

City of Ottawa Ringette

<https://www.ottawaringette.on.ca/>

U12 Provincial (Blue & Red) and Regional Q&A

The information in this document is relevant to all U12 players registered, or considering registration with CORA, both Provincial and Regional.

Hopefully this will help you decide where to register your child, confirm a decision you've made or simply provide details you may be wondering about. In the end, you and your child should be comfortable with the level of commitment you're making and have a reasonably clear understanding of the road ahead. Registration opens in the spring; tryouts happen in September. Registrants are not tied to the choice made in the spring although we hope you'll have enough information to make an informed choice in the spring. Please contact the convenor or registrar to discuss details or if you wish to consider switching your registration.

Tryouts (blue/red) and sort outs (regional) happen in September right after labour day. There is usually a warm up session open to all a few days in advance. Dates and times for these events are finalized in mid August and are posted on the website. Contact information for **convenors** is also found there – please reach out to them at any time with any questions or concerns. Policies or documents mentioned in this communication can be found at <https://www.ottawaringette.on.ca/>

In July/August (IN ADVANCE OF TRYOUTS): All players planning to attend the Provincial sessions must register on the Eastern Region Ringette Association's (ERRA) website. ***This is not required for regional players.*** http://erra.goalline.ca/page.php?page_id=89135. This registration should not be done until after June so as not to be included as part of the spring tryouts. In the site, click on "Tryout Registration Link" and fill in the required fields. This must be completed in advance of the first session – your player will not be allowed on the ice if she is not registered.

Questions & Answers:

Q. How many teams will CORA have at the U12 level?

A. CORA usually has two U12 Provincial (U12P) teams and two or three U12 Regional (U12R) teams. The Provincial teams will be tiered into a Blue and Red team while the Regional teams will be balanced.

Q. What is the difference between Provincial and Regional levels?

A. U12 Provincial is a transitional level between the recreational level (U8-10) and the competitive levels that begin in U14. U12 Regional is a recreational level.

Q. *Is there a tryout fee?*

A. There's a \$50.00 tryout fee at Provincial to cover the cost of ice – usually people choose to pay this fee online as part of their league registration. Minimum two ice times guaranteed. If your child is streamed to the red tryout, there is no additional fee. There is no cost for the regional sort outs.

Q. *Does CORA accept friend requests?*

A. Friend requests are not applicable at Provincial. Requests are accepted at Regional – **one reciprocal request per player**. Requests are collected by the Convenor – send an email clearly stating each player's first and last names with both families copied on the email.

Q. *How much are the team fees?*

A. Blue team fees are usually around \$800 and the Red team fees around \$600. Regional teams should run around \$200. Fees depend on extra ice requested by the team, number of players on the team, fundraising etc. The team fees **do not** include costs related to out of town tournaments, for example: hotel, food, gas. The fees also do not cover the cost of power skating which last year was \$150.00 for Regional and \$250.00 for Provincial. CORA's team fee policy can be found on the website.

Q. *What is the time commitment at Regional?*

A. Generally you will have one practice and one game per week. There are also ten optional power skating sessions held every second Monday (based on last year and subject to change). There are no off-ice/dryland sessions except for some team building/social outings. You can expect to have three tournaments, two will be in-town and the third could be out of town pending the team decision. Regional teams usually participate in the NCRL tournament held in Ottawa in mid March; it's a fun way to end the season.

Q. *What is the time commitment at Provincial?*

A. On average the Provincial teams are on the ice three times per week with either games or practices. There are also fifteen mandatory power skating sessions held every Monday. This is based on last year's team and subject to change. There are off weeks for goalie clinics and holidays. Most coaches also feel that some amount of dryland development is beneficial. The dryland sessions usually follow an ice time or power skating session. Teams at U12 Provincial are restricted to 4 tournaments plus the provincial event. Of the four tournaments, one needs to be out of town, however most teams will do two out of town tournaments and two in town tournaments.

Q. *Can my daughter make one of the Provincial teams as a first year player?*

A. All players have an equal chance to make one of the two teams. Assessors are not given any information about the player except their jersey number. They are assessed and ranked based on how well they do at the sessions.

