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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. 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 Open and 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. The Provincial A and AA levels (except for Open A and Masters A) 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 A and AA Championships. These events shall adhere to current O.R.A. Sanction Rules. The Adult Development Program shall be responsible for the Adult Provincial Championships for all adult teams except Open AA.

- iv. Seeding of 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.

- v. 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 and are ongoing on a Regional and Provincial Level. The G&T Committee will meet mid-season to evaluate and finalize the seeding of teams for Provincial Championship play. **INFORMING TEAMS OF ADVANCEMENT** – Teams will be immediately informed by their Regional G&T Co-ordinator of any seeding changes. **ADVANCEMENT APPEAL** – Any team may request, in writing, through their Regional G&T Co-ordinator, a review of the G&T seeding advancement decision. The Regional G&T Co-ordinator will submit this Review Request to the G&T Committee as a whole for re-evaluation. Any appeal of this re-evaluation decision will follow the O.R.A. Decision Review and Appeal Process.

- vi. Prior to the Games and Tournaments mid-season seeding meeting, each Regional Games and Tournaments Co-ordinator will notify any team in their Region whose seeding is known to be up for review, informing them of the possibility of a seeding change and inviting them to provide the Committee, in writing and/or by personal representation, any information they feel is pertinent.

Note: Seeding of Open and Masters teams, with the exception of AA, is the responsibility of the Adult Development Committee.

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 8th** of each season. This must be done on an O.R.A. Information Change Form (Appendix M-F-10).

- c. **Two Team Players** (does not apply to player under the jurisdiction of the Adult Development Program).

- i. Any B or C players may play on a Provincial level team and register on both T.R.F.s. A player may only leave her home association if that level of play is not offered or the player does not make the Provincial team (must attend tryouts).
- ii. Priority is to the lower level team through an agreed upon written “Playing Agreement” between both coaches and the player/parent(s). The general hierarchy is Championships before Tournaments, Tournaments before Games, Games before Practices, Practices before Meetings, Meetings before Social Activities. If there are points that cannot be agreed upon, the Regional G&T Co-ordinator will finalize any conflicts using these guidelines and with consideration of the importance of these events. If all concerned agree when the hierarchy is different in a given situation, the agreed to solution can be approved. Players having to cross Regional boundaries must deal with both Co-ordinators. If there is a problem, the G&T Chair will make the final decision. The Playing Agreement must be signed by the Player/Guardian, applicable Coaches and Association President(s) or designates. Reference Membership Services – registering players on two teams.

NOTE: Playing Agreement Standard Form is located in the Operating Manual, Appendices Section (Appendix G&T-F-02).

- iii. Ensure that these players have O.R.A. insurance, if one or both of the associations have opted out of the O.R.A. insurance.
- iv. Player must register with their B or C team and play with them all year, including Regional Championships and Sanctioned Events. If their calibre of play raises this team to a Provincial level, the player may play for only this team.
- v. The Playing Agreement Form must be signed by the player/parent/guardian, applicable coaches, Association Presidents/Designates, and G&T Co-ordinator.

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(Also Membership Services “Two Team Player” Procedures Section 10).

3. O.R.A. SANCTIONED EVENTS:

a. 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. If a coach refuses to put on a helmet after being asked they will be given a misconduct penalty by the on-ice official. (Also Coaching Development - Bench Staff Duties Section 2).
- ii. Random stick checks will be made throughout the season by on-ice officials to determine the legality/state of safety of players' sticks.
- iii. There are 5 different kinds of O.R.A. Sanctioned Events. They are:
 - 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.

b. Tournament Listings

All tournaments ***applied for and approved by the deadline***, shall appear on the tournament list published in late August. 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 periodically throughout the season when there are sufficient changes).

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

- e.g. Tween AA may play Junior A
Petite B may play Petite A

[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 present 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 and before being circulated.**
- “AA” Hosts are strongly recommended to provide two (2) 20 minutes periods for Junior, Belle and Open.

v. Entry Fee:

Tournament entry fees are determined by the Host.

vi. Team Registration:

- Each team applying to participate in an Invitational Tournament shall provide the Host with a photocopy 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 shall be the team’s responsibility to ensure that the host has the correct information. A letter/form to substantiate overage 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. (yellow copy) 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 on all game sheets and cross off those who are not in attendance.

