

CORA Player and Team Policy

Out of Association (OOA) Players

The City of Ottawa Ringette Association recognizes its responsibility to players residing within the association's boundaries as being paramount. It also recognizes its responsibility to ensure all players, whether from home or outside associations, can play at their skill level. Restricting OOA players in the younger years promotes proper development within CORA and gives CORA players the full benefits of the new Long-Term Player Development (LTAD) principles.

Experience has also shown that development and loyalty need to be balanced with the desire to be competitive and maintaining proper roster sizes for all teams at the older ages. It is essential that both Competitive and Recreational teams have the proper level of participation to ensure safety, fun, and competitiveness.

Number of OOA Players

U14-U19

The following table outlines OOA participation for teams from U14 to U19

Team	Minimum CORA Players	Maximum OOA Skaters	OOA Placement Requirement	Maximum OOA Goalies ***
U14A	10	2	Top 50% of final roster *	1
U14AA	10	2	Top 50% of final roster *	1
U16A	10	2	Top 50% of final roster	1
U16AA	10	3	Top 80% of final roster	1
U19A	10	2	Top 80% of final roster	1
U19AA	10	3	No restrictions **	1

* The exception would be players from associations not fielding AA or A teams; players from those associations could be considered if they are clearly of calibre and within top 80% players of the final TRF

** Given final selections are made by the coach, there is an expectation that OOA players being added to the team as "coach picks" are notably superior to CORA players being considered

Goalies**

An OOA goalie can be added under the following criteria:

- If a single CORA goalie is deemed to be of calibre for that level, she must be provided with the initial spot.
- If an OOA goalie is deemed to be of calibre by the evaluator, she may be added to the team where no other CORA goalies have attended the try-out.
- Where an OOA goalie is competing with two or more CORA goalies, an OOA goalie may be selected where she is assessed to be better than the CORA goalies. If the OOA goalie is deemed

to be as good as a CORA goalie but not better, a second CORA goalie will be added that is of calibre.

- 2 OOA goalies could only be added to a single team only when all evaluators in consultation with the executive committee members overseeing tryouts and the age convenor determine that no CORA goalie is at level and playing at that level would be considered detrimental to the goalie's development.

All Other Levels (Bunny to U12)

The basic principle at all other levels would start from the perspective that all roster spots should be made available to CORA players. Exceptions to this principle to allow OOA players on teams will be decided by the Board on a case by case basis.

- CORA will accept OOAs where they cannot be accommodated by their home association (no team at the level of play or all teams are full) and where space is available on a CORA team.
- At U12 Provincial the player must be one of the top 6 players trying out and they should only be added as an additional roster spot expanding the team roster by 1.

Exceptions to the above OOA player or goalie limits can be made wherein a particular age group where insufficient numbers of CORA players at the calibre of play attend tryouts. If a team of calibre level players could not be formed within these prescribed limits and additional OOA calibre level players are available special exemptions could be made for that team and that year alone. That decision would be made by the pre-identified Board executive members overseeing the tryouts, along with the convenor and designated coaches. This decision would be made with the input and advice of the assembled evaluators. The criteria to be considered for said decision is defined below. The decision and reasoning for the decision will be brought before the board at large at the first reasonable opportunity no later than the next monthly meeting.

Returning OOA Players

For purposes of tryouts, all OOA players who played for CORA in the previous season will be treated as returning CORA players.

Once players have played for CORA for three consecutive seasons they become permanent CORA players and will be subject to the same policies as other CORA players.

Case by Case Exceptions/Joint-Teams

If a deviation from the policy should be considered on a given team for players or goalies, a motion can be made for consideration on a case by case basis, with strong consideration being given to carrying a larger roster to ensure that CORA players are not being excluded inappropriately. The following factors should be considered on such a motion:

- The number and skill level of CORA players trying out for that team

- The number of players in that division/age group across both Competitive and Recreational teams
- The impact on the CORA player who would otherwise have been on that team
- Whether the OOA player can play at the same level in their home Association
- Level of play available in other associations for the OOA player

Underage Players

See the policy titled "[CORA Under-Age Policy](#)" in the policy section of the CORA website for the policy on players playing in a more advanced age grouping (sometimes called "playing up").

In addition to this policy, player movements must be compliant with all Ringette Ontario and Eastern Region Ringette Association policies and must be approved at those levels if required.

Player Releases

CORA recognizes that occasionally players living within the CORA boundaries may wish to play with other regional associations. CORA will issue a try-out release to any CORA player (U14 and above) requesting one. However, the guidelines to be followed pertaining to full player releases are as follows:

At U14 and above the President will sign off on a full release for level of play, either because CORA does not have a team at level of play, or because the player did not make the CORA team at that level of play, but they did make a team at that level of play with another association.

At U12 Ringette Ontario recognizes only 2 levels of play – Provincial and Recreational. A CORA player may request a level of play release to play on a U12 Provincial team at another association if they have been placed on a U12 Rec team. However, CORA will work with the parents and the other

association to set up a two-team agreement first. This allows the player to continue to play with CORA and benefit from playing at the higher level. Note that ORA rules do not allow a player to be released from a U12 Provincial Red team to another association's U12 Provincial Blue Team.

At bunnies and U8, U9 and U10 Ringette Ontario recognizes only one level of play. Therefore, releases will only be considered if CORA does not have a team at a level or the team at that level is full and, in both cases, may enter into an agreement with the receiving association to have the player returned the following year.

For releases requested for any reason other than level of play, the Board must approve by simple majority vote. The President may call a meeting specifically for this purpose.

The following factors should be considered on such a motion:

- The likelihood of the player returning to CORA in future years
- The best interests of the player and her family
- The impact on players in a similar situation
- The reason for the request and the likelihood of it reoccurring
- The impact on CORA teams at the age level in question

Players will not be released to a team in another association at the same level of play as the CORA team where they have been assigned. In exceptional circumstances a player may present a case for an "other release" only if it conforms with Eastern Region Ringette Association policies and it may or may not be granted by the Board.

Formation and Seeding of Teams

The number of CORA teams formed at any given age level will be determined largely, but not exclusively, by registration numbers. Prior to and throughout registration, the Registrar will provide projections to the Board which will give indications as to the expected number of teams at every age level. While skill levels may be attached to assessment sessions for logistical purposes, CORA reserves the right to change or modify the number of teams or their designated skill level as it deems best for the overall good of CORA.

Additionally, skill level designations may be adjusted for seeding purposes in league, regional or provincial play.

Any decisions regarding the number of teams formed at each age group and their designated skill levels will be determined by the association Board. Some of the determining factors to be considered are as follows:

- The number of registrations at a particular level
- The number of known or expected OOA players trying out for CORA teams at that level
- The finance state of the association
- The input of the level Convenor
- The input of the Director of Player Development
- The input of the registrar.

- The input of the level coaches if they have been selected
- The depth of skill at the age group
- The age and maturity of the players registered at the age group
- Relative competition, if known, regionally and/or provincially
- Development of the players at the age level