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1.0 PROGRAM MANDATE

The Adult Development Program was established to provide the continuation of the sport of Ringette™ for adults in the province of Ontario.

As participants in the sport of Ringette™ at the adult level, the Committee recognizes you have specific needs and requirements, many of which are very different from those of youth. Your Provincial Standing Committee would like to emphasize that the organization and development of programs and activities has been geared to meet your specific needs and requirements. In these times of change, teams should maintain a degree of flexibility that will provide the adult players with a place to play at their level of skill.

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 To provide Ringette™ to all players at their level of ability.
- 1.1.2 To provide resource material to these players to enhance their enjoyment and knowledge of the game.
- 1.1.3 To create programs geared to the adult participating in Ringette™.
- 1.1.4 To provide a continuing program at an adult level for athletes coming up through the minor system. (“Ringette™ for Life”).
- 1.1.5 To encourage FUN - FITNESS – FRIENDSHIP.

1.2 Goals and Objectives

- 1.2.1 To liaise and communicate with the Provincial Standing Committees and the Board of Directors on behalf of the adult participants.
- 1.2.2 To maximize adult participation and membership.
- 1.2.3 To encourage the development of community-hosted Invitational Tournaments in the 18+ Open and 30+ Masters participant divisions, and to increase participation in minor tournaments for 18+ Open and 30+ Masters divisions.
- 1.2.4 To encourage information and resource exchange between Regions.
- 1.2.5 To educate and encourage adult membership within the Provincial Sport Association and to utilize the existing technical and administrative programs to service their needs.
- 1.2.6 To establish and maintain a working relationship with each Regional Committee.
- 1.2.7 To enhance the lines of communication throughout the membership.
- 1.2.8 To develop and promote the 30+ Masters and Co-ed divisions.
- 1.2.9 To liaise and communicate with other local associations within your Region

1.3 Levels of Play

- 1.3.1 AA/A: For the highly competitive athlete coming from the elite and competitive ranks of the minor system.
- 1.3.2 B: For the competitive athlete who plays with others of the same caliber; with few exceptions, players coming from the minor system would find this level most suitable.
- 1.3.3 C: For players with good skating and Ringette™ skills and may have come up through the minor leagues.
- 1.3.4 Recreational: The least skilled of the levels, enjoyed by players new to the sport as well as those with experience. Includes:

beginners/schools/outreach.

1.3.5 Master A/B/C/Rec: Athletes 30 years of age and over who meet the above criteria for the level

1.4 Seeding of Teams

1.4.1 Seeding of 18+ Open and 30+ Masters B, C and Rec teams is the responsibility of the Adult Development Committee and may be divided into BB/B, CC/C, REC 1, 2, 3, etc.

1.4.2 G&T will be responsible for ranking and seeding the 18+ Open A teams for Provincials for penalty tracking and for assisting in determining divisions at tournaments.

Adult be responsible for administration, including registration, substitutions, affiliates and composite teams.

1.4.3 Each team and/or association will seed the team at the beginning of the playing season. The Adult Development Committee will accumulate statistics and evaluate the team’s performance for seeding adjustments in sanctioned play on on-going basis. Adjustments to seeding are based on on-ice performance.

1.4.4 By mid December, the Adult Development Committee will identify any teams that, based on available data, are “red flagged” for discussion on re-seeding. These teams will be informed in writing of the recommendation.

1.4.5 Teams will be informed in writing by their Regional Adult Development Coordinator of any seeding changes.

1.5 Age Divisions

1.5.1 18+ Open - 18 and up (no ceiling)
 30+ Masters - 30 and up (no ceiling)

Any player designated 18+ Open will be subjected to all rules and governance which apply to the 18+ Open and 30+ Masters divisions.

All exceptions to 18+ Open playing out of their age category, with the exception of the Provincial Championships must receive appropriate approval from the Regional ADP Coordinator and the Regional Executive. There will be no exceptions made to the 30+ Masters age division for sanctioned play.

1.5.2 18+ Open players over the age of 19 years old cannot play below their respective age level without approval from the Regional ADP Coordinator and Regional Executive.

1.5.3 Underage players require a release from their home association to play at the 18+ Open level regardless of which association is receiving the player. Please refer to the Membership Services Section of the Operating Manual.

