

GREATER SUDBURY RINGETTE ASSOCIATION

COMPETITIVE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

(Updated October 2022)

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. Applications will be accepted for assistant coaches, trainer and manager. However, 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.

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.

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 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 GSRA North Stars logo are strictly prohibited as per GSRA 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 GSRA Player Development Coordinator (PDC) will work together with all GSRA Competitive level teams to help select their tournaments. Where possible, they will endeavor to attend the same tournaments to reduce the burden on our GSRA 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).

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.