

CORA Player Assessment Guidelines

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INTRODUCTION

Player assessment guidelines provide parents, convenors, and assessors with consistent, transparent information on CORA's player assessment process. These guidelines will be followed unless a vote of the CORA Board approves an exception to the guidelines.

A selection process occurs each year so that players can play on a team with players of similar age and playing ability. The tryout schedule is posted before tryouts on the CORA website www.ottawaringette.on.ca. Please check the website during tryouts for schedule changes.

As an association, we encourage players to play at the highest level they are comfortable with and capable of playing; however, players must approach competitive team tryouts with realistic goals. A realistic goal would be to move up one skill level in the second year of an age group and drop one skill level when moving up an age group. This goal is just a guideline as player skill development rates differ and player numbers vary at each level.

All parents, players, and coaches are encouraged to review these Guidelines each year before tryouts.

ELIGIBILITY/TRYOUT JERSEYS

Subject to any additional registration requirements imposed on players by the Eastern Region Ringette Association, by CORA or otherwise, including the requirement to pay registration fees, any player registered with CORA or registered with another association can attend the tryout sessions.

All players trying out for CORA will be required to wear a tryout jersey which can be purchased in advance and retained by the player for future year tryouts and team practices. Each player will be identified by a unique jersey number which helps to reduce confusion when assessing.

OUT-OF-ASSOCIATION PLAYERS, UNDERAGE PLAYERS, PLAYER RELEASES, TEAM FORMATION

The separate CORA Player and Team Policy addresses:

- Out-of-association players;
- Underage players;
- Player releases; and
- The formation and seeding of teams.

EXPECTATIONS AND COMMITMENT LETTERS

Competitive players will be asked to sign a Commitment Letter at tryouts to reflect the obligations expected of a competitive player and the importance of acknowledging those commitments at the outset and honouring them throughout the year.

Players who cannot comply with the criteria specified in the Commitment Letter or fail to submit a letter can still try out for the team; however, the assessors cannot place them on the team. Those players can only be placed on the team with approval from the coach; this ensures that the coach and the player have established a commitment agreement that sufficiently satisfies the team's needs.

ATTENDANCE

Players must attend every assessment session, and failure to do so may jeopardize the player's ability to make the team. The Convenor must be notified in advance if a player cannot attend any of the sessions.

TRYOUT POLICY FOR INJURED, ILL OR ABSENT PLAYERS

Players attending any tryout session will be assumed to be in good health and not injured or seriously ill. Players who begin the tryout process at their target level should be prepared to complete all tryout sessions for that level at the original times they are scheduled. Players injured or seriously ill at the start of the tryout process for their target level should only participate in subsequent tryout sessions if they are recovered from their injury or serious illness. Players who fall ill or get injured during the tryout process will communicate with the Convenor. No consideration will be given for a performance compromise due to injury or illness. The executive will handle each player's circumstance, whether injury, serious illness or absence for any other reason on a case-by-case basis.

1. **There is a clear and obvious placement:** The player may be placed on the appropriate team based on performance in the tryout for the portion attended, input from previous coaches, statistics from previous years, and input from experienced ringette individuals that have seen the player perform. The player has the choice to opt for outcome 2 below if they do not agree with the placement.
2. **There is no clear and obvious placement:** The executive rules that the player must try out when healthy or recovered and available.

For outcome 2 above, the player will be offered the following option:

- **Spring Tryouts:** The player can attend one practice with the target team and then be assessed in an exhibition game in the fall unless they are still injured.
- **Fall Tryouts:** Once the player is cleared to play, she can attend one practice with the target team and then will be assessed in an exhibition or league game.

Note that any player returning from injury/illness will be deemed 100% fit and will be evaluated as such. No accommodation for injury/illness can be made. The player is responsible for ensuring they are ready to try out. No second-chance tryout opportunities exist.

The Convenor will try to assemble the assessors who conducted the original tryout for the target team; however, this is not required to proceed. The assessors, along with one or more CORA Board members, with experience in coaching or assessing ringette players, will evaluate the player and determine the most appropriate placement. There is the option, but no requirement, to seek input from the head coach. However, the head coach cannot use a coach's pick to add an injured player.

The Convenor will meet with the VP Recreational or VP Competitive to determine the roster size for the target team and make arrangements with the team one level down to receive the player if she does not make the target team.

