

# **GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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## 1. O.R.A. COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE

### a. **Competitive Levels**

- i. In Ontario, Ringette™ is played at different competitive levels: Recreation, Regional C, Regional B, Provincial A, Provincial AA and Provincial U12 (Petite). In order for teams to participate in sanctioned tournaments and at Regional/Provincial Championships, they must register at one of the stipulated competitive levels by completing a Team Registration Form as directed for registration in the Membership Services Section of the Operating Manual.

**NOTE:** One additional level, Provincial AAA played at the Elite level is made up of Regional and Provincial All-Star Teams. Refer to the Elite Development Section.

- ii. The Regional B and C levels are the responsibility of the Regional Committee along with the Regional Games and Tournaments Co-ordinator. They shall be responsible for the sanctioning of regional level tournaments and Regional B and C Championships. Regional B and C levels may be further categorized as “major” and “minor”. These events shall adhere to the current O.R.A. Sanction Rules.
  - The 18+ (Open) and 30+ (Masters) A, B, C, and Recreational levels are the responsibility of the Adult Development Program. The Adult Development Program shall be responsible for the sanctioning of Adult Regional and Recreation level tournaments and championships.
  - Community Recreation Level is the responsibility of the Local Association.
- iii. All Provincial levels shall fall under the mandate of the Provincial Games and Tournaments Committee. The Provincial Committee shall be responsible for sanctioning Provincial level tournaments as well as organizing the Provincial Championships. These events shall adhere to current O.R.A. Sanction Rules.

### b. **Seeding of Teams**

- i. Seeding of Regional B and C teams is the responsibility of the respective Region. The Provincial G&T Committee will give advice and recommendations to assist the Region in the seeding of teams.
  - Each team and/or Local Association will seed the team at the beginning of the playing season. The Region will accumulate statistics and evaluate on an ongoing basis the teams' performance for seeding adjustments for Championship play. Adjustments to seeding are based on on-ice performance and are ongoing on a Regional Level. The G&T Co-ordinator and their Regional Committee will meet mid-season to evaluate and finalize the seeding of teams for Regional Championship play in accordance with Regional processes.

- ii. Seeding of Provincial A and AA teams U14 (Tween) to 18+ (Open) is the responsibility of the G&T Committee.
- Associations must receive approval from their Region through the G&T Co-ordinator and with input from the Provincial G&T Committee, in regards to the Provincial level teams, to register two (2) teams in the same age division at the same playing level.
  - Each team and/or local association will seed the team at the beginning of the playing season. The G&T Committee will accumulate statistics and evaluate on an ongoing basis the teams' performance for seeding adjustments for championship play. Adjustments to seeding are based on on-ice performance at the Provincial Level. The G&T Committee will meet mid-season to evaluate and finalize the seeding of teams for Provincial Championship play.
  - By mid December, the G&T Committee will identify any teams that, based on available data, are "red-flagged" for discussion on re-seeding at the "A/AA" mid-season review. These teams will be informed in writing with recommendations to prepare for mid-season review.
  - Informing Teams of Advancement
- Teams will be informed in writing by their Regional G&T Co-ordinator of any seeding changes immediately following the mid-season review.
- iii. Seeding of Provincial U12 (Petite) teams is the responsibility of the G&T Committee:
- That no Provincial U12 (Petite) team may seed themselves. At the G&T meeting in January all teams will be seeded on their performance to date. Where the January deadline for tournament results falls on a weekend the complete weekend results can be used for seeding purposes.
  - The G&T Committee will select the teams from the Provincial U12 (Petite) division based on tournament on-ice performance for placement. This determination will be based on level of competition among Provincial U12 (Petite) teams using a variant of the current wildcard ranking system.
  - Winning % is used from the present wildcard ranking system as well as various cycles of assigning teams and evaluating the results until a clear ranking of the teams can be made.
  - Informing teams of placement at their Provincial event - teams will be informed in writing by their Regional G&T Co-ordinator of their placement immediately following the mid-season review.

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2. **TEAM REGISTRATION**

- a. Refer to Membership Services for details on how to Register with the Ontario Ringette Association. Information about participation in sanctioned events by individuals and teams is detailed in the Sanctioned Event Rules that follow.

**Teams including all players and bench staff must be registered with the O.R.A. office before participating in any Sanctioned Event.**

- b. The cut-off date for adjustments to the Team Registration Form (T.R.F.) including Two Team Player additions is **JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>** of each season. This must be done through your Association Registrar.
- c. **Two Team Players** (applies to minors. Adults included under Adult Development Program).

Refer to Membership Services “Two Team Player” procedures, page 19.

**3. O.R.A. SANCTIONED EVENTS:**

**a. Code of Conduct**

Any person who interferes with the game or verbally abuses an official, player, or bench staff will be asked to leave the playing area and not to return. The Head Coach will be notified by an on-ice official to remove the person. If the person refuses to leave the arena playing area after a reasonable period of time, the game will be called and the team that the person is associated with will forfeit the game.

**b. Rules**

- i. Coaching Staff and/or volunteers who are participating on-ice, be that during practice or during the 'running time' of a game, must wear a CSA approved helmet (Also Coaching Development - Bench Staff Duties Section 2).
- ii. Random stick checks will be made throughout the season by officials to determine the legality/state of safety of players' sticks.
- iii. O.R.A. defines Sanctioned Events as:
  - Invitational Tournaments
  - Regional Championships
  - Regional Preliminary Championships/Qualifiers
  - Provincial Championships/Qualifiers
  - For O.R.A. disciplinary purposes, any game between two (2) Registered O.R.A. teams or between any other Province's teams with an O.R.A. registered team.

**c. Tournament Listings**

All tournaments ***applied for and approved by the deadline***, shall appear on the tournament list. The list indicates date, division, level of play and a contact person. As there may be changes to this list, it is recommended that you contact your Regional G&T Co-ordinator to confirm tournament particulars. (The list will be updated and available on the website).