1.6 Membership / Registration

1.6.1 All adult affiliates (players, bench staff, volunteers, etc.) shall register in accordance with O.R.A. Registration Membership Classes. Please refer to the Membership Services Section of this Operating Manual. Adult teams/groups who are not currently affiliated with a Minor (youth) Ringette

Association will be charged a Registered Member fee.

- 1.6.2 The Adult Development Program is excluded from the Two Team Player Rule, as outlined in the Games and Tournaments and Membership Services sections of the Operating Manual. Refer to the Player Affiliation Policy for more information.
- 1.6.3 Team registration is due by NOVEMBER 15th. Team Registration Form changes must be completed by JANUARY 8th. Composite teams are registered at the level of highest player (if regional player carding is used) or highest team (if regional team carding is used) being drawn from. Players registering after January 8th will be reviewed for approval by the Adult Committee on a case by case basis.

Players relocating from region to region and players wishing to change teams after the registration deadline (November 15th) are required to complete an 18+ Open/30+ Masters Transfer Application Form and submit it to the Regional ADP Co-ordinator for approval after obtaining the required signatures.

- 1.6.4 Composite teams must be registered with the O.R.A. office by NOVEMBER 15th on a Team Registration Form clearly marked Composite Team. Registration Form Changes must be completed by JANUARY 8th.
- 1.6.5 Composite teams are comprised of players already registered on 18+ Open/30+ Masters teams who want to participate in sanctioned events with a group other than their home team. TRF information required:

Player name, registered (home) team and association.

- 1.6.6 Composite teams can be developed at the A/AA Level; however, they require G&T approval to play in sanctioned events.
 - 1.6.7 See Sport Development for information on ringette at post-secondary institutions.
- Note:** Players playing for local association teams can be affiliated with post-secondary teams. The local association team is deemed to be the home team regardless of level.
- 1.6.8 An independent player is a player who is registered with O.R.A. and not affiliated with a specific team. All substitute rules as per G&T and ADP apply.

1.7 Player Affiliation

1.7.1 Definition

- Affiliation means that a player may be called up from their regular team to play on a higher level team on an as needed basis.
- This is conditional on the player, parents, coaches, local association and ADP agreeing to the affiliation and completing the necessary documentation.

1.7.2 Purpose

- Allows the creation/maintenance of a team at a level where there are not enough players for a viable team and/or allows a team to replace absent, sick, injured, or suspended players on a game by game basis.

***Exception for University teams only:** Affiliate players follow the same rules but can also include third year U19 Belle players.

1.7.3 Policy

- Player affiliation may occur at one or more playing levels higher than the team that the player is on, i.e. 'AA' teams may affiliate a player from a 'A', 'B', etc. Where an association does not have eligible players to affiliate, it may affiliate players from another association within its region, then from another region within the province. Where one of the teams is a university/college team, the home team will be the non-university/college team. Where one of the teams is a university/college team, the university/college team can be one playing level lower than the home team.
- Players may not play on a composite team and be affiliated; they may only appear on two team registration forms.
- A minimum of seven (7) players must be registered before an affiliate player may be added to the team registration form.
- A maximum of five (5) affiliate players may be recorded on a team registration form.
- Affiliates' primary responsibility is to their home team.
- Affiliates cannot act as substitutes for any other team.
- Affiliates must be registered as 18+ Open players.
- Players 'dressed' and listed on the game sheet shall be:
 - a minimum of seven (7) players;
 - a maximum of five (5) affiliate players;
 - a maximum of twelve (12) players if the only affiliate player(s) participating in that game are skater(s);
 - a maximum of thirteen (13) players if a combination of affiliate skater(s) and an affiliate goaltender is participating in that game;
 - a maximum of eighteen (18) if the only affiliate player 'dressed' is a goaltender.
- Affiliate players not eligible to play may be on the bench but cannot be 'dressed'. The player's name must appear on the game sheet with (NOT DRESSED) appearing beside their name.
- Affiliate Goaltenders:
 - the affiliate goaltender is only to be played in the event of illness, injury or absence of the full time goaltender;

