



Player and Team Policy

City of Ottawa Ringette Association (CORA)

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 local outside associations, can play at their skill level. While, restricting Out-of-Association (OOA) players in the younger years promotes proper development within CORA, giving CORA players the full benefits of the new Long-Term Player Development (LTAD) principles, experience has shown that development and loyalty need to be balanced with the desire to be competitive at the older ages.

It is essential that both Competitive and Recreational teams have the proper level of participation and maintain proper roster sizes to ensure safety, fun, and competitiveness.

Out-of-Association (OOA) Players

An “Out-of-Association” player is any player who, per Ringette Ontario rules, requires a release from another association to be eligible to register with and play for CORA. For example:

- a player who resides within the geographic boundaries of another local association, and has played for them, or
- a player who resides outside the geographic boundaries of any association in Ontario and has played for a local association other than CORA

Competitive Teams (U14 to U19)

This out-of-association player policy applies to tryouts and team formation for all AA and A teams hosted by CORA from U14 to U19. The following table outlines the required minimum number of CORA players and goalies per level across competitive teams:

Team	Minimum CORA Players*	Minimum CORA Goalies **
U14A	11	1
U14AA	10	1
U16A	10	1
U16AA	7	1
U19A	7	1

* *Exceptions and specifications:*

- All players from other associations, even if those associations are not fielding AA or A teams at that level, are “out-of-association” and thus not a “CORA player”.
- For the purpose of tryouts, players who played in the just-completed season within a CORA

team will be considered a CORA player. These players will still require a release from their home association if selected for the CORA team. This is based on the “Current Club” rule. Please refer to section 2.11 of Ringette Ontario’s [Athlete Release Policy](#).

- For purposes of this policy, a player who has relocated to CORA’s geographic area and, per Ringette Ontario rules, is eligible to file a “Player Relocation Form” will be considered a CORA player.
- As per RO player rules, once players have played for an association for three consecutive seasons, they become permanent players of that association and will be subject to the same policies as other CORA players. That is, they are considered CORA players and no longer require a release from their previous home association.
- See Appendix for the OOA policy decision flow.

****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 (FUN3 to U19B)

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.

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. Athletes are allowed to try out for another association. However, the guidelines to be followed pertaining to full player releases are as follows:

- At U14 and above, in A and AA programs, 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 FUN1, FUN2, FUN3, U12 and at U14-U19 in B and C programs, 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 President has the authority to decline the request, without input from the board. Should the President recommend that a player be released, the board must approve by simple majority vote. The President may call a meeting specifically for this purpose.

The following factors should be considered as part of the decision-making process:

- 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

Appendix – Decision Flow for Out-of-Association Players in Competitive Tryouts and Team Formation

Start here

