



# U12 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

## **From Ringette Ontario:**

### **U12 TEAM FORMATION OBJECTIVES:**

Teams are formed within each Club and participate in a system of competition following the program principles focused on sport for life, long-term athlete development and long-term participant development. All Clubs can support community-based “Club” teams, built around skill development, fun, and age groups.

Ringette Ontario *encourages smaller roster sizes for U12 Club teams* to facilitate increased ring touches, player engagement and overall enjoyment of the game. In addition, smaller rosters assist with the following player development initiatives:

- Increased engagement for all players as they are more active during practices and games
- Increased opportunities to experience playing different positions
- Increased opportunity for skill development
- Increased opportunity for players to experience different game situations; and
- Increased opportunities for coaches to train and develop all the athletes on their team while recognizing individual skill levels of players.

Players in the U12 division will be evaluated for placement on A, B, C tiered teams in a manner which is standardized, fair, transparent and provides meaningful competition using a series of evaluation sessions.

[RO U12 Team Formation FAQs](#)

## **What does this mean for my player?**

In the first couple of weeks of September, your association will have all U12 players from your association on the ice at the same time. Evaluations will be completed for all players regardless of level.

From there, your association will decide what is best for the players and the association to make teams. The association will come first, meaning the association will ensure they have enough players to create at least one U12 team at any level. From there, the association will determine what level the team will be (based on the evaluations) and if they need to combine with



# U12 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

another association or release players to another association to ensure there is a spot for everyone.

## **Can I see my player's evaluation?**

Once evaluations are completed, you may ask for a summary of your player's evaluation to help see where your player's strengths are and areas for improvement.

## **My association doesn't have enough players to make a U12 team or we have too many for one and not enough for 2 so now what?**

Associations will know their registration numbers before evaluations will occur. Associations can choose to combine with another association to create the best possible scenarios before or after evaluations are done. If they combine before, all players from the combined associations will be evaluated at the same time.

If your association does not combine, they may release players to other associations offering the level of your player.

## **My Association is only offering U12B, but my player has the ability to play U12A. What options do we have, if any?**

The priority is to the association first. They must be able to form teams at the U12 level. If your association only has enough players to form one full team, or they need all players to form 2 full teams, you may have no option but to play for your association. Each association will be responsible for making these decisions.

## **This seems all a little confusing - why did it change?**

Ringette Ontario believes this model best fits the objectives of Athlete Long Term Development for this age group. The idea is that all players at the U12 age group around Ontario get the same experience - no matter their skill level.

Ringette Ontario is bringing back the U12 Event - a tournament just for U12 players. This will allow the U12 teams to play teams from outside of Western Region at the year end tournament. Before Covid, at provincials they had opening ceremonies for the U12A age group. It would be



# U12 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

themed and teams and coaches would dress up, exchange pins etc. It was a lot of fun and especially designed for the U12 age group. However, only U12A got this experience. Ringette Ontario wants this experience for all U12 players, regardless of level.

## **Why does Ringette Ontario believe getting rid of provincial play at U12 would be good? Won't it hurt provincial level play at U14+?**

Ringette Ontario is not getting rid of tiered play. In Western Region, U12A teams have traditionally only played other U12A teams in Western Region (this year U12A was divided between West and East) so not much is changing in this regard. In fact, bringing back the U12 event will more closely resemble the U12A level of play before Covid - but now it will include U12B and U12C. As a result, teams will be able to play like teams.

This new way also allows teams to move between levels. If an association determines their team to be U12B, but is beating the other teams in the division or at tournaments, they can now be moved to U12A for league play for the second half of the season. At the same time, if a U12A team is not doing as well as the association thought, they can be moved to U12B. This will also ensure that every team is competing against like-teams at the year end event.

## **Role of Western Region**

Western region will be here to help associations transition to the new way of doing things. There will be some mistakes made and lessons learned as we navigate this together. We are asking families and associations to be patient, ask questions when you have them and know that it is always the goal of Western Region and Associations to ensure our players develop at the highest level they are capable of. This new system still has the same goal, the approach is just a little different.