**d. Invitational Tournaments**

- i. The "O.R.A. Invitational Ringette Tournament Handbook" is available as a resource for hosting these events. (Also available on the O.R.A. website).
- ii. Format:

Tournament format is determined by the Host, according to specified Sanction Rules.
- iii. Tournament hosts shall be permitted to fill vacancies with teams of the same age division,

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one calibre lower and/or with teams of one age division lower, one calibre higher (to complete the pool[s]).

e.g. U14 (Tween) AA may play U16 (Junior) A  
U12 (Petite) B may play Provincial U12 (Petite)

**[All participating teams must be informed, and given the option to withdraw with full refund, if either of these options are exercised. If a team is going to be placed in a different division or level of play, all participating teams must be notified and given the option to withdraw, with full refund].**

iv. Rules:

- All invitational tournaments are to be O.R.A. Sanctioned Events and are to adhere to the current sanction rules.
- **All changes to the O.R.A. Sanctioned Rules must be approved prior to the event by the Regional G&T Co-ordinator prior to being circulated.**
- “AA” Hosts are strongly recommended to provide two (2) 20 minutes periods for U16 (Junior), U19 (Belle) and 18+ (Open).
- All tournaments for Provincial level teams are required to use shot clocks unless approval to do otherwise is received from the Regional G&T Co-ordinator.

v. Entry Fee:

Tournament entry fees are determined by the Host.

vi. Team Registration:

- Each team applying to participate in an Invitational Tournament must provide the Host with a copy of their properly completed T.R.F. and **any Information Change Forms** (Appendix M-F-10) that they have submitted to the O.R.A. office. When applying to the tournament, it will be the team’s responsibility to ensure that the host has the correct information. A letter/form to substantiate out of age player approval must accompany any T.R.F. being submitted to the Tournament Host.
- Each team shall be required to complete a T.R.F. Adjustment Form (Appendix G&T-F-07) indicating those player(s)/Bench Staff who are listed on the T.R.F. who shall not be participating at the tournament if they are being substituted for, and those player(s)/Bench Staff the team shall be using as substitute(s).
- Teams must list all players including those on playing agreements, on all game sheets and cross off those who are not in attendance.

- **If the game sheet is pre-printed, labels may not be used.**

vii. **Player Substitutes for Invitational Tournaments**

**NOTE:** The substitution procedure is designed to assist association teams who, from time to time, experience a last minute shortage of players due to injury or illness. It is not intended to build a team's calibre but to maintain a minimum team's roster size, and to avoid any last minute cancellations that result in expenses to the Host Association.

- Eligible players for all divisions up to and including U19 (Belle) are as follows:
  - Shall be registered with your association and be an O.R.A. registered player. When your association has no appropriate age division or calibre teams, you must apply to your Regional G&T Co-ordinator for possible solutions.
  - Can choose either/or: \*See Substitution Chart
    - i. same age division or one lower, same calibre or less  
  
(example 1. A U16 (Junior) AA team could choose:  
a U16 (Junior) AA, A, B or C team player)  
  
(example 2. A U16 (Junior) A team could choose:  
a U16 (Junior) A, B or C team player; or  
a U14 (Tween) A, B or C team player)
    - ii. one calibre higher only, one age division lower  
  
(example: a U16 (Junior) A team could also choose:  
a U14 (Tween) AA player)
- Eligible players for 18+ (Open) are referred to the Adult Development Co-ordinator. 18+ (Open) "A" are referred to the G&T Co-ordinator.

**NOTE:** Players may substitute in their age division regardless of what division they are registered, only upon receipt of written approval of their Regional G&T Co-ordinator.

- Teams may carry up to three (3) substitute players per tournament. They must actually replace a player who is unable to attend part or all of that tournament. If the player they are replacing returns to play, the substitute may NOT continue to play, although they could then replace another player who was injured or called away. The Roster can NEVER increase in size as a result of a substitute and **cannot exceed 10 skaters with substitutions.**

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- Players may play as a substitute for ONE tournament in a season. The goaltender is exempt, as long as the goaltender is substituting for a goaltender. Any player that appears on more than one T.R.F. Adjustment Form constitutes violation of Sanction Rules (goaltender exempt), unless written Games and Tournaments approval is received.
  - Players (including goalies) cannot play in more than one (1) sanctioned event on more than one (1) team on the same weekend or in the same sanctioned event.
  - All substitutes must be listed on the T.R.F. Adjustment Form (Appendix G&T-F-07) and be submitted to the Invitational Tournament Host Chair within their specific deadlines and/or at the Event Registration, and/or before a game to substitute for a player who had to leave the tournament.

viii. Substitute Bench Staff for Invitational Tournaments

Any O.R.A. registered member with the appropriate qualifications for the position being assumed, that have been obtained prior to **JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>** of the current season, may fill in a T.R.F. Adjustment Form (Appendix G&T-F-07) and become a valid member of a Bench Staff with approval of the Regional Coaching Co-ordinator/Designate. Proof of qualification is required.

**NOTE:** The above rule does not allow a Bench Staff Member, who is not properly qualified for their registered position, to assume a new position within the team in question, after **JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>** of the current season.

ix. Substitutes for Regional Championships

Determined by individual Regions. Contact your Regional Co-ordinator for details.



4. **PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

a. **Format**

- i. Provincial Championships shall be held each year for females. Other Championships may be held depending upon registration. Communities may apply to host them through the O.R.A. office. The Provincial Host Guide may be obtained from the office. Information concerning Championships, such as dates, places etc., may be found in the Events and Activities Section. The Host must submit a \$200.00 Good Faith cheque with their application to host the Provincial Championship Event. Upon approval of the Host Application, the Ontario Ringette office will prepare the Event Contract for signatures of the Host and Ontario Ringette Association.
- ii. Provincial Championships schedules will be prepared by the O.R.A. staff following criteria determined by the Games and Tournaments Committee and with input from the Officiating Development Committee. This criteria will be set annually by **SEPTEMBER 1ST**.
- iii. Format:
  - One (1) team entry per Region per division
  - One (1) team entry per division from Hosting Association except for Provincial U12 (Petite)
  - All other entries are selected by G&T through the Wild Card process
  - Ten (10) team unbalanced or modified round robin
- iv. Provision for additional teams going to the Provincials will be given to U12 (Petites) with modified schedules within the limit to the number of hours. The U14 (Tween), U16 (Junior), U19 (Belle) and 18+ (Open) divisions will be limited to a **maximum** of ten (10) teams.
- v. Shot Clocks will be used in all games at the Provincial Championships.
- vi. Mini Games:

At Provincial Championships, any tie in the standings which will result in a team not being able to participate in a medal game, will require mini-games to be played to determine who will participate in that medal game. Example - 3 teams tied for 2nd place - the tie-breaking procedures determine 2nd place, then mini-game to eliminate a team from proceeding.
- vii. All games will be played until a winner is declared.

