



2021-2022 Team Tryout & Formation Guidelines

Ringette Ontario has put together a Guideline and FAQ on tryouts and team formation for the upcoming season.

We have updated the former M-F-07 Player Tryout/Release form, by removing the top portion of the form requesting permission to tryout. The form is now only required for when a player is requesting to be released to another team.

For insurance purposes, players are required to be registered with Ringette Ontario to tryout. It is up to the host to confirm their registration and Regions, or Ringette Ontario will work with the Club/Associations in this regard. Players may provide proof of registration through either a print-out or an image showing confirmed registration for the season.

Equal Opportunity For Participation

Ringette Canada has recently published guidelines around Equal Opportunity for Participation in the sport of ringette. The purpose of these Guidelines is to describe how individuals of all gender identities, and those who do not wish to gender identify or do not gender identify, are able to participate in our sport. Ringette Ontario recognizes that this policy may impact the traditional way Regions and Association/Clubs host tryouts come this fall.

At the time of registration, Clubs/Associations, Regions, and Leagues sanctioned by Ringette Ontario should reasonably strive to offer programming for the following competition categories:

- Girls/Women only ringette
- Boys/Men only ringette
- Mixed ringette (formerly known as Co-Ed)

When it is not logistically possible to offer the above competition categories because registration numbers do not permit appropriate formation of teams, alternative solutions which focus on providing opportunities for meaningful participation and competition in a safe and welcoming environment should be considered. These may include but are not limited to:

- Allowing mixed teams to play in female only ringette leagues within the same age group/division or in a different age group/division based on a comparable competitive level of play of the team.
- Allowing boys/men only teams to play in mixed or girls/women only leagues within the same age group/division or in a different age group/division based on a comparable competitive level of play of the team; or
- Allowing nonbinary and genderfluid athletes to choose the division that they feel fits their identity at the time of registrations.

For the upcoming season we do not anticipate any boys/male only divisions. We recognize that this is a work in progress and will involve marketing the changes and opportunities, as boys move through the competition system. This will especially be focused on entry into our sport in the U10 and under divisions, where we see our largest boys/male numbers.

We do anticipate having boys/males being interested in playing at the A/AA levels but respect that not all female athletes will want to play mixed ringette. If boys are interested in trying out, the Region and Leagues should work with its local clubs to provide space for mixed teams to participate. In addition, clubs may wish to work together to promote mixed teams and/or opportunities in neighboring clubs.

We understand that these changes may not be welcomed by all, but we are committed to creating a sport, which supports athletes from FUN1 to Active for Life, that is accessible to everyone, and we encourage open conversation on this topic as we move forward with the changes ahead.

Team Formation Guidelines

Ringette Ontario, in active partnership with Regions, Clubs/Associations, players, coaches, families, and the Ringette community is committed to fostering the values of fairness, sportsmanship, safety, and leadership to all members.

Team Formation Objectives

To place all players on the team for which they are best suited, in a manner which is standardized, fair, transparent and provides meaningful competition using a series of evaluation sessions.

Ringette ON provides a Long-Term Development (LTD) stage-appropriate Athlete Pathway for participants in all divisions:

- Players in FUNdamentals1 and FUNdamentals2 develop skills in a fun way.
- Players in U10 (FUN3) learn the game in an engaging environment.
- Players in the U12 division who are interested in an introduction to the competitive level and can evaluate for placement on A, B, C tiered teams.
- Players in the U14 to U19 divisions can chose to evaluate for placement on an AA, A, B or C level teams.

Team Formation

A Club/Association should start by creating a Team Selection Committee consisting of impartial coaches, caregivers and knowledgeable athletes that have experience in skill assessment and the athlete development matrix for the age group. Final team sizes and player distribution should be solely determined by the Team Selection Committee and may be adjusted at any point up until the final roster deadline as determined by Ringette Ontario. Team formation results should be posted in a timely manner.

Things taken into consideration in team formation, but not necessarily limited to or constrained by, are:

- Team Viability
- Competitive Expectation at the Various Levels (AA, A, B, C, or Balanced Formation)
- Long Term Development (LTD)
- Availability of Coaches
- Availability of Ice
- Player Placement Requests (Children's Ringette, including U10 New Players Only)
- Goaltender allocation
- Player Positions

Once formed, the team has certain obligations to and certain expectations to their Club/Association and to Ringette Ontario. The team personnel, players, and parents have certain rights with respect to the team and how it operates.

Responsibilities includes:

- Qualified team staff and support staff at all team functions
- Season plan
- Transparency and regular updates to the Team Budget
- Familiarity with all timelines, guidelines and policies required by Ringette Ontario
- Completion of a safe sport training module be completed by at least one guardian of each athlete (Respect in Sport for Parents or CAC Safe Sport Module)

Coach Selection

The Head Coaches should be selected prior to evaluations whenever possible. Additional bench staff for the AA/A level teams may be selected prior to evaluations. All other coaches may be named after Team Formation is completed.