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 are as follows:
 - Shall be registered with your association and be an O.R.A. registered player. When your association has no same calibre or less teams, you must apply to your Regional G&T Co-ordinator for possible solutions.
 - Can choose either/or:
 - i) same age division or lower, same calibre or less

(example 1. A Junior AA team could choose:
a Junior AA, A, B or C player; or
a Tween AA, A, B or C player)

(example 2. A Junior A team could choose:
a Junior A, B or C player; or
a Tween A, B or C player)
 - ii) one calibre higher only, age division lower

(example: a Junior A team could also choose:
a Tween AA player)
- 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**.
- 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).
- **Players** may only play for ONE team in that particular tournament.

- 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 8th**, 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 8th** of the playing season.

ix. **Substitutes for Regional Championships**

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

d. **Game Deadlines**

All Regional B and C Championships will be posted on the special events listing - available through the O.R.A. Membership Mailing. Please contact your Games and Tournaments Regional Co-ordinator for more information.

e. **Code of Conduct**

Any person who interferes with the game or verbally abuses or harasses 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.

4. PROVINCIAL AA AND A CHAMPIONSHIPS

a. **Format**

- i. Provincial AA and A 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. A 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 and Ontario Winter Games schedules will be prepared by the O.R.A. office staff with input from Games and Tournaments, Adult Development and Officiating Development.
- iii. Format:
 - One (1) team entry per Region per division
 - One (1) team entry per division from Hosting Association
 - Seven (7) team full round robin
 - Teams with highest points after round robin advance to Championship game
 - Teams with the second highest points and third highest points, advance to the semifinal game to determine the bronze medallist
 - Teams winning the semifinal game advance to the Championship game to determine the gold and silver medallists.
 - In events where a modified round robin is being played or a round robin with less than seven (7) teams are involved, the Page Play-off System will be used to determine medallists. 1st vs 2nd; 3rd vs 4th; loser of 1st vs 2nd plays winner of 3rd vs 4th (Bronze game); winner of the Bronze game plays the winner of the 1st vs 2nd game (Gold/Silver game).
- iv. As long as the number of teams eligible for Provincial Championships, A and AA, falls within the maximum number of teams allotted and the ice is available as per the requirements in the Host Guide, more than 7 teams will be allowed in a division to attend the Provincial Championships.
- v. Mini Games:

At Provincial Championships, any tie 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.

b. **Provincial AA and A Regional Representatives**

Format to determine Regional representation at Provincial AA and A Championships is the responsibility of your Region. A team may not be formed purely to participate in Provincial Championships. Proof of league play, entry in, or letters of rejection from, at least two (2) tournaments, must accompany entry fee. Contact your Regional G&T Co-ordinator or Regional Chair for further information. Deadline for the Regions to submit their representatives (i.e: the community names) for the Provincials to the office is **FEBRUARY 1st**.

All prelim games will be concluded by **FEBRUARY 15th**.

Note: Each Regional Coaching Co-ordinator is to submit to the Provincial Coaching Chair a list of the "A" and "AA" 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 8th**. 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 Petite to Belle, are Age Class Championships. **NO OVERAGE 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 plus a goaltender), and approved by G&T Committee.
 - A player may only participate in one Provincial Championship per season.

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

Any O.R.A. registered member with the appropriate qualifications for the position being assumed, that have been obtained prior to **JANUARY 8th**, 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 8th** of the playing season.

e. **Entry Fees**

- i. Provincial AA Championship entry fee per team is to be submitted on or before **FEBRUARY 1st**. The amount will be determined upon event budget approval.
- ii. Provincial A Championship entry fee per team is to be submitted on or before **FEBRUARY 1st**. The amount will be determined upon event budget approval.

NOTE: Associations withdrawing from the Provincial AA or A Championships after the withdrawal deadline: **FEBRUARY 1st** 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". All teams in each of the Provincial Qualifiers that have requested, in writing, shall be considered for the position.
- ii. In the case that a Region forfeits its entry, the entry shall be filled by the G&T Committee, where possible, with the highest calibre team available in that age division (but not from a higher level of play).
- iii. Each region may submit wild card entries in each division up to the available number of wild card positions in each division.

g. **Selection of Wild Card Entries**

- i. Team records shall be taken from O.R.A. sanctioned events held prior to the Regional Representative submission deadline:

FEBRUARY 15th

Each team must participate in at least two (2) O.R.A. Sanctioned tournament (does not include Provincial Prelims/Qualifiers). However, if there are no applicants that have met this prerequisite, Wild Card consideration may be given to other teams that apply. Letters of rejection to applied tournaments will be reviewed.