- the affiliate goaltender may be dressed in any game (provided the team follows the maximum per game scenario) and may only play if the goaltender gets hurt or ill during the course of that game.
 - Penalties for Affiliation Violation and/or Abuse:
 - *First time offense* - the team will receive a loss for the game in which the violation and/or abuse occurred, and the score will be recorded as a 0-7 loss for the penalized team;
 - *Second time offense* (within two calendar years of the first offense) - the Head Coach or Acting Head Coach will receive a 3 game suspension and the team will receive a loss for the game in which the violation and/or abuse occurred and the score will be recorded as a 0-7 loss for the penalized team;
 - *Third and subsequent offenses* - a disciplinary hearing will be held and the Head Coach or Acting Head Coach will receive a minimum 10 game suspension and the team will receive a loss for the game in which the violation and/or abuse occurred and the score will be recorded as a 0-7 loss for the penalized team.
 - There is no additional registration fee for an affiliate player.
 - There is no restriction as to the number or type of games an affiliate player may play.
 - The affiliate's main responsibility is to her home team's schedule (practices, league games, exhibition games, play-offs, tournaments, etc.). The player can only participate in Provincials with her home team. If her team is not going to Provincials affiliate players can be allowed to substitute at Provincials at the discretion of the Games and Tournaments Committee.
 - The registration of affiliate players and their years of experience may affect the level at which the team is tiered. An affiliate player's years of experience may result in a team being tiered at a higher level but not be used to move the team to a lower level.
 - Affiliate players are permitted to play with their higher ranking provincial team if required, in keeping with affiliate rules. If the player is not required as an affiliate, the player may substitute for another team following all substitutions rules and at the discretion of the G&T Committee.
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2.0 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- 2.1 Outreach Assistance** If your group would like advice or assistance on starting Adult Ringette™ or building your current program your Regional ADP Co-ordinator can either help you or direct you to someone else to provide assistance in the areas of communications, promotions, organizing, budgeting, etc.
- 2.2 Instructional Player Skills Sessions** The Ontario Ringette Association has a team of qualified Player Skills Instructors who can teach you the fundamentals of skating, goaltending and Ringette™ skills. They also can teach sessions on strategy, basic rules and other informative topics. For details contact the ORA office.
- 2.3 Coaches Clinics / Officiating Clinics** The O.R.A. offers National Coaching Certification Programs to its members to improve your knowledge of Ringette™ and coaching in general. Ontario Ringette also offers all levels of National Officiating Certification Programs to ensure that your referees know the rules and are trained to apply them properly. See the Officiating Development and Coaching Development Sections of this Manual for qualifications.
- 2.4 Resource Material** Rulebooks, coaching manuals, game sheets and promotional materials are available for sale to our members. As members you have the right to access these items. For details call the O.R.A. office.
- 2.5 Regional / Provincial and Interprovincial Tournaments** Your team works hard all season. Why not cap it off by playing the best at your level. Provincial Championships in the 18+ Open A divisions. Regional Championships are offered in some regions in B, C and Recreational divisions. 30+ Masters and Co-ed divisions are being promoted as well for league play.
- 2.6 Adult Ringette™ Camp** Get-Away Camp is offered when required. The program includes on-ice drills, off-ice workshops, intra-camp games and it is geared to the needs of all adult players.
 Date: Late September or early October
 Place: To be announced
- 2.7 Ontario Adult Invitational Cup** A seasonal tournament for adult teams. This will provide a venue for all playing levels.
- 2.8 Recognition Awards Program** The Adult Program accepts nominations annually for the Adult Provincial Contribution Award as stated under Membership Services. Submissions for these awards must be made through the O.R.A. office before **APRIL 1st**. The Committee will select a suitable recipient and the Awards will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of Ontario Ringette. Regional Adult Contribution Awards should be submitted to the Region and are chosen by the Regional Executive and presented within the region. Contact your ADP Co-ordinator for more information.
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3.0 ADULT SANCTIONED PLAY RULES

- 3.1 Introduction**
- 3.1.1 The 18+ Open/ 30+ Masters B, C and Recreational levels are the responsibility of the Adult Development Program. The ADP shall be responsible for the sanctioning of all adult only tournaments. All adult tournaments shall be sanctioned per Games and Tournaments procedures.
- 3.1.2 All sanctioned play at the Adult Provincial Level (A & AA) is the responsibility of G&T. All divisions that are the responsibility of ADP shall follow G&T procedures. The following exceptions to the Games and Tournaments Program Regulations shall apply

3.2 Sanctioned Events There are five (5) different levels of O.R.A. Sanctioned Events, as follows:

- 3.2.1 Invitational Tournaments
 3.2.2 Regional Tournaments
 3.2.3 Regional Preliminary Championships/Qualifiers
 3.2.4 Provincial Championships/Qualifiers
 3.2.5 **3 on 3 Tournaments**
 3.2.6 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.