Guidelines Determining Team Formation

Player evaluations are recommended for each division and all players and should be conducted at the beginning of each Ringette season. Evaluations should be done according to the Club/Association Player Evaluation processes. Notice should be provided via the Club/Association Website and the Club/Association Board of Directors outlining the evaluation process for the current season.

Evaluations should be completed by knowledgeable coaches and 18+ athletes that are completely unbiased towards the athletes being evaluated and/or the team that are being formed. To simplify process the Team Selection Committee should appoint one person should be appointed the Evaluations Coordinator. Results of the evaluations should be submitted to the Evaluations Coordinator who then will pass the results directly to the Team Selection Committee. At no time should parents, or coaches be privy to these results.

The Club/Association reserves the right to advise the top and bottom skaters that they no longer need further evaluations after two skates, thereby allowing the bubble skaters greater opportunities for evaluation.

Ringette Ontario recommends teams choose a minimum of 15 players, 13 skaters and 2 goalies for teams at U14 and up. Maximum of 18 per team, however registration numbers will dictate the size and number of teams.

On completion of the evaluations the respective Evaluation Coordinator should collect the results and meet with the Selection Committee to form the teams. It is recommended that the Head Coach be included in the team formation process once the official evaluations have been completed.

In situations where there are more than one team at a level for an age, the teams should be evenly distributed based on skater and goaltender evaluations. The following method is an example of how the teams can be formed: Team 1 – player 1, Team 2 – player 2, Team 3 – players 3 & 4, Team 2 – player 5, Team 1 – player 6 & 7. This is continued until all skaters are placed on a team. Goaltenders are to be

divided along the same lines. A random draw will be used to determine placement order, Team 1 would get the top skater and Team 2 the top goaltender.

On completion the teams will be reviewed to ensure balance based on evaluation results, movement may occur to ensure balance. If a player has identified a preferred position during the registration process, this may be taken into consideration during the team formation process.

There will be circumstances where a player may not be available to be evaluated either due to absence, sickness, or injury. In situations such as this the player may be placed at the level where the players have consistently played without evaluation. The decision for team placement should be made by the Club Board after consultation from the Selection Committee. Clubs/Associations should only transfer players in and out of the Club/Association where it is needed to form teams, or in situations where a neighbouring Club/Association has too many players at the applicable age group or does not have enough players to form a team at the level of the players.

We strongly encourage Clubs/Associations to work with neighbouring Clubs/Associations to provide athletes with a team best suited to their skill level.

Team Try Out Process

Two sessions over two separate days for initial evaluations skills.

- Skating and Technical Skills:
 - Forward & Backward Skating
 - Starting & Stopping
 - Pivots & Turns
 - Ring Control Skills:
 - Passing & Receiving
 - Shooting
- Competitive drills designed to test work ethic and determination.
 - Does the athlete work their hardest at all drills or is their work ethic inconsistent or less than 100%?
 - Does the athlete perform the drill as described?
 - What is the athletes' attitude towards the evaluations and drills?
 - Does the athlete listen to the directions? Do they want the ring, and do they work hard to get it?
 - Do they work hard at getting to openings and/or participating in the play?
 - Does the athlete only work when they have the ring, or only when on offense?
- Teaching to see which players understand, listen, and can apply to the drill situation.
- Scrimmage time during sessions to give athletes the opportunity to demonstrate their ringette game knowledge, experience, and skill.
- Additional sessions may be held to select the final team.
- Format of additional try-out sessions are at the discretion of the Coach and Team Selection Committee and may include:
 - Individual skills and tactics

- Team tactics
- Teamwork
- Team play and exhibition games

Team Formation FAQ

What is the difference between a League and a House League?

A Ringette Ontario sanctioned League is a registered League which organizes games between multiple clubs across a region or between regions, over the season. A House League is an intra-club league where games are organized and played within a Club/Association. A League may run female only or mixed divisions within a league, but a House League may run games with no dedicated gender categories for play.

Can males now tryout for A/AA tiers?

Yes, males are allowed to try-out for A/AA.

Will Ringette Canada offer Mixed Divisions for U16AA and U19AA at the Canadian Ringette Championships (CRCs)?

If there are two teams within a loop of those teams who make it to CRCs, then yes, Ringette Canada will run a Mixed Division.