- ii. The factors used to decide a Wild Card entry shall be determined on the following basis, by the Games and Tournaments Standing Committee:

- number of tournament games played
 - calibre of teams played
 - win/loss records
 - any other significant factors to select the best possible choice (i.e.: head to head competition, out of province tournament play, etc.)
- iii. Applications will be available through the Regional G&T Co-ordinator and submitted through the Co-ordinators to the O.R.A. office on or before the deadlines shown on the Form and in the Sanctioned Tournament Listing in the Events and Activities Section.
- iv. The Games and Tournaments Standing Committee's decision shall be final and there shall be no protest entertained on the decision.

h. Registration

The Registration Process for Provincial Championships shall be conducted within each Region a minimum of one (1) week prior to the event.

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 and ready to start playing within five (5) minutes of game time. In the event of unforeseen circumstances that affect a team’s ability to start their game within five (5) minutes of the scheduled or adjusted starting time, the on-ice officials shall declare a default. The G&T Committee (or Host Committee in the case of Invitational Tournaments) shall make 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. (Open and Masters Divisions exempt).
- iii. Bench staff must be listed as Bench Staff on the T.R.F. or on an Information Change Form (Appendix M-F-10) which has been sent to the O.R.A. office; 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 Women 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 protestable.

- 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 signed by **each** Bench Staff participating behind the bench.
- vii. The goalkeeper must physically leave the ice surface during goalkeeper substitution, before a 4th player is permitted to cross the free play line.
- viii. 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.

NOTE: At Provincial Championships each team must bring two (2) sets of sweaters with different predominant colours.

- ix. 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. Excessive Penalties

- i. 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.

- 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.

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.

c. Match/Misconduct Penalties

- 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.

- 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 of any team until the full suspension is served with team he/she was a member when the penalty occurred.
- v. If a misconduct penalty is assessed after the game, that player/bench staff shall be automatically suspended from 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 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.

d. 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).

e. 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.

When a team is 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.

f. 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. 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, follow the procedures to resolve the ranking of the remaining tied teams.

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

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

Goals For + Goals Against
Goals Against

- If still tied, rank the teams in order of wins between all teams.
- If still tied, rank teams in order of the plus/minus (goals for minus goals against) in games between all teams.
- If still tied, rank teams in order of the most goals for in games between all teams.
- If still tied, rank teams using the following formula in games between all teams:

Goals For + Goals Against
Goals Against

g. Mini-games for Provincial Championships

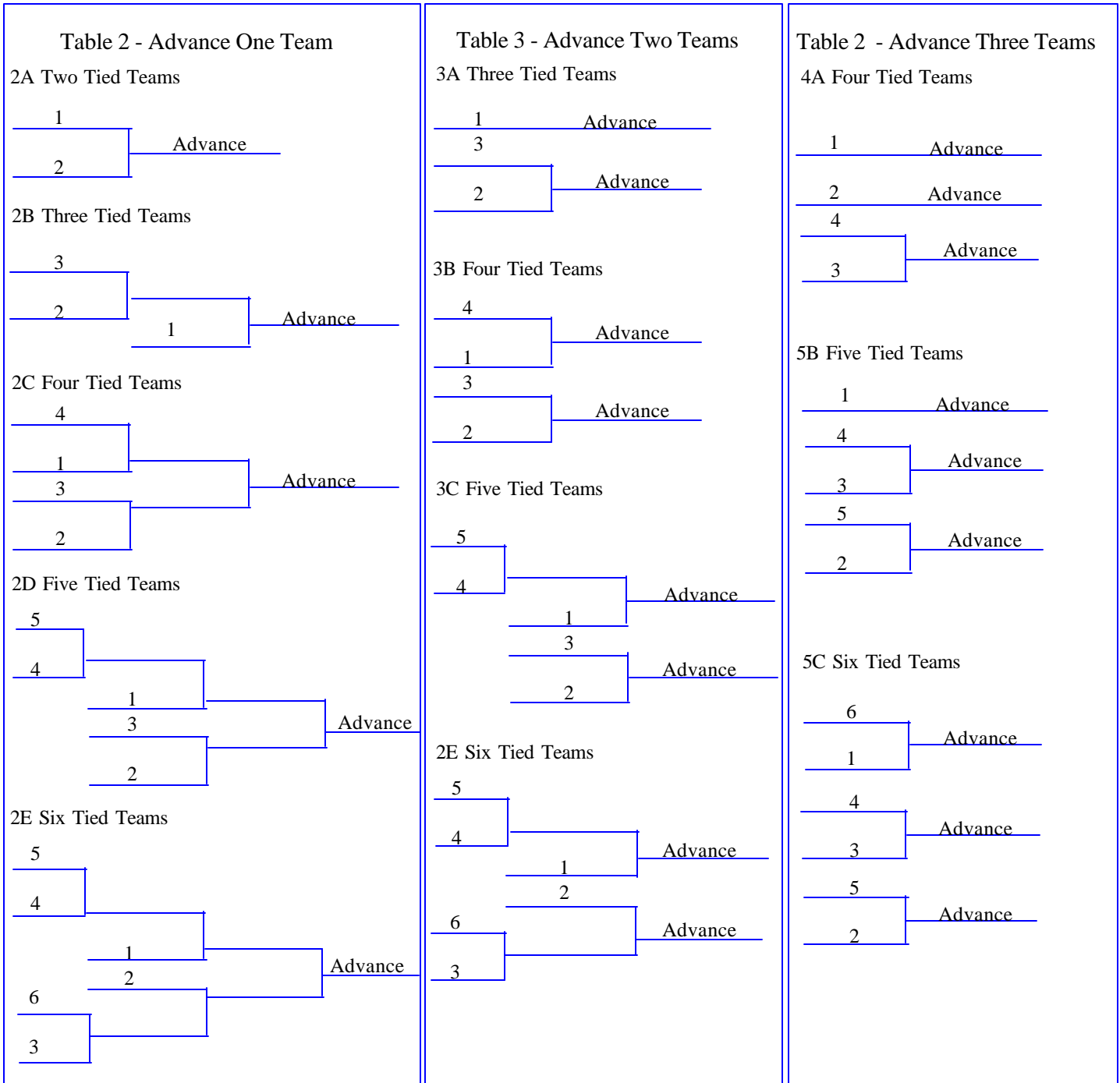
- i. Mini-games will not begin earlier than one hour and twenty minutes after the completion of that division's last round robin game.
- ii. It is the responsibility of the teams involved to be ready to play at the scheduled time. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the mini-game(s) by the 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. The respective mini-game format will depend on the number of teams advancing. Table 1 indicates the format to be used dependent on the situation (where x indicates team positions in the final standings):