NOTE: Shot clocks are required at the 30+ Masters, 18+ Open B and C levels.

3.3 Substitution for Sanctioned Events

3.3.1 In addition to the Player Substitution Procedure found in Games and Tournaments Player Substitutions for Invitational Tournaments the following applies:

All substitutes are subject to approval by the ADP Co-ordinator/Chair.

- 3.3.2 Can only be from an appropriate age, same caliber or less, 18+ Open, 30+ Masters
- 3.3.3 Any player that appears on more than one T.R.F. Adjustment Form in the same sanctioned event constitutes a violation of sanction rules.
- 3.3.4 Players may play as a substitute for two (2) tournaments in a season. Goaltenders are exempt when substituting as goaltenders.
- If a goaltender substitutes as a skater, she is then restricted to two (2) tournaments a season. Goaltenders are exempt when substituting as goaltenders.
- 3.3.5 30+ Masters **B**, C and 30+ Masters Recreational teams may increase their roster size with the use of additional players to a maximum of Thirteen (13) skaters and a goalie. The maximum number of additional players is three (3) substitutes. Rules still apply as defined under ADP and G&T.

3.3.6 Adult teams can call up from one age group lower, same caliber of play or

lower.

3.3.7 18+ Open teams can call up from the U19 Belle age group, and only those players who are 18 years or older on or before December 31st of the playing season, can be considered as a call up.

3.3.8 All call ups must have prior approval from ADP Chairs delegate.

3.3.9 Any cross Region call ups must be approved by both Regional ADP Coordinators and ADP Chair/Designate.

3.3.10 18+ Open teams at the B/BB level and lower may split into two (2 viable teams (7 players) and attend the same or separate tournaments on the same weekend. Players **must** remain on the same team for the entire duration of the tournament. No substitutions allowed to create a viable team or add additional players. Any team playing with 10 or less skaters and a goalie may be allowed to substitute for injury or illness only.

3.4 Bench Staff Requirements

3.4.1 18+ Open/ 30+ Masters teams are required to meet the guidelines set out in the Coaching Development Section of the Operating Manual, 4. Bench Staff Qualifications.

Note: Non-qualified Bench Staff shall not be allowed to participate in O.R.A. Sanctioned Events after **JANUARY 8th**. Should a member of your association Bench Staff violate this rule, it shall result in team disqualification and/or fines levied. There shall be no exceptions and/or appeals to this rule. Refer to Coaching Development Section 3 for further details.

3.4.2 Teams are required to have a Head Coach **registered on their TRF**.

3.4.3 Teams are required to have a non-playing member of their **Bench** staff on the bench.

3.4.4 All Bench Staff must have proper qualifications and be registered on the T.R.F. Age requirements must be met.

3.4.5 In seasons in which new rules are in effect, the Head Coach or Assistant Coach of every registered adult team must attend a Rules Clinic or an Officiating Clinic by **JANUARY 8th** of the season.

3.4.6 Refer to the Sanctioned Events Section for play in which coaching requirements must be met.

3.5 Bench Staff Suspensions

While serving a suspension, a bench staff member must leave the enclosed playing and 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 suspension by the league or governing body.

4.0 SAFETY

- 4.1 Stick Checks** Random stick checks will be made throughout the season to determine the legality/state of player's sticks.
- 4.2 Equipment Checks** Random equipment checks will be made throughout the season to determine the legality of players' equipment.
- 4.3 Facemasks and Helmets** All players must wear approved facemasks and helmets in accordance with O.R.A. guidelines. Goaltenders must wear approved facemasks and helmets in accordance with O.R.A. guidelines.
- 4.4 Alcohol Drug Consumption** The use of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited. Alcohol consumption by minors is strictly prohibited. Alcohol consumption by those of legal age must be handled with discretion and in a manner not demeaning to the Ontario Ringette Association following all laws according to the Liquor License Act of Ontario. Any persons violating these rules are subject to suspension for the remainder of the event.
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