**b. Regional Representatives**

Format to determine Regional representatives to Provincial Championships except Provincial U12 (Petite) is the responsibility of your Region. A team may not be formed purely to participate in Provincial Championships, Northwest teams exempt. Contact your Regional G&T Co-ordinator or Regional Chair for further information. Deadline for the Regions to submit the list of divisions in which they will have representatives and the Provincial Team Fees for the Provincials to the O.R.A. office is no later than **FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup>** of the current season.

Regional and Host representation at the Provincial U12 (Petite) level will not be guaranteed.

Regional Representatives must be declared three (3) weeks prior to start of that Provincial event.

**Note:** Each Regional Coaching Co-ordinator is to submit to the Provincial Coaching Chair a list of the Provincial Team bench staff within the Region whose associations have been notified that those bench staff are at risk of not obtaining the appropriate qualifications for the position that they have registered for **JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>** of the current season. The date that the associations were sent notification should be included.

**c. Rules**

- i. All Provincial Championship events, including Preliminaries Qualifiers (Prelims/Qualifiers constitute part of that Provincial Level Championship), shall be O.R.A. sanctioned. The present sanction rules shall be adhered to with, the following exceptions and additions:
  - O.R.A. Provincial Championships, from U12 (Petite) to U19 (Belle), are Age Class Championships. **NO OVERTAGE players are permitted.**
  - Provincial Championships may be offered in any of three (3) Ringette Canada classifications: male, female or co-ed, as required by membership registration.
  - No player substitutions will be allowed unless documented proof showing a team is unable to compete without said substitution(s) (below 10 skaters, goaltender(s) excluded) and approved by G&T Committee.
  - A maximum of three (3) player substitutions.
  - Provincial AA teams can substitute a player from an eliminated Provincial A team to fill a roster if the team roster falls below the minimum player rule. Substitution must be approved by Games and Tournaments.
  - A player may only participate in one Provincial Championship per season.
  - Goalies from “A” teams that are not attending Provincial A Championships, are allowed to be added as an additional goalie for the Provincial AA Championship to give the

team a maximum of two (2) goalies. This will permit an increase in the roster by one (1). G&T approval is required. All other Provincial participation rules apply.

- Goalies from “B” or “C” teams that are not attending a Provincial Championship are allowed to be added as an additional goalie for the Provincial Championships to give the team a maximum of two (2) goalies. This will permit an increase in the roster by one (1). G&T approval is required. All other Provincial participation rules apply.
- To be eligible to attend a Provincial event, U14 (Tween) through 18+ (Open) teams must have attended two (2) O.R.A. sanctioned events at the appropriate level one (1) of which must be out of region, a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the first day of the Provincial event in which they are intending to participate. Northwest teams exempt with G&T approval (due diligence must be proven). Teams must provide confirmation of acceptance in to tournaments to meet this eligibility requirement by **FEBRUARY 1st** or your Regional Representative selection process, whichever comes first.
- To be eligible to attend a Provincial event, Provincial U12 (Petite) teams must have attended two (2) O.R.A. sanctioned events at the appropriate level one (1) of which must be out of region, up to and including the January G&T meeting weekend. Northwest teams exempt with G&T approval. Due diligence must be proven.

d. **Substitute Bench Staff for Provincial Championships**

Any O.R.A. member registered at the position he/she is assuming with the appropriate qualifications for the position being assumed, that have been obtained prior to **JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>** of the current season, may become a valid member of a Bench Staff upon presenting proof of qualification and registration to the Provincial Coaching Chair/Designate.

**NOTE:** The above rule does not allow a Bench Staff member, who is not properly qualified for their registered position, to assume a new position within the team in question, after **JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>** of the current season.

e. **Entry Fees**

- i. All Provincial Championship Entry Fees are to be submitted to the home region by the region deadline which will be no later than **DECEMBER 31st**. These fees will be payable to the home region and are part of the Intent to Proceed to Provincials process. Regions must submit Team Entry Fees for their representatives plus any teams confirmed on or before **FEBRUARY 1st**.

Wild Card Fees are payable by the region to the O.R.A. office immediately upon selection. The amount will be determined upon event budget approval.

- ii. Any team being re-seeded at a Provincial level of play must submit their Intent to Proceed to Provincials and fees immediately upon notification of Re-seeding.

**NOTE:** Associations withdrawing from the Provincial Championships after the withdrawal deadline: **DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>** of the current season shall be fined \$500.00 in addition to the Administrative and Team Entry Fees, which are non-refundable.

If the entry fees have not been received by the O.R.A. office at the time of withdrawal, the association shall be invoiced the full amount.

f. **Wild Cards and Vacant Entries**

- i. If a Region or Host fails to enter a team in any division, the G&T Committee shall select a team to participate in its place. This team is to be called a “Wild Card Entry”.
- ii. In the case that a Region forfeits its entry, the entry shall be filled by the G&T Committee, where possible, with the next highest ranked team available in that age division (but not from a higher level of play).

g. **Selection of Wild Card Entries**

- i. Filing of false information or failing to file pertinent information will result in the team being disqualified from this process.
- ii. Team records shall be taken from O.R.A. sanctioned events held prior to the Regional Representative submission deadline (three (3) weeks prior to the start of the Provincial event).

Each team must participate in at least two (2) O.R.A. Sanctioned tournament against teams at the requested division and level of play one of which must be out of region (does not include Provincial Prelims/Qualifiers).

- iii. Teams must participate in whatever regional process determines their regional representative before being eligible for wild card consideration.
- iv. The criteria for selection of a Wild Card entry shall be determined on the following basis, by the Games and Tournaments Standing Committee:
  - Games between ORA teams only will be used in head to head competition, could be in province or out of province tournament or in a different division or level in a tournament.
  - For the Provincial Ranking System, games outside Ontario between Ontario teams in the same division are included in the ranking data but do not count in tournament total or in the tournament total outside of region.
  - All team wins, losses and ties against teams within their division and level will be recorded with 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 for a loss. 1 point for Silver medal in a final championship game.

**h. Ranking Formula Based On Two (2) Components**

**i. Team Performance**

- Winning Percentage (%) in Sanctioned Events
  - Number of points earned divided by total number of points available
  - 2 points for win, 1 point for tie, 0 points for a loss.
  - 1 point for silver medal in a final championship game
  - Team performance during sanctioned events is a simple objective measure that directly relates to the competitive level of the team.

**ii. Team Exposure**

- Ensures team performance score is representative of their ranking against most teams in Ontario and supports growth of the sport through more tournaments and increase revenue in local associations.
- Maximum number of tournaments entered is 4
- Maximum number of tournaments outside team's home region is 2
- Team exposure cannot be greater than a factor of 1 (one).
- Any tournament with associations included in league play will be considered in region and no out-of-region factoring will be applied.