Table 1. Ties Within Medal Round Positions

1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	# of Mini-Games	Format - See Tables 2 to 4
X	X	X	0	N/A
X	X	XX	1	2A
X	X	XXX	2	2B
X	X	XXXX	3	2C
X	X	XXXXX	4	2D
X	X	XXXXXX	5	2E
X	XX	-	0	N/A
X	XXX	-	1	3A
X	XXXX	-	2	3B
X	XXXXX	-	3	3C
X	XXXXXX	-	4	3D
XX	-	X	0	N/A
XX	-	XX	1	2A
XX	-	XXX	2	2B
XX	-	XXXX	3	2C
XX	-	XXXXX	4	2D
XXX	-	-	0	N/A
XXXX	-	-	1	4A
XXXXX	-	-	2	4B
XXXXXX	-	-	3	4C

- 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. The other team will have the choice of ends.



6. EVENT SANCTION PROCEDURES

- a. Blank Sanctioned Event Applications (Appendix G&T-F-01) are sent out to all members prior to the A.G.M. (also available at the A.G.M.).
- 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.
- 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 **JULY 31st**). 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. 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.
 - 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 straightened out before the August G&T Meeting. 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. At the G&T Meeting in August the final listing for sanctioned events will be approved.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. The fee after the event shall be made payable to the Region.
 - vi. The Tournament Sanction Fee is \$10.00 per team entered, including Out-of-Province teams.

- vii. The Region would then be required to submit the percentage (75%) due to Ontario Ringette in a timely fashion.
- viii. The G&T Committee will forward to each host, upon sanction approval, a Sanctioned Event Hosting Package.
- ix. Sanction Event Rules provided with the Sanction Package must be prominently posted at each venue.
- x. The host will submit all pre-event requirements to the Regional G&T Co-ordinator three weeks prior to the event.
- xi. The host will submit all post-event requirements to the Regional G&T Co-ordinator two weeks following the event.
- xii. Should any host have questions regarding their tournament they are to contact their Regional G&T Co-ordinator.
- xiii. 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. Ringette Coach in attendance at the tournament.
- 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.
- 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.

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

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 \$10.00 fine levied for each violation of the administrative sanction rules.

