

## **PROVINCIAL CONVENOR REPORT 2024/25**

### **2024/25 Season Report**

This past season we saw tryouts take place in the spring of 2024. We ended up hosting two Provincial teams, one at U16A and another at U19A. For the second season in a row, there is no longer provincial level play at U12. U12 is still considered Regional, the U12A team is not included in this report.

### **Teams Waterloo Hosted**

U16A - Laura Tunstall head coach

U19A - Becky Branton head coach

### **2025-2026 Season Preparation**

We had spring tryouts for U14, U16 and U19 teams during April for AA teams and May for the A teams.

**Waterloo, Kitchener and Guelph** made **combined AA** teams for this area.

**Guelph** - Host for combined U14AA team - head coach John Mezenberg

**Waterloo** - Host for combined U16AA team - head coach Becky Branton

**Kitchener** - Host for combined U19AA team - head coach Meg Pearce

### **AA Recap**

There was a committee formed by members of WRA, KRA and GRA to have a fair coach selection decision and evaluation process for all associations for the combined teams. The tryout process for all combined associations seemed to go smoothly for the most part. WRA had evaluators present at all ice times for combined AA teams. The ultimate objective is to have each host team be truly the host for home games, practice ice times and programming.

### **A Recap**

WRA decided to let each association start the tryout process to determine viability for A teams, and leave it up to each association to decide caliber and viability. Waterloo attempted to work with Kitchener for combining U14A, however, ultimately KRA decided not to entertain that. Kitchener is hosting the U16A team since Waterloo is hosting U16AA, and the recommendation for U19A was for WRA to host since KRA is hosting the U19AA team. KRA initially thought they had the intents (numbers) to host both teams but late into the tryout process in May, KRA folded their U19A team and those players evaluated with WRA.

Due to not having Provincial level play at U12 the last two seasons, there was discussions that U14A is now considered similar to the old U12A, meaning the U14A teams are not expected to be as strong of caliber as the last two seasons, and U14A will be more developmental for that reason. There are multiple U14A teams being hosted in this area with Elora, Guelph, Kitchener, and Waterloo all moving ahead and not making any attempts at combining.

## **A Teams**

**U14A** - Waterloo - head coach Courtney Proudfoot

**U19A** - Waterloo - head coach Laura Tunstall

Waterloo is also planning to host a U12A team and sort outs will be held in September.

## **Additional Provincial level play items for 2025-2026 Season**

RO has also announced that a new AAA cycle will be starting up with Ontario Winter games in February 2026 which will of course impact scheduling for all AA teams.

## **Scheduling Requests:**

- August 1st - all ice must be submitted to GLRL
- Add maximum # of blackout dates teams are allowed to submit for ice time submission
- GLRL to send form for associations to submit
- AA ice is first to be scheduled, and target is to have it done by August 26th
- AA games normally starts 3rd week of September. HUB weekends will begin September 6-7th weekend
- 20 game schedule - 10 home and 10 away games. Request is 15 time slots per team
- AA will try to get 10-12 games in before Christmas. Worked well last season due to # of tournaments, championships and ref availability
- Based on number of teams, U14A will be split into East and West
- U16A can be split into East and West with 2 double headers to cross over
- U19A will be a balanced schedule
- Will use RAMP for ice submissions and blackout dates
- Rule change year as well - so all Refs will need to update, and some clinics may be in September to conflict with games

## **Budget for A and AA teams from GLRL for refs**

- Last year was a big year for GLRL, with the payment for refs which was new to the league
- After everything was paid, it leaves us with one year of operating costs
- Membership fee for this season included \$130 league fee and \$585 for ref mileage fees per team

- Total deficit for the league was \$7,000 (had budgeted a \$3,400 deficit)
- Membership fees for next season will include \$160 league fee and \$600-\$760 for ref mileage fees per team. This is a 6.3% increase from previous year
- Vow is not to come back to the association for a 2nd payment this year. Want one fee up front.
- Goal is to reduce costs by 10-15% for upcoming season

### **Provincial Hosts**

- AA Provincial Championships have been announced to be hosted in Kingston March 5-8, 2026
- A Provincial Championships have been announced to be combined hosted with Waterloo, Kitchener and Guelph March 12-15, 2026
- U12 Championships (for all of RO) is announced to be hosted in Markham-Stouffville again for the 3rd year April 9-12, 2026

### **Zones/Team Formation**

There is still much speculation on what the future of host teams, team selection and evaluation will look like in Ontario Ringette. We eagerly await the decision from RO and the committee determining what next steps for zone play and team formation will look like.