Should you run gender specific tryouts for each division? (i.e. mixed, female only)

Each tier/division should have an open tryout for any participant who wishes to tryout, as tryouts should be open and team formation takes place afterwards based on assessments and numbers. It is recommended that all players who arrive to attend the tryout, should sign a form indicating whether they would play on a mixed and/or a female only team (or they may choose both!). This form would be considered binding and if a mixed team is formed, and an offer to play on this team is given to the athlete, they cannot be released to play on a female only team.

Can a team be labelled as female only? If yes, when can that be done?

Yes, teams may be labeled as female only, mixed, or male only. However, this should be done *after* tryouts have been held and a fair and unbiased assessment of the players has occurred, and all offers to play have been accepted.

If there are not enough teams to create two teams in a division loop, how do we support that male player?

Males who try out for A & AA where the formation of mixed team is not possible, *may* be offered the opportunity to play up in the B category. However, that must be assessed on a case-to-case basis. (e.g.) a U14A Male player may play in the U16B division.

How and when does the gender category of the team get selected? Is it set by the coach or the association? Do they need regional approval?

The gender category of the team should be determined *after* tryouts have been held and a fair and unbiased assessment of the players has occurred. The gender determination should be done by the Association, not the coach and your Region should be advised so that they can work with the clubs to determine potential competitive loops.

Can a league, declare a division all female while others can be mixed?

Yes, a league can host a gender division if they have at least 2 teams in that division. However, a league cannot declare themselves as female only and must offer a mixed division if there at least 2 teams in that division.

If there is a potential male on a provincial team, do there have to be other teams with males at the same level for them to play, for the male to stay on the team?

As per Ringette Canada guidelines, for a competitive loop to occur, there must be 2 teams in each division for the team to be viable. Regions will work with clubs to determine the number of teams and competitive opportunities for teams in each division. However, an exception may be in cases where a league runs a division with female only teams but where there is agreement of those teams to allow the mixed team to play.

Can a Club/Association Board or Convenor decide to make a team all-female prior to tryouts?

No, a Club/Association Board or Convenor may not declare a team as all-female prior to tryouts. All tryouts must be open to all genders to attend. However, a Club/Association, may collect interest in each gender category to gauge interest.

Can mixed teams in a league play all female teams?

Yes, if all members of the female teams agree that they are comfortable with playing the mixed teams. No team should be forced to play a mixed team if they do not wish to do so. If a team does not agree to play a mixed team in their league, then the league convenor can ensure that those teams are not scheduled to play against each other. For example, Leagues and Regions can attempt to get support from all female teams to compete against mixed teams. Female teams may play in both “mixed” and all female divisions.

At what stage can the Region or Club/Association declare the gender of a team?

After team tryouts have occurred using a fair and unbiased assessment process and all players who have been offered a position have accepted it. Due to the lack of mixed teams, the Region would need to assess reasonable competition expectations.

When a player is made an offer to play, does the offer to play have to indicate the gender category of the team?

When attending tryouts, all players should sign a form attesting to whether they will play on a mixed team and/or female team (or both). When sending out an offer to play, the gender category should be included, with the players’ signed form as part of their offer to join the team. This can be done as part of all team offer letters, no matter the final gender category of the team.

Can a player ask to be released to go to another Club/Association if their Club/Association is hosting a mixed team?

If a player signs a form before their tryout indicating that they will play on a mixed team, they should not be released to another association based on the gender category of the team.

Does the position of a player matter when determining the gender category of the team? (e.g.) goalie or skater?

No, a team is considered mixed as soon as there is 1 player of another gender category on

the team – it does not matter if they are a goalie or a skater. Trans-gender and non-binary athletes are referred to the RO Transgender Inclusion Policy for how they wish to be identified.

Can males be two-team players? If yes, can they two team with a female only team for the purpose of tournaments?

Two team player agreements function the same no matter the gender of the player. If a male is a two-team player, then they can only play on a mixed and/or male only team. If a female is a two-team player, then they can only play on a mixed and/or female only team.

Will tournaments be hosting divisions of all gender types? How will this be communicated by the tournaments?

Ringette Ontario has created a new Event Sanctioning Committee which will be reviewing all event applications for the province. With traditional tournaments not being sanctioned until January 1st, we recognize that our tournament season will be very short (8 weeks) and that we will need to be very strategic in our assessment of divisions offered by tournaments to ensure that there is at least one division for each division/tier and gender category over the period that tournaments will be offered. Sanctioned tournaments, and the divisions being offered, will be posted on the RO website with frequent updates.

Will Mixed teams be allowed to compete at the Ringette Ontario A & AA Championships?

Yes, if there are 2 registered teams in a division, then a division for those teams will be offered at the RO A & AA Championships.

Can a coach release a male player if there is no reasonable likelihood of them making the top 15-17 players on a team?

A male player should be released the exact same way a female player should be released. If a male player does not make the team, then they should be released in the exact same manner and timing as a female player.