PROVISION OF A TRAINER

Convenors must identify and schedule a qualified trainer to be present for all tryout sessions.

SIZE OF TEAMS

The number of players selected for any team will vary and will be determined based upon up-to-date registration numbers at each age level by the Registrar and the VP Competitive and/or the VP Recreational or other members of the CORA Board.

ASSESSMENT COST

For details on the assessment fee, please see the registration page on the CORA website.

ASSESSORS

The CORA Board will arrange for qualified assessors, including goalie assessors, as needed from a list of qualified assessors for each tryout session. To enhance consistency, efforts are made to select the same assessors for all sessions.

Assessors are selected from a list of qualified CORA assessors. Assessors must be at least 16 years old, have a 4-year age gap to the players being assessed, and possess one of the following qualifications: Community Sport Initiation (CSI) trained, or greater; Level 1 Ringette Referee, or greater; elite playing experience (AA, AAA, NRL); equivalency experience as deemed sufficient by the VP Recreational or the VP Competitive. Qualified assessors may only participate if they have no family members on the ice.

THE ROLE OF THE HEAD COACH

Before tryouts start, CORA seeks applications for the head coach position for each team. Applications are reviewed per the [Coaching Selection Process](#) (available on the CORA website under [Policies](#)). Non-parent coaches may be confirmed immediately. Parent coaches are accepted as the provisional head coach until their child is selected for the team by the independent assessors.

Provisional head coaches (or assistant coaches designated by the provisional head coach and cleared by the Convenor) may be asked to run the assessment drills. The assessment will follow the CORA tryout plan that the Board has approved. Assessors can request changes to the on-ice activity through the Convenor.

Before the first tryout, the Convenor will meet with the provisional head coach to discuss team composition by position. For instance, a provisional head coach may indicate a desire for a team that is a 7-5 team (i.e., 7 forwards and 5 defence) or may have a target size in mind, e.g., 11 skaters.

- Fun3 (U10) and U12, the discussion will focus on the total numbers on each team, not the positions.
- U14, U16, and U19 (Competitive or Recreational), the provisional head coach may indicate the desired team composition.

The Convenor and the assessors will divide the remaining players into teams for scrimmages or exhibition games during Tryouts 3 and 4 with set positions at U14 and above. If the provisional head coach is made the head coach after Tryout 2, that coach may work with the Convenor to advise on team composition for exhibition games.

Wherever possible, each team will include two line-ups – one for the first half of the game/scrimmage and one for the second half. The goal is to give players different linemates

during the game/scrimmage. The Convenor will review the proposed lineup to confirm that it is reasonably balanced.

Head coaches can also participate in assessment meetings – see Assessment Meetings.

In situations that require the balancing of teams, the Convenor will seek advice from the named head coaches and may seek advice from assessors and the associated VP. from head coaches, but ultimately balancing decisions are made by the assessors.

REGISTRATION AND TRYOUT ORGANIZATION

Parents should register, decide which team tryout session to attend, and continually check the website for tryout schedule/location changes. Tryouts are held in descending order from the most competitive level to the least competitive level. All players will be informed of the outcome of their tryout by email (including when/where to go for the next tryout session if necessary). Every effort will be made to distribute the email follow-up within 24 hours of a tryout session.

At the tryout session, Convenors and volunteers will take attendance and provide tryout jerseys at a fee. Once players are on the ice, the Convenor will hold a short parent information meeting. Tryout session formats are outlined below. A list of Convenors can be found on the CORA website at <https://www.ottawaringette.on.ca/convenors/>.

FORMAT FOR TRYOUT 1 AND 2 (ALL LEVELS)

Goal

Our goal is to assess all players on individual and game skills by the end of tryout 2. Every effort will be made to assess all players against all criteria. Assessors will use an assessment template to record the scores.

CORA Tryout Plans and CORA Tryout Drills are on CORA's website under Resources/[Tryouts](#).

FORMAT FOR TRYOUTS 3 AND 4

Goals

To assess all players in game situations and to create a team that matches the desired team composition for the level of play.

Exhibition Games – Competitive

At the Competitive level, an exhibition game will be arranged for Tryout 3 or 4. Bench helpers will use the rosters provided and play the players in designated positions. Ideally, at least two helpers will be on each bench, plus one trainer for the game. Family members should not be on the same bench (e.g., a father and his daughter).

