



# PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

February 16, 2023

## Provincial Play:

- Reminder from GLRL that the only reason to reschedule games is for inclement weather or lack of referees. Every effort must be made to get substitute players in situations where teams may be small due to missing players.
- All games are to be played - the season is to be a 20 game season. Exceptions were made during Covid and shutdowns. This is no longer the case. Fines will be levied if games are not played.

## Tryout Process 2023-2024

- The document is now completed, with the exception of U12A, along with a companion slideshow to help associations with parent information sessions.
- All dates have been sent to Southern and Central to hopefully have a better alignment of tryout dates
- Southern is using our document as a baseline to write up their own process
- Some important changes to review in the document:
  - Combined teams - who can form and how they are formed, with clear examples of athlete movement in the event of a combined team
  - Clearer definitions on soliciting of players and consequences if solicitation or recruitment has occurred
  - Clearer definitions on roster spot refusal and consequences
  - The important dates are listed in the chart below
  - The intent form is live and we have 238 intents thus far (Feb. 15, 2023)

## U12A

- Currently RO is looking at the tryout process for U12A. We will know more in the Spring
- There will be a U12 event run by RO (optional) in different locations and will include all U12A levels (A, B, C)

Date (2023)	Event	Date (2022)	Event
February 1st	Intent to try-out goes live	May 10th	AA teams declared
March 1st	Intent form closes	May 10th - May 28th	A Try-outs (14, 16, 19)
March 8th	Willing-to-host forms due	May 31st	A Teams Declared
March 13th	Associations notified of approvals		
March 26th - April 2nd	Try-out schedules posted		
April 17th-May 8th	AA Try-outs		

### COMBINED TEAMS:

- Neighbouring Associations (<https://www.wrra.ca/content/worl---closest-association> ) that wish to form combined teams may do so in the application process. Teams may combine as long as ONE association is identified as the closest association in the matrix.
  - For example: St. Thomas and London could form a combined team because London is the closest association to St. Thomas even though London's closest association is Dorchester.
- The **Combined Team** must clearly identify one center as the **HOST Association** in the Willing to Host form for the current playing year and have signed acknowledgement from the respective Presidents of these Associations. The host association is the center where home games will be scheduled.
- When two teams combine and they are each other's closest association, either team can be named the host team. In Western Region this includes Kitchener/Waterloo, London/Dorchester and Mitchell/Exeter-Seaforth. This decision will be up to the associations to work out.
- When two teams combine and only ONE association is closest, the host team must be the team that is NOT closest in the matrix.
  - For Example: Tillsonburg's closest association is Dorchester: Dorchester's closest association is London - If Dorchester and Tillsonburg form a combined team, the host must be Dorchester because Dorchester is closest to London and this will prevent athletes from essentially "skipping" their obligation to follow the matrix to London.
- For the purposes of the tryout process and athlete movement, each combined association will be considered the home association.
  - For example: If Guelph and Elora Fergus decide to host U16A as a combined team, any Elora Fergus player who played in Waterloo for one or two years, must try-out for the

combined team as their home association is now hosting an A level team.

- The host team will also become the current association for any athletes from outside of the combined associations.
  - For example: If an athlete from Hanover is selected to be on the combined team of Elora-Fergus and Guelph and Guelph is the host, the Hanover athlete becomes current to Guelph.

### **Recruitment & Solicitation of Players**

- Any recruitment or solicitation of players by associations, association representatives or board members is **completely prohibited** and the consequence of this action will **result in a fine and possible removal of the association representative**. The issue will be reviewed by the evaluation committee.
- No **Offers to Play** may be made until the Home and/or Current Associations have made **“Roster Spot Not Offered”** releases or no team is being hosted by the Home or Current Associations. This process must align with the Closest Association Matrix. If **offer to play** letters are given before releases are given, the association representative, team and association will be subject to the same penalties for the recruiting and soliciting of players.

### **Recruitment & Solicitation of Players from outside of Western Region**

- No solicitation or recruitment of players of ANY KIND is allowed.
- Association representatives must have release forms in hand before any roster spot can be offered to any player no matter what region they are coming from.
- The consequences will follow the same process as above.

### **Declining a Roster Spot**

- Athletes who decline a roster spot on an AA team or A team, must return to their home association and play on the lower level team. This means if a player tries out for AA at another center, is offered a spot and then refuses and their home association only offers regional, their only option is to play regional. They do not have the opportunity to try out for an A team at any other center.
  - Example: If a St. Mary’s player is offered a roster spot for a AA team in London and they refuse the spot, they must return to St. Mary’s. If the

next level of play in St. Mary's is regional, that player must play regional. They cannot try-out in Dorchester for the A team.

### Accepting a Roster Spot

- Athletes who accept a roster spot must treat it as a contract. If the athlete chooses to leave the team they originally accepted to play on they cannot play on a provincial team in any other association in Western region or in any other region. Leaving a team will be treated as declining a roster spot.
  - Example: If a Waterloo player accepts a spot on the Waterloo A team and has signed the ***roster spot offered*** agreement, they cannot leave that team to accept a roster spot on a AA team in Burlington. The only option would be to play at the next level down at the home association.
- Western Region will do their best to work with neighbouring regions to coordinate tryout dates, but this is not a guarantee. If an athlete is pursuing a higher level team in another region, the athlete may ask for an extension on the ***roster spot offered*** agreement. The coach or association member is **not** required to give the extension.
- If an athlete has accepted to play on a AA or A team, but is then offered a spot on a NRL team, they may only play as an AP player, otherwise they will be subject to fines and forfeit registration fees.