<u>Total # Tournaments Entered</u>		<u># Tournaments Outside Team's Home Region</u>
4	+	2
<hr/>		
2		

**iii. Final Score for Ranking = Team Performance X Team Exposure**

- Final score adjusts the team performance depending on their level of exposure.

O.R.A. Sanctioned Event Tie-Breaking Rules would be used if necessary.

**iv. Any appeal of the Wild Card Selection Process will follow the O.R.A. Appeal Policy.**

**i. Registration**

The filing of the Intent to Proceed Forms with the required fee constitutes registration for the event. All other rules and policies apply for qualification.

**Note:** Where O.R.A. has indicated that there is an approved accommodation, booking agent teams must use this service for Provincial Championships or be subject to a fine of \$500.00.

## **5. PLAYING RULES**

The “current” Ringette Canada Official Rule Book shall be the Official playing rules of all O.R.A. Sanctioned Events, with the following additions and exceptions:

### **a. Team Rules**

- i. Teams must be ready to go on the ice ten (10) minutes before game time. G&T approval is required for changes by host tournaments. In the event a team does not start their game within seven (7) minutes of the scheduled or adjusted starting time, (including warm up) the on-ice officials shall declare a forfeit unless the G&T Committee (or Host Committee in the case of Invitational Tournaments) has made a decision to reschedule or not, based on the following circumstances only:

- proof of transportation breakdown
- team vehicle accident
- cancellation or delay of transport due to weather conditions.
- schedule change/error not communicated to the team by the tournament organizers.

- ii. There shall be no more than five (5) persons (i.e. coaches, managers, trainers, and/or assistants) allowed on the bench at any one time. One person must be female, 18 years or over, who is not a player on the team (18+, Open and 30+, Masters Divisions exempt).

**NOTE:** Any game where a team fails to start or finish that game (except under the above) a forfeit shall be declared.

- iii. Bench staff must be listed as Bench Staff on the T.R.F. or on an Information Change Form through their Association Registrar; or they must fill in a T.R.F. Adjustment Form (Appendix G&T-F-07) before going on the bench for a game.

**NOTE:** When a game starts with a valid Bench Staff, any change to that staff, including to the only qualified female on the Bench as a result of injury, tending to a participant’s injury, illness or ejection, will not result in a forfeit and is NOT subject to protest.

- iv. **No game shall start without valid Bench Staff.**

- v. Team Bench Staff qualifications must be strictly adhered to: See Coaching Development – Bench Staff Qualifications Section 3.

- vi. Game Sheets must be printed and signed or initialed by **each** Bench Staff participating behind the bench.

- vii. The Home team shall be the 2nd team listed in the tournament schedule. The Home team shall have the choice of sweater colour in case of conflict. In semifinal or final games, the Home team shall be the team that finished higher in the standings, unless pool play has determined otherwise.

**NOTE:** Sweaters must conform with the Ringette Canada Rule Book. At Provincial Championships each team must bring two (2) sets of sweaters with different predominant colours, one a light colour and one a dark colour. Pinnies are an approved alternative.

- viii. Players boxes must be labelled Home and Visitor. The Home team is to have choice of ends at the start of the game. The Visiting team shall be awarded the first free pass.

**b. U9 (Bunny/Novice) Events**

All associations hosting a U9 division must use the following rules: 50 minutes of game time; 2 (two)-minute buzzer; a maximum of one coach per team on the ice; no touching of the opposition players by the coaches; no double shifting unless the number of players available during that game warrant, and all players are to be used equally in double shifting; own players should not be physically moved into position by a coach during playing time; coaches may not impede the on-ice officials(s). For 2009-2010, the U9 events will be mandated that they have no score posted and all players will receive the same participation awards. Finals or Championship games are not permitted.

Any U9 on-ice coach who is violation of the rules will be asked to leave the ice surface for the remainder of the game and no substitutive will be allowed. The removal will be noted on the game sheet for follow through by G&T, Officiating and Coaching.

**c. Penalties**

- i. For disciplinary purposes, a curfewed game will be considered a complete game and all disciplinary actions will be taken in the manner warranted within the current O.R.A. Operating Manual policies as well as those within the Ringette Canada Rule Book.
- ii. Any penalties assessed to a participant after they have been ejected from the game (including penalty accumulation ejection) shall be deemed to have been committed after the game.

**NOTE:** While serving a suspension, a bench staff member must leave the enclosed playing or seating area of the rink so as not to have any influence on the progress of the game. Refusal to do so will result in forfeiture of the game by that team. The offender may also be subject to further suspensions by the league or governing body.

- iii. **Excessive Penalties**

- A Head Coach whose team receives thirty (30) minutes in accumulated penalty time in regulation play (overtime is exempt) shall be suspended from the next regularly scheduled game. Should

that person be the coach on more than one team, the one game suspension must be served with the team that received the excessive penalties.

- A player who receives ten (10) minutes in accumulated penalty time, overtime included, shall be ejected from the remainder of the game. Should the ejection occur within the second half of the play or overtime in a game, the player shall be suspended from the next regularly scheduled game.

**NOTE:** Delayed Penalties wiped out as a result of a goal being scored must be recorded on the game sheet and count toward accumulated penalty time.

**d. Match/Misconduct Penalties**

All match and misconduct penalties must be reported to the team's G&T Co-ordinator within 48 hours by both teams.

**i. Game Definition:**

Regularly scheduled games shall be defined as any game during O.R.A. sanctioned play, Interprovincial play, organized league, and pre-scheduled exhibition play. Games are not to be scheduled in order to speed up suspensions.

**NOTE:** Suspensions assessed by O.R.A. member associations for Match or Misconduct Penalties will be honoured in sanctioned events so long as proper notification is provided by the player's/coach's Home Association and the Tournament Committee in sufficient time to effect such action.

All match penalties are subject to review by the O.R.A./Region/League/Home Association/G&T Co-ordinator and may be subject to further disciplinary actions.

- ii.** If a match penalty is assessed against a player or member of the Bench Staff in O.R.A. sanctioned play, the player/bench staff shall receive an automatic two (2) game suspension for a match penalty assessed during play, to be served in the next two (2) regularly scheduled games, and an automatic three (3) game suspension for a match penalty assessed after the game, to be served in the next three (3) regularly scheduled games. The player/bench staff shall be suspended from any team until the full suspension is served with the team he/she was a member of when the penalty occurred.