SCRIMMAGES – ALL LEVELS

Scrimmages will be organized at all levels. Bench helpers will use the rosters provided and will play the players in their designated positions. When possible, lines will be varied halfway through the scrimmage on days 3 and 4. Buzzers may be used to provide equal ice time.

Convenors will work with the provisional coach to determine the various lines and the appropriate length of time for each shift. A volunteer will be needed for the clock; ideally, there will be at least two helpers on each bench, plus one trainer for the game. Family members cannot be on the same bench (e.g., a father and his daughter).

ASSESSMENT DURING TRYOUTS 3 AND 4

Assessors will be responsible for assessing players using the criteria provided.

POSITIONS PLAYED DURING TRYOUTS

Players will have an opportunity to play in the positions they identified as their preferred positions at sign-up at Tryout 1. Players may be asked to play other positions during tryouts.

ASSESSMENT MEETINGS

All players attending Tryouts 1 and 2 will be independently assessed by the assessors. The Convenor will make the best effort to document player ranking and comments made by the assessors. Assessors will use the assessment template to record their observations and rank players appropriately after Tryout 2.

At the competitive level, there may be between 16 and 20 players moving into Tryout 3, and at Regional, there may be 20 players to allow for a full 10 vs. 10 scrimmage during Tryout 3.

Once the provisional head coach's child is selected for the team, they are confirmed as the head coach and, once confirmed, they may participate in the tryout assessments and meetings for Tryouts 3 and 4. Non-parent head coaches may participate in all assessments and meetings.

The head coach should take their own notes using the assessment criteria and has one vote, as does each assessor.

For Competitive-level teams, the head coach may select the final two players from among those attending the final tryout. The head coach will have an equal vote in selecting goalie(s), or the head coach may use one or both of their two selections on the goalie selection. The final two selections are subject to review by the Convenor, who can bring it to a sub-group of the Board for review if the choices are inconsistent with the assessor's data. The VP Competitive, the President, or a Board member selected by the President must be present for the head coach's selections.

Non-parent head coaches may participate in all assessments and meetings and have one vote and the ability to select the final two players.

PLAYERS ON THE BUBBLE

After the initial assessment sessions, there are usually a handful of players who are 'on the bubble' or those for whom it is challenging to decide who should make the team.

- **IF** a player is 'on the bubble' and makes the team, this will be an opportunity to play with more skilled players, which may result in the added pressure of trying to perform to the same level as the rest of the team.
- **IF** a player is 'on the bubble' and doesn't make the team, this will be an opportunity to play with players who have slightly less skill and to be a leader on the team with the rest of the players.

COMMUNICATION WITH PLAYERS

Usually, decisions/releases will be made after Tryout 2. In this case, player families will receive notification by email from the Convenor directing them either to the next session with that team or to a tryout session at the next lower level of play. Should a parent or player be interested in feedback, they should contact the age group Convenor (contact info included in the email). Email notifications will also be issued after Tryouts 3 and 4.

After Tryout 3, some players deemed to have already made the team might be asked not to participate in Tryout 4 so that evaluators may better assess the skills of the remaining players.

Every effort will be made to distribute the email follow-up within 24 hours of a tryout session.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Players will be evaluated using age and level-specific criteria. At younger ages, the criteria focus mostly on hard skills (e.g., skating, stabbing, shooting). As the players get older, soft skills (e.g., positioning, game sense) play a significant role. For details on the criteria used for each age/level, please refer to the [CORA Tryout Plans](https://www.ottawaringette.on.ca/tryouts/) document located in the Tryout section of the CORA website: <https://www.ottawaringette.on.ca/tryouts/>.

GOALIES

Players are encouraged to try the goalie position at the younger age groups. For assessment purposes, goalies are classified as either full-time or part-time, where part-time goalies play both as a goalie and a skater during the season. Full-time goalies are assessed based on their goaltending abilities only. Part-time goalies are assessed and ranked as skaters, with the willingness to play goal being a bonus.

CONCERNS / QUESTIONS

All concerns and questions should be directed to the age group Convenor. A list of Convenors can be found on the CORA website at <https://www.ottawaringette.on.ca/convenors/>