

PROVINCIAL A/AA TEAM SELECTION POLICY

Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- The evaluation and selection processes used by SMRA to identify players for provincial teams are effective, impartial, fair, and transparent.
- those responsible for team selection are isolated from parental pressure or undue influence whilst at the same time in a position to receive useful information.

Team Selection Committee

When Intents to Host are approved SMRA Board will create a **Team Selection Committee** consisting of Player Coach Development Committee members and others appointed by the PCDC who have no conflict of interest and have an understanding of skills assessment and the athlete development matrix.

The Team Selection Committee will appoint an **Independent Evaluator** who:

- is a knowledgeable ringette coach
- has no direct conflict of interest,
- and, if possible, has limited prior connection with SMRA.

Independent Evaluator

The Evaluator will:

- use Ringette Ontario guidelines to develop a meaningful competition using a maximum of 3 evaluation sessions
- agree the competition criteria with the Team Selection Committee.
- identify two small teams of individuals to support the tryout: the Evaluators and the On-Ice Assistants.
- identify the skills and drills activities that will be used during tryouts.

The Evaluator team should consist of knowledgeable coaches or 18+ athletes that have competed to a high-standard competitively and are completely unbiased towards the athletes being evaluated and/or the team that are being formed.

On-Ice Assistants will require an appropriate level of experience and ability to run the on-ice activities for each tryout. The individuals should have limited knowledge of the players and no conflict of interest.

Evaluations Co-ordinator

The Team Selection Committee will also appoint one committee member as the **Evaluations Coordinator**. The Evaluations Coordinator will not be involved in team selection but will work with the Independent Evaluator on issues such as ice times, arena access and facilities.

Members Communication during Tryouts

The Evaluations Co-ordinator will also act as the single point of contact for all parents and players attending tryouts. The following rules apply to all SMRA members and where relevant all other association members once an Intent to Host has been submitted until the end of Tryouts:

- All communications regarding players who are attending tryouts must be by email to the Evaluations Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator will decide whether to pass on relevant communication to the Team Selection Committee or Independent Evaluator
- No Request for Release may be submitted to the Association during this period;
- Email Communication with the President or other Board members relating to tryouts will be passed to the Evaluations Co-ordinator
- Members may not discuss any aspect of tryouts with the Association President or Chair of Player Coach Development

Guidelines Determining Team Formation

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

- Team Viability
- Competitive Expectation at the Age Levels
- Long Term Development
- Availability of Coaches
- Regional Team viability at that age level of play.
- Provincial Team Continuity and past form
- Availability of Ice
- Goaltender availability
- Player Positions

SMRA does not set quotas for local vs. non-SMRA players on A/AA teams outside the minimum requirements for hosting; however, the Independent Evaluator is encouraged to select/develop local players wherever possible.

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.

Ringette Ontario recommends teams choose a minimum of 15 players, 13 skaters and 2 goalies for teams at U14 and up. However, registration and tryout numbers may determine the size of the final roster.

Tryout Procedures

Tryout Dates will be published by email to all SMRA players with intents, on the SMRA Website and via a Membership Notice to other Associations in the Western Region.

A fee, required from all players, will be set by the Board to cover ice cost.

For insurance purposes, players are required to be registered with their Home Association to tryout. Players may need to provide SMRA proof of registration through either a print-out or an image showing confirmed registration for the season.

The first two tryouts will be open to all players who have registered an intent with WRRRA; the final tryout will normally, though not exclusively, be by invitation only.

The Independent Evaluator may optionally 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.

Parents and prospective coaches are welcome to attend and spectate at tryouts, but should not communicate with the Independent Evaluator or the Evaluation team. Any issue they wish to raise should be directed to the Evaluations Coordinator.

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 player had consistently played without evaluation. The decision for team placement should be made by the SMRA Board after consultation from the Selection Committee.

Coach Selection

The Head Coach will be selected prior to evaluations whenever possible, but it is SMRA policy not to appoint coaches to a team if an applicant has a child trying out at that level. All other coaches will be named after Team Formation is completed.

Where a Head Coach has a child on the team, but that child is safely within the core roster of players, the Team Selection Committee may appoint a Head Coach, but their involvement in team formation will be limited to the size of the roster.

Team Formation

The Independent Evaluator will make recommendations to the Team Selection Committee on:

- The viability of teams after 2 tryouts and whether to proceed to final tryout;
- Either a final roster of players after the last tryout, or a decision that a team cannot be formed on the basis of evaluations;
- If a roster is formed, any suitable players for Two Team offers if that option is requested by the Team Selection Committee.

At no time should parents, or coaches be privy to the evaluation results.

Where there is no conflict of interest, the Independent Evaluator may consult with the Head Coach on the composition of the final roster. Where the coach has a child on the team they may be consulted only on roster size.

Where there is disagreement between the recommendations of the Independent Evaluator and the views of the Head Coach, the Team Selection Committee will have the final say.

Where a conflict of interest has prevented a Head Coach appointment, once evaluation is completed and the Team Selection Committee has approved the final roster, it will recommend the appointment of a Head Coach to the SMRA Board.

Player Notification

Team formation results should be posted in a timely manner.

The Head Coach will send the standard '**Offer to Play Letter**' to all players on the final roster in the exact form specified in the WRRRA 'Declaration and Tryout Process'.

The Head Coach will send any player not selected to the final roster through the evaluation process the standard '**Roster Spot Not Offered Letter**' in the exact form specified in the WRRRA 'Declaration and Tryout Process'.

The SMRA President will email all players and notify WRRRA, in the event that:

- Tryouts are cancelled and evaluations discontinued; or
- Tryouts are completed but the Evaluator concludes that a team is not viable.