Q. Who decides on player selections? What is the role of the convenor?

A. CORA's Player Development Process can be found on the website. An appropriate number of qualified assessors – usually 3 or 4 are aligned to each division. Assessors cannot have a child trying out in the division. The convenor's job is to oversee the process and ensure that CORA team forming policies are followed. Convenors are the first point of contact for parents prior to and during team forming. Once the team is formed, the team manager and head coach become the first point of contact for parents. If support from the convenor would be helpful or if issues arise that cannot be solved at the team level the convenor becomes involved.

Q. How are coaches selected?

A. Based on CORA's Coach Selection Process, applications are solicited in the spring. Both non parent coaches and parent coaches are welcome to apply. Parent coaches are named on a provisional basis and can only be fully confirmed if their daughter makes the team. Until then a provisional coach is not part of decisions or discussions about player selection. Usually a coach is identified for blue in August or sooner. Red and regional coaches are confirmed as the process unfolds in each division and players are aligned to teams. Parents interested in coaching should indicate their interest to the coaching director and/or the convenor.

Q. Are players assessed on their preferred position?

A. At this level the assessment process concentrates primarily on skill level – skating, passing, stabbing – and not on positional play. However, we still ask players to identify their preferred positions so that we can place them there when possible so that they are comfortable on the ice during tryouts. However, it is often necessary to place players in non preferred positions during some of the tryout. In that case, assessors are notified that the player is not in her preferred position and will be assessed accordingly. Please note that the position they tryout in may not necessarily be the position they play during the year if they make the team.

Q. My daughter is interested in the goalie position, full time or maybe part time. Can she tryout as both a goalie and a skater?

A. Yes, however she must be selected for the team based on her skater position. Girls registering as a full-time goalie are assessed in that position only. CORA has a goalie program to support goalie development, provide equipment and mentorship. There are also goalie clinics during the season. For information reach out to the player development director (see website/exec) or the Convenor.

Q. Is it acceptable to register my daughter for the Provincial sessions just for the experience?

A. If she is a capable player and you are **both committed to be on either the Blue or Red team if chosen** then she should attend the Provincial tryout. We encourage any committed player to tryout. But if you have no desire to play at that level or if your child is clearly not ready for Provincial at either blue or red, please attend the regional sort out. This will ensure your child is not discouraged from trying out in the future, and will help our tryout process be most effective.

Q. How do I get a set of tryout/practice jerseys?

A. All players new to U12 will receive a free set of tryout/practice jerseys (one purple, one white). Each set has a unique number that will be used to identify your player throughout the tryout process. They are also worn in practice sessions. When a player outgrows or loses them, replacements are available at a cost of \$40.00/set. Convenors will request sizes in advance of tryouts.

Provincial Team Forming Process

Provincial Blue and Red: All players are together for session 1 & 2. Both sessions have a two hour ice time slot. Players will not be skating for two hours – one hour is just not enough time and makes things rushed. Two hours gives more flexibility to take time to explain drills well to young players, and to take short breaks when needed.

After the second session you will receive an email advising which session your player will be attending next. Your player will either:

- a) continue in the Blue tryouts, or
- b) move to the red tryouts, or
- c) move to Regional sort outs

In general, no decisions are made until after the second session. But if there are players who are clearly struggling and not suited to the level, we may ask you to consider not proceeding with the second session of the Provincial tryouts. In this case, the convenor will call the parents to discuss. The ultimate decision will remain with the parents, except in the case where there is potential for injury to the player. Your tryout fee will be returned.

After session 3 all players will receive an email directing them either to the 4th blue tryout, or to the first red tryout session. Following the 4th session, the Blue team will be finalized and each player will receive an email communicating their status.

Once the Blue team has been finalized, Red team tryouts begin. There are two ice times to form the red team. Players will be released to regional after the first session and the team will be finalized after the second one.

Regional Sort-out Process

All players at the regional level will be placed on a team. Sort out sessions are used to determine skill levels in order to create balanced teams. Based on numbers, players will be split between the ice times so that assessments can be done well and so that a safe number of players are on the ice at one time. Friend requests are accepted in this division.