Examples:

- 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 tournament program with scores by specified date. (NOTE: If no program is available, schedule with scores listed shall be acceptable).
- vi. Host not submitting list of officials by specified date.
- vii. 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:

- 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**

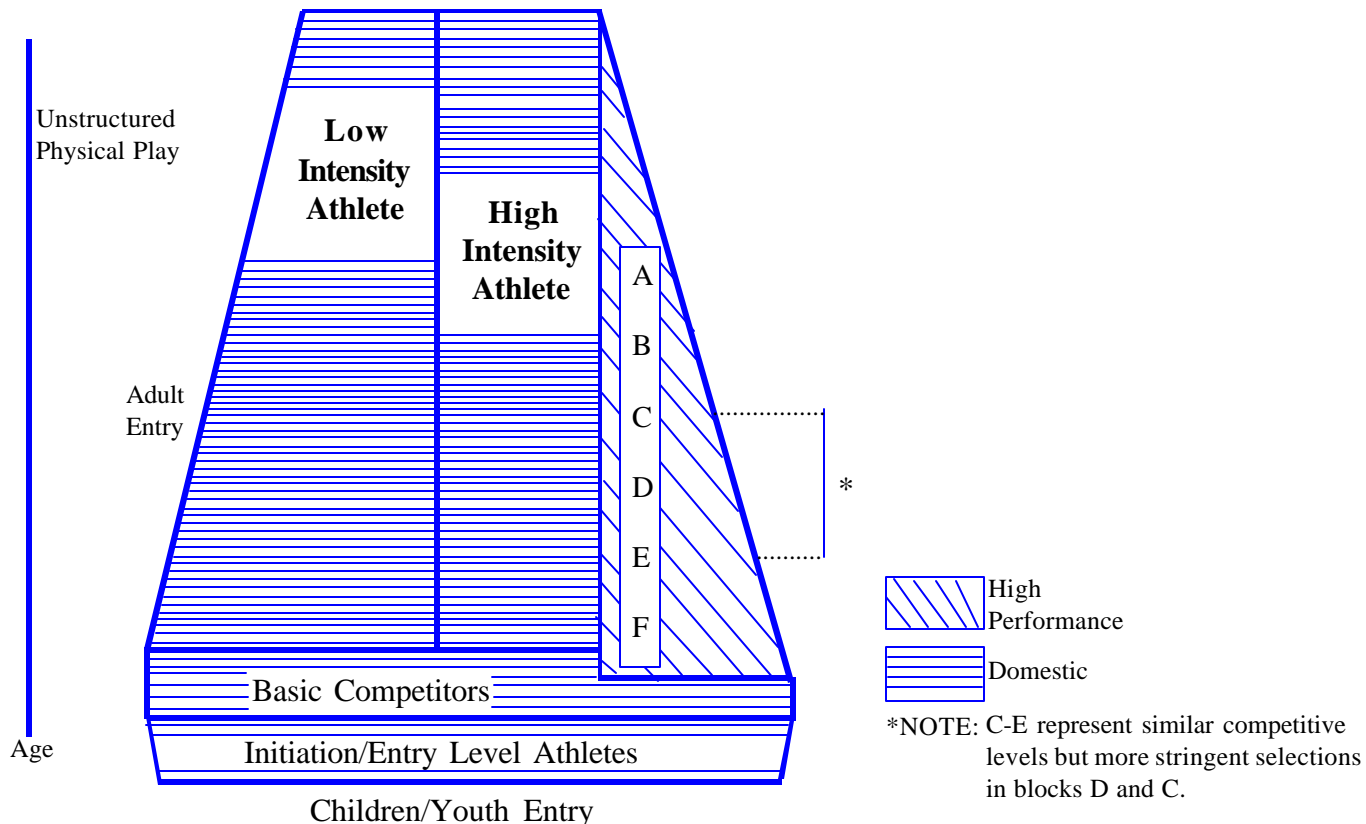
There shall be a \$50.00 fine levied for each violation of Other Event Sanction Rules:

- i. Failure to submit Sanction Event Fees by the deadline.
 - ii. Failure to notify O.R.A. office of interprovincial play.
- d. 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.
- e. 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, providing the following information:
 - i. Province
 - ii. Date of Arrival
 - iii. Date of Departure
 - iv. Complete team list with officials listed
- d. The O.R.A. office will advise the host of the team's eligibility.
- e. Any O.R.A. teams participating in out-of-province tournaments shall inform the O.R.A. office in writing, within thirty (30) days prior to the event, providing the following information:
 - i. Destination
 - ii. Departure from Ontario
 - iii. Return to Ontario
 - iv. Complete team list with officials
- f. The O.R.A. shall notify Ringette Canada of any incidents that involve out-of-province teams.
- g. Ontario has the right to disqualify an out-of-province team from participating in Ontario.
- h. **Ringette Canