivered to the PDC in a timely manner. Below is a list of items that are required to be provided to the PDC:

- TRF information: List of players and bench staff (bench staff must be approved by GSRA)
- List of tournaments
- 2 team agreements and releases (If applicable)
- Any substitutions throughout the season
- Any suspensions
- All injuries
- All ice schedules to be provided in advance to the PDC and directly to house league ice schedulers

Team Fees/ Budget

All Competitive level team fees should be reasonable. A sample budget is provided in Appendix C. An initial budget plan must be provided to the players and PDC at the beginning of the season. Monthly/quarterly budget reports should be provided to all team members and also provided to the PDC. Managers from each team should open a separate bank account for the season. At the end of the season there shall be no carry over. It must be decided to reimburse players or use the fees for a year end party.

Each team is responsible to pay the RO team registration fee along with any other bench staff fees. The only exception is if the coach is also coaching in house league. The bench staff fee must only be paid once by their home association.

Meal Plans and Itineraries

Each team is encouraged to follow an itinerary and meal plan. This allows the program to be cost effective and for expectations to be clear when away for exhibition games or tournaments. A sample itinerary and meal plan are attached in Appendix D.

Code of Conduct

Players and parents are expected to adhere to the RO/GSRA Code of Conduct which is acknowledged at the time of online registration.

Competitive level teams require an additional level of commitment from players and parents. The head coach will present a letter of commitment to which players/parents must agree to in order to participate on the team. It will be presented at the time that an offer is made for a position on the team.

