

Understanding The Difference Between Regional Ringette And Provincial (A & AA) Ringette in Burlington

1. What is the difference between Regional and Provincial Ringette?

- Regional level is designed for any player at any level to participate in
- Provincial level is designed for players who want to play at a more competitive level
- Tryouts are required for a Provincial team and a more committed level of attendance is expected over a Regional team
- At the end of the season for Regional level, Southern Region creates an equal opportunity tournament for all teams to play in as a wrap up tournament
- Teams that win the Regional Level championships are crowned champions for their level
- At the Provincial level, teams must qualify to play in the Provincials and win a spot in the tournament
- Regionals for the Provincial teams are also called the Provincial Qualifiers and may or may not be played within Southern Region in a given year, they are used to determine Southern Region Champion who represents the Region at the Ontario Provincials
- “A” and Petite “AA” teams that win the Provincial Championships are crowned the Ontario Champions
- “AA” Tween teams that win the Provincial Championships are crowned the Ontario Champions and represent Ontario at the Eastern Canadian Championships
- “AA” Junior and Belle teams that win the Provincial Championships are crowned the Ontario Champions and represent Ontario at the National Ringette Championships

2. Does it cost more to play?

- Registration costs are identical to join any level at the respective age groups
- If your team purchases more ice, then the team costs will increase
- Tournaments are not part of registration and will be added to the cost, how many tournaments a team enters is up to the team – there is a minimum of two that Provincial teams must enter – see question 10 for more details
- It is recommended that Provincial teams purchase additional ice so that they have full ice practices during the season
- Junior AA and Belle AA are required to play 20 minute periods and require 30 minutes more ice per game – 12 during the season for a total of 6 additional hours
- The last two costs are levied against a Provincial team as a “Provincial Levy Fee”, total cost of the levy is dependant on the level of play and how many extra practices the team receives

3. Is there more travel?

- Regional teams have the following league boundaries for travel:
 - Etobicoke/Mississauga – Cambridge – Niagara Falls – Hagersville
 - They play in the Southern Region League
- Provincial teams have the following league boundaries for travel:
 - Whitby/Richmond Hill – Cambridge – Niagara Falls
 - They play in the Central Ontario Ringette League (CORL)

4. What is the difference in ice time?

- With registration every player (except Bunny level) gets 1 hour of practice a week on ½ a sheet of ice and ½ hour per week of game ice for a total of 1 ½ hours per week – the exception are AA teams that will get ¾ of an hour a week for games and this cost is added to their “Provincial Levy Fee”. The game ice is used every other week so that a game can be played. Each team gets 12 games in Burlington per season.
- After the ice schedule is completed and all teams get their mandatory ice allotment, the Provincial team requests for additional ice are reviewed and ice and additional costs are applied. This process has to accommodate the possibility of other teams requesting additional ice.
- After the Provincial teams are scheduled their ice, Regional teams are given the ability to purchase additional ice. There has to be a balance that is reviewed so that all teams in Burlington Ringette can be considered for additional ice.

5. Are Shot Clocks used?

- Shot Clocks are to be used for all Provincial level teams
- Shot clocks are to be used for Tween level and up regional teams
- A growing trend in Ontario is having all levels of Petite and above use shot clocks

6. What are the expectations of attendance?

- Provincial level is designed as a competitive level of Ringette and attendance is required at all games and practices
- Players are expected to work with their coaches to inform them when they are not available so that arrangements can be made for games and tournaments if extra players are required – this is for all teams, not just Provincial level

7. What happens if the team cannot compete at the Provincial level?

- Teams declare their level of play in September at either B, A, or AA (except Petite A and AA)
- By January 8th, each team is allowed to adjust their level of play according to their competitiveness
 - a. B can apply to be C or A
 - b. A can apply to be B or AA
 - c. AA can apply to be A
 - d. Petite Provincial is a level where A and AA are mixed together for the Sept – Dec time frame. Based on a teams performance solely in tournaments, the Ontario Ringette Association (ORA) declares the teams either A or AA. Teams can then appeal their assigned level or an A team can drop to B.
 - e. If a team drops from Provincial to Regional – this needs to be decided in December so that the Regional league can be notified and the team can be placed in the appropriate league come January

8. Can you play on two teams?

- Players are allowed to play on a Regional team and a Provincial team simultaneously, but not on two Regional teams or two Provincial teams
- The basic premises is a player is good enough to play on a Provincial team, but if she leaves her Regional team, there are not enough players for the Regional team – the player can sign a two way contract with their Regional team and the Provincial team. This two way contract can be between two associations or within Burlington

9. How many tournaments are there? How do they work?

- There is a minimum number of tournaments (two) to attend for Provincial
- Tournaments are used to rate teams and determine if you will go to the Provincials – league play is not used to evaluate teams who want to go to Provincials
- A point system is used to gain a rating that will allow a team to go to Provincials – the only way to improve a rating is to play in tournaments – the tournament rating is calculated on number of tournament games, where the tournament is and the number of wins gained in tournaments
- The more tournaments a team participates in – the higher the cost for the season