



## U12 TEAM FORMATION FAQ

### **Where can I find the current Team Formation Guidelines for U12?**

The current Team Formation Guidelines can be found in the Operating Resources section of our website under Membership Services: <https://ringetteontario.com/content/operating-resources>

The goal of these guidelines is to align U12 programming across the province. We know there will be some differences because of population/proximity of clubs in different areas of the province, but the goal is that U12 players will have the same programming and experience across the province.

Clubs may have their own policies on team formation and processes. These are simply guidelines (and not policies) that clubs can use to standardize formation. Ultimately, all players wanting to play U12 should be evaluated at the same time and teams formed based on those evaluations. It should not be a try-out.

### **So, there shouldn't be U12A tryouts?**

No – there should be U12 evaluations. The top evaluated players would be put into the highest tier that the club is going to offer, next highest evaluated into the next tier, and so on. If clubs do not have the numbers to form a team in a specific tier, then they can look to combine with a neighbouring club for team viability on both sides.

### **Since RO encourages smaller rosters at this age group, if a Club has a large roster can they combine with another Club to create 2 or 3 smaller teams?**

Yes, if it helps the other Club(s) form team(s).

### **If a Club has players that evaluate as A level, and C level, neither level will be suitable to all players, would RO support combined teams?**

Build a team for your club - if you have only enough for one team and they range from A to C, then it's a B team. If you have more than enough, form a team at the higher tier first and the rest can form a second, lower tiered team. If there is not enough for 2 full teams, then look to combine with a neighbouring Club to form the second.

### **When Clubs combine, are player releases needed?**

Yes, a release will be required for those who do not belong to the host Club. The U12 release process will be communicated in the summer for the September evaluations.

### **What approvals are required to combine a team between Clubs?**

A player release is required for those who do not belong to the host Club. The U12 release process will be communicated in the summer for the September evaluations.

### **Can you combine with more than 1 Club?**

Yes, if it means having a viable team(s).



## **Can we transfer players between Clubs without combining?**

Combining or transferring means that you are more than likely holding evaluations at the same time with the neighbouring Club(s), or at least are working collaboratively to find a place for all U12 athletes to have a place to play. Everyone moving from one Club to the other will need a release, no matter what the purpose is.

## **Should we be adding a maximum of 2 over-aged players to every team or only take them to make a viable team?**

An overaged player should only be put on a TRF based on their level of play, or to make a team viable. For example, if a new player to the sport should be in U14 by age but is better suited to start in U12 to gain experience with competition, then that is a valid reason.

## **Why is RO removing competition from U12?**

We aren't. There are still plenty of competitions available for U12 teams at all levels through our sanctioned events and leagues across the province. All U12 teams will have an opportunity to participate in a year-end event within their tiered level. The sanctioned events list will be available by July 14<sup>th</sup>, so there will be plenty of time to apply for tournaments once teams are formed in September.

**Additional Questions?** Contact Steph Laurin at [operations@ringetteontario.com](mailto:operations@ringetteontario.com)