**NOTE:** Ringette Canada's one game suspension is included in the number of games to be missed. (i.e. if a player receives a match after the game, they must sit out one (1) game, Ringette Canada's suspension, and two (2) games, O.R.A.'s suspension).

- iii.** If there is a second match penalty of the season assessed against the same player or member of the Bench Staff in O.R.A. sanctioned play, that player/bench staff shall receive an automatic five (5) game suspension for a match penalty assessed during play, to be served in the next five (5) regularly scheduled games, and an automatic six (6) game suspension for a match penalty assessed after the game to be served in the next six (6) regularly scheduled games.

The player/bench staff shall be suspended from any team until the full suspension is served with the team he/she was a member of when the penalty occurred.

- iv. If a third match penalty of the season is assessed against the same player/bench staff during O.R.A. sanctioned play, that player/bench staff shall serve a ten (10) game suspension or the remainder of the season, whichever is greater. If the match penalty is assessed after the O.R.A. sanctioned play, that player/bench staff shall serve a twelve (12) game suspension or the remainder of the season, whichever is greater. Suspension shall be served in regularly scheduled games. The player/bench staff shall be suspended from any team until the full suspension is served with team he/she was a member when the penalty occurred.
- v. A misconduct assessed in the second half of regulation time, in overtime or after the game carries a suspension of the next regularly scheduled game. The player/bench staff shall be suspended only from the team for which they received the misconduct penalty.
- vi. In situations in which game suspensions resulting from ejection penalties (i.e. misconduct/matches) are not served during the tournament in which the penalty was assessed, the Tournament Committee shall report the name(s) of the individual(s) involved to their G&T Co-ordinator within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the tournament.
- vii. It shall be the responsibility of the **home association** of the individuals involved to ensure that **ALL** game suspensions are served.
- viii. Persons participating in regularly scheduled games while under O.R.A. suspension shall be subject to penalties stipulated in [7. Violation of Sanction Rules/Section 8 in this section]. **Note: Exhibition games are not considered regularly scheduled games** unless they were previously scheduled before the suspension took place. **PROOF OF SCHEDULING IS REQUIRED.**
- ix. Suspensions stemming from match or misconduct penalty assessment shall carry over across seasons (within O.R.A.) and across governing bodies (O.R.A. - Ringette Canada) Provincials/Nationals, and vice versa.
- x. Where a player or bench staff receives a suspension and is unable to fulfill the suspension with that team the G&T Chair and appropriate Co-ordinator will rule on terms of the suspension.

e. **Games**

- i. All games will be played until a winner is declared.

**NOTE:** The Host Committee may decide that, if time is not available, the games will remain tied at the end of regulation time and each team awarded 1 point. (This must be consistently used throughout the tournament).

- ii. If the score of a game is tied at the end of regulation time, there will be one (1) overtime stop time period. (i.e.: if two fifteen minute periods were used during regulation time, then the overtime period is fifteen minutes), which will be sudden victory. (i.e. the first team to score in that overtime period will be declared the winner).
- iii. If neither team scores during the first stop time overtime period, there will be successive stop time sudden victory overtime periods until a goal is scored to break the tie.
- iv. Possession of the free pass to start the first overtime period is decided by the tossing of a coin by the referee. The team winning the toss will get the free pass. The other team will get the choice of ends.
- v. If additional overtime periods are required, possession of the ring for the opening free pass will alternate between teams. The teams will also exchange ends for each overtime period.
- vi. All goals scored will be entered on the score-sheet, but the maximum difference of goals to be shown on the scoreboard and tournament charts will be seven (7) goals more than the lower scoring team's total. (i.e.: if the score is 12-1, show 8-1. If the lower team scores, change the scoreboard to show 9-2).

**f. Point Structure**

- i. Teams receive two (2) points for a win and zero (0) points for a loss; and, in the event that the Host Committee decides to allow ties, 1 point shall be awarded to each team remaining tied at the end of the game.
- ii. The team with the most points in each division will be declared the top team in that division.
- iii. The second place team is the team having the second highest number of points, etc.
- iv. In a forfeited game the score will be 7-0. The team forfeiting shall receive 0 points and the other team receives 2 points. In a cancelled game (due to bad weather, etc.) the score is recorded as 0-0 with both teams receiving 1 point.

If a decision by the Protest and Greivance Committee results in a team being disqualified and all other teams were scheduled to play that disqualified team then all games against that team will be eliminated. When not all teams play the disqualified team, the teams scheduled to play the disqualified team will be awarded 2 points and a score of 0-0 is recorded.

g. **Ranking of Tied Teams**

When two or more teams have an equal number of points after completion of the round robin games, the host is responsible to determine the rankings. When two or more teams have an equal number of points after completion of the two ranking tournaments, the Technical Program Director is responsible to determine the rankings. It is preferred to decide all rankings that will eliminate a team from medal play using the mini game procedures. Where mini games are not possible, use these ranking procedures to resolve all ties in standings.

**NOTES:**

- i. **The maximum goals for per game is seven (7) more than the goals against.**
- ii. If a team(s) has forfeited a game, that team(s) will be ranked the lowest position(s) amongst the tied teams.
- iii. The procedures will declare team(s) in individual rankings. In some cases, there will still be a tie within the rankings. (i.e.: in a four-way tie for first in a round robin, the procedures could place one team clearly first with two teams tied for second/third and one team fourth). In these cases, start at step 1 and follow the procedures until the tie is broken then stop.

The ranking of the tied teams will be determined in the following order:

1. If one of the tied teams has beaten all other tied teams, rank that team highest.
2. If still tied and all tied teams have not played each other go directly to Step 7.
3. If still tied, rank the teams in order of wins between only the tied teams.
4. If still tied, rank teams in order of the plus/minus (goals for minus goals against) only in games between the tied teams.
5. If still tied, rank teams using the following formula only in games between the tied teams:

$$\frac{\text{Goals For} + \text{Goals Against}}{\text{Goals Against}}$$

(With the highest value being the higher ranked team)

6. If still tied, rank teams in order of the most goals for only in games between the tied teams.
7. If still tied, rank the teams in order of wins between all teams.
8. If still tied, rank teams in order of the plus/minus (goals for minus goals against) in games between all teams.

9. If still tied, rank teams using the following formula in games between all teams:

**Goals For + Goals Against**  
**Goals Against**

(With the highest value being the higher ranked team)

10. If still tied, rank teams in order of the most goals for in games between all teams.
11. If still tied, rank teams using least penalty minutes in games between the tied teams.
12. If still tied, rank teams using least penalty minutes in games between all teams.
13. At this point, if still tied, the following may be considered to break the tie:
- a) Mini-game
  - b) Coin Toss
  - c) Draw from a hat

**h. Mini-games for Provincial Championships**

- i. Mini-games will not begin earlier than one hour and twenty minutes after the completion of the tied teams' last round robin game. It is the responsibility of all teams involved to be in attendance at the mini-game meeting immediately following this game.
- ii. It is the responsibility of the teams involved to be ready to play at the scheduled time. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the mini-game(s) by the offending team(s). Any team forfeiting a mini-game will be eliminated from medal round play.
- iii. A team required to play in a mini-game will be given a minimum of 10 minutes rest before starting the medal round game or another mini-game.
- iv. Teams involved in mini-games will be seeded by the Ranking of Tied Teams Procedures, during the tie-breaking meeting immediately following the last round robin games of teams involved in the tie.
- v. Each mini-game will consist of a one ten (10) minute, fully played, stop time period. If the score of a mini-game is tied at the end of regulation time, successive sudden victory overtime periods of the same duration will be played until a winner is declared. Free pass award and choice of ends for each overtime period will be as outlined under the normal tie-breaking procedure.
- vi. Playing rules for mini-games will be applied as though the game was tied at 0-0 with ten (10) minutes remaining in regulation time. The home team will be awarded the free pass to start the mini-game and the choice of ends.

## 6. EVENT SANCTION PROCEDURES

**NOTE: Failure to follow these procedures could result in being denied hosting approval in subsequent years.**

- a. Blank Sanctioned Event Applications (Appendix G&T-F-01) are sent out to all members prior to the A.G.M. and included in the prior year's tournament post sanction package.
- b. Potential hosts are to complete an application and submit it to the O.R.A. office. An O.R.A. member association, which hosts a tournament regularly, on an annual basis, acquires a "traditional" right to that weekend each year, as long as they apply by the deadline and have met the prescribed host requirements outlined in the Sanctioning Package and are members in good standing.
- c. All applications are processed on a first come, first served basis pending right of first refusal of the previously sanctioned annual event. (Right of first refusal only applies before **JUNE 30th** of the current season). You can get a head start by contacting your Regional G&T Co-ordinator and sending him/her a copy of your request. Your Regional G&T Co-ordinator will have a list of all of the "traditional" and available weekends.
- d. Special Events
  - i. The event must be hosted by O.R.A. or a Region
  - ii. One Hundred (100) percent of the net proceeds must go to the specified charity.
  - iii. All O.R.A. tournament fees will be waived.
  - iv. Charity must be identified in promotional material.
- e. Regional Sanctioning Procedures are:
  - i. Applications for Sanctioning Events must be sent to the O.R.A. office with a \$40.00 non-refundable deposit. The office will send copies to specific Co-ordinators only with a master list to everyone else. Applications will not be approved until \$40.00 fee is received at the O.R.A. office. Applications submitted after the deadline are subject to a \$100.00 fine.
  - ii. Once the applications are sent to the Co-ordinators, they are then responsible to check any conflicts, with our guidelines, and deal with the proper Co-ordinator to get any difficulties resolved immediately. If the Co-ordinators involved in any conflict cannot clear up the problem, then the G&T Chair will deal with it. If the associations involved do not agree to a solution, then the final decision will be made by the G&T Committee and the decision will be final.
  - iii. A payment form will be included in the sanction event package. This form will specify how to calculate the fee owing that is due with the post event requirements.

- iv. The remittance of this fee after the event **shall be** a cheque made payable to the Region and sent to the Regional G&T Co-ordinator with the Post Sanctioned Event Package.
- v. The Tournament Sanction Fee is \$15.00 per team entered.
- vi. The Region would then be required to submit the percentage (33.33%) due to Ontario Ringette in a timely fashion.
- vii. The G&T Committee will forward to each host, upon sanction approval, a Sanctioned Event Hosting Package.
- viii. Sanction Event Rules provided with the Sanction Package must be prominently posted at each venue.
- ix. The host will submit all pre-event requirements to the Regional G&T Co-ordinator three weeks prior to the event.
- x. The host will submit all post-event requirements to the Regional G&T Co-ordinator five (5) days following the event.
- xi. Should any host have questions regarding their tournament they are to contact their Regional G&T Co-ordinator.
- xii. Tournament Referee-In-Chief Responsibilities

Every Invitational Tournament Referee-In-Chief is required to communicate with their respective Regional Officiating Co-ordinator regarding the selection and scheduling of officials for their tournament. Such communication must take place no later than three (3) weeks prior to the tournament's first game, and shall occur solely for the purpose of information interchange. (See Officiating Development – Important Notice to all Local Referees-in-Chief Section 10).

## 7. PROTESTS AND GRIEVANCES

### a. **Tournament Protest and Grievance Committee**

- i. It is recommended that Sanctioned Invitational Tournaments have a Protest and Grievance Committee, as appointed by the Host, consisting of five (5) registered O.R.A. members i.e. referee, coach, etc.
- ii. At Provincial Championships, a Provincial Protest and Grievance Committee of six (6) (Provincial Host Chair/Designate, Games and Tournaments Chair/Designate, Officiating Chair/Designate, Host Regional G&T Co-ordinator, Coaching Chair/Designate, and one other G&T Co-ordinator) shall convene should any of the following Sanction Rules be violated by a participating player, Bench Staff or team during the O.R.A. Sanctioned Event. In the event the Coaching Chair is in a position of conflict of interest, the Protest Committee Chair shall select a replacement, also not in conflict or if not available, in the following order of priority; Host Region Coaching Co-ordinator, Member of the Provincial Coaching Committee, or Fully Certified Registered Level 2 N.C.C.P. or equivalent Ringette™ Coach in attendance at the tournament.

**NOTE: A member of the Tournament and Grievance Committee may not participate on a protest and/or grievance involving their Home Association.**

- iii. No Protests and/or Grievances shall be entertained against the official's judgement and/or application of the playing rules on the ice. Questions concerning the rule interpretations shall be directed to the Referee-in-Chief of the Tournament.
- iv. The O.R.A. office will be copied on all minutes of any Protest and Grievance Committee Meeting. Minutes MUST be taken.

### b. **Protests**

- i. At a Sanctioned Event the only actions that may be protested are:  
  
Ineligible Players; and  
Ineligible Bench Staff
- ii. Ineligible Players:
  - A player who is not registered and verified with the O.R.A.
  - A player on any team other than the one(s) she is registered on, except as allowed as a properly documented substitute.
  - A player playing while under O.R.A. suspension.

Substantiated violation of 1, 2 and/or 3 will result in disqualification of the team from the tournament. Also subject to sanction fines levied by the Sport Governing Body.

iii. Ineligible Bench Staff:

- Bench staff who have not registered with the O.R.A.
- Bench staff who do not have the required qualifications.
- Bench staff participating while under O.R.A. suspension.

Substantiated violation of 1, 2 and/or 3 will result in disqualification of the team from the tournament. Also subject to sanction fines levied by the Sport Governing Body.

c. **Grievance**

- i. At a Sanctioned Event, an O.R.A. member has the opportunity to grieve any action that is not covered under the Protest Section.
- ii. The interpretation of a grievance is that it is of such a serious nature that the cash deposit will be \$75.00 non-refundable, payable to the Hosting body.
- iii. No grievance will be allowed against the judgement and application of the playing rules on the ice. Questions concerning rule interpretations shall be directed to the Referee-In-Chief of the tournament.
- iv. All upheld grievances shall automatically go to the President for potential further disciplinary action.

d. **Procedures for Protests and/or Grievances**

- i. Coach will inform the on-ice official at the end of the game of their intention of protesting a violation of the tournament rules, or initiating a grievance. The official will record the intended protest on the front of the game sheet.
- ii. The coach will submit the protest and/or grievance in writing to the Arena Convener on duty within thirty (30) minutes of the end of the game. A \$75.00 cash deposit must accompany the submission.
- iii. The Arena Convener shall contact a member of the Protest and Grievance Committee immediately.
- iv. The Tournament Protest and Grievance Committee shall meet within two (2) hours of notification of a protest and/or grievance and will inform both coaches of the teams involved within one (1) hour of the end of their meeting as to whether the violation is substantiated or otherwise.

## 8. VIOLATION OF SANCTION RULES

Violations of sanction rules are to be administered by the appropriate Committee Co-ordinator. i.e.: Coaching Committee or Co-ordinator administers a coaching violation.

### a. **Administrative Rules**

**There shall be a \$25.00 fine levied for each violation of the administrative sanction rules.**

#### **Examples (not limited to):**

- i. Host not submitting tournament rules by specified date.
- ii. Host not submitting tournament schedule by specified date.
- iii. Host not submitting list of teams, level of play, and team numbers by specified date.
- iv. Host not submitting tournament game sheets (white copy) by specified date.
- v. Host not submitting list of officials by specified date.
- vi. Host not submitting safety audit forms by specified date.

### b. **Participant Rules**

**There shall be a \$50.00 per game fine levied for each violation of the participant sanction rules.**

#### **Examples (not limited to):**

- i. Player/Bench Staff/On-ice Official found not to have paid either or all affiliate program fees, O.R.A. dues, or O.R.A. insurance fee (or equivalent).
- ii. Player/Team found to have played in wrong age division.
- iii. Player/Team found to have played in wrong competitive level.
- iv. Player found to have played in more than one Provincial Championship.
- v. Team found using the same substitutes in more than one tournament.
- vi. Team found to have used more than three (3) substitutes in the same event.
- vii. Player found to have played for more than one team in the same event.
- viii. Bench Staff/Officials found to have incorrect qualification.
- ix. A team found not to have produced a copy of their T.R.F. at tournament registration.
- x. A team found not to have filled out a T.R.F. Adjustment Form at tournament registration when such form was required.
- xi. Player/Team/Bench staff participating in regularly scheduled games while under O.R.A. suspension.
- xii. Use of ineligible substitute.
- xiii. Teams found to have a T.R.F. not registered at the O.R.A. office before participating in a Sanctioned Event.

c. **Other Event Sanction Rules**

There shall be a \$50.00 fine levied for each violation of these Other Event Sanction Rules.

**Examples (not limited to):**

- i. Failure to submit Sanction Event Fees by the deadline.
  - ii. Failure to notify O.R.A. office of interprovincial play.
- d. Failure, by the host, to electronically submit required, completed schedules with scores for all divisions in a sanctioned tournament within 5 days following the event to the Regions Games and Tournaments Co-ordinator, may result in a fine up to \$500.00.
- e. Any association fined for violation of sanction rules shall be under review by the G&T Committee to determine whether they shall retain the right to host another O.R.A. Sanctioned Event.
- f. Any Player/Bench Staff/Official fined for violation of sanction rules shall be under review by the appropriate Committee, to determine whether they shall retain the right to participate in another O.R.A. Sanctioned Event. (i.e: Coaching Co-ordinator reviews Bench Staff, Officiating Co-ordinator reviews Officials).

9. **INTERPROVINCIAL PLAY**

- a. O.R.A. host associations shall accept Out of Province Teams/Bench Staff/Officials under the assumption they are members in good standing in their own province.
- b. The O.R.A. Tournament Hosts are to inform the O.R.A. (office or Regional G&T Co-ordinator or Regional Director) in writing, immediately, of any incidents that occur during their tournament involving an out of province team.
- c. Association Hosts are to inform the O.R.A. office of all out of province teams entering their tournament thirty (30) days prior to the event or as soon as accepted, providing the following information:
  - i. Province
  - ii. Date of Arrival
  - iii. Date of Departure
  - iv. Complete team list with officials listed

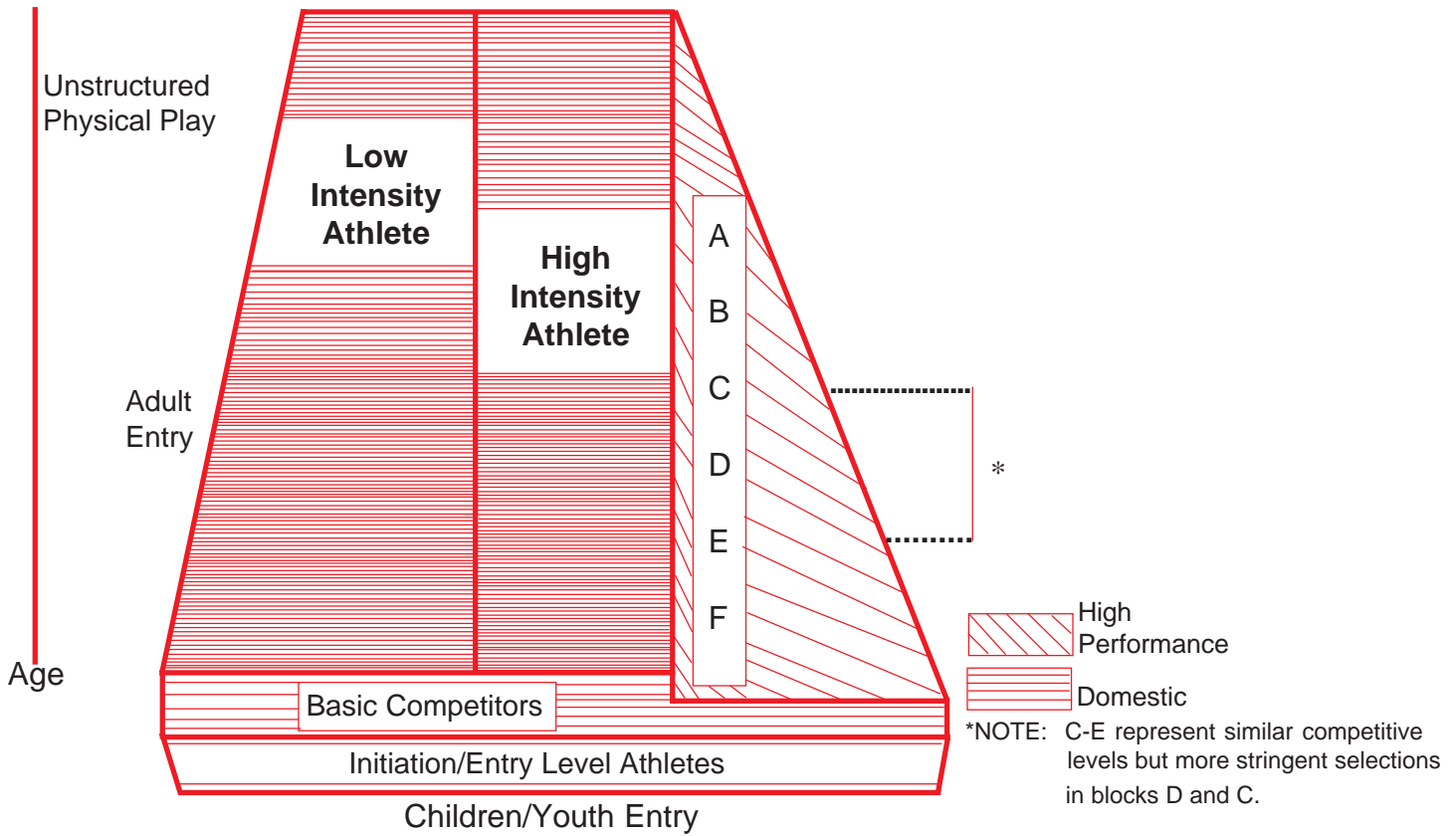
(Submit Out of Province Play Form - G&T-F-08).

- d. The O.R.A. office will advise the host of the team's eligibility.
- e. Any O.R.A. teams participating in our-of-province tournaments shall inform the O.R.A. office in writing, within thirty (30) days prior to the event or as soon as accepted, providing the following information:
  - i. Destination
  - ii. Departure from Ontario
  - iii. Return to Ontario
  - iv. Complete team list with officials

(Submit Out of Province Play Form - G&T-F-08).

- f. League and exhibition games scheduled out of province must be submitted to the O.R.A. office before participation in the game.
- g. The O.R.A. shall notify Ringette Canada of any incidents that involve out-of-province teams.
- h. Ontario has the right to disqualify an out-of-province team from participating in Ontario.
- i. **Ringette Canada Rules must be used in any division of a Sanctioned Event where Out-of-Province teams participate.**

**10. ATHLETE FACE OF SPORT SPECIFIC SYSTEM MODEL**



**NATIONAL INVOLVEMENT**

- A Future National Team (Olympics)
- B National Athletes (World Championship Level)
- C Canada Winter Games Teams (Canada Winter Games Athletes)
- D National Qualifying Teams
- E Provincial Elite (Provincial Championship Level)
- F Talent Pool (Provincial Qualifying Level)

**BASIC COMPETITORS**

**INITIATION/ENTRY LEVEL ATHLETES**

**PROVINCIAL INVOLVEMENT**

- AAA To be confirmed
- AAA Team Ontario Regional Squads
- AA Provincial AA U16, U19, 18+
- AA Provincial AA Championship & Qualifiers
- A Provincial A Championship & Qualifiers
- B Regional B Championships
- C Regional C Championships

## 11. 3 ON 3 RINGETTE™ EXPERIMENTAL RULES FORMAT

The tournament shall be governed by the O.R.A. Sanctioned Event Rules with the following additions and changes.

### a. **Team Rules**

- i. All players must be registered with O.R.A.
- ii. Coaching staff must be certified for level of play.
- iii. Maximum of 11 players per team (9 skaters and 2 goalies).

### b. **Playing Format**

- i. All teams must be ready to go on the ice 10 minutes before scheduled game time.
  - 1 minute warm up
  - two 8 minute periods, with 1 minute time-out between periods
  - one 30 second time-out per team per game
  - penalty shots will start immediately after the end of the 2nd period.
- ii. Recommend ice cleaning after every 3rd game.

### c. **Playing Rules**

- i. Maximum of 3 skaters and goalie on ice per team.
- ii. Substitutions occur during play.
- iii. Penalty calls:
  - referee will notify scorekeeper of team and type of infraction
  - ring is placed in circle for free pass and play begins on whistle
  - player change as if during play
  - one penalty shot awarded for each minor penalty
  - two penalty shots awarded for each major penalty
  - penalty shots to be taken alternating between teams
  - penalty shots to be taken by each team by players in order of listing on score sheet

### d. **When a goal is scored:**

- i. The referee will indicate with two short whistles
- ii. Play restarts immediately with “goaltenders ring”

e. **No tied games**

- i. If after game and penalty shots, the score is tied, an additional penalty shot(s) will be taken by each team until the tie is broken and a winner declared.
- ii. The visiting team will take the first shot and the order of shot taking will be as in [c].

f. Time clock stops on injuries only.

g. Players involved in penalty shots will assemble in the centre circle and will take the penalty shot immediately on the referee's signal.

**NOTE:** ALL OTHER O.R.A. RULES OF PLAY ARE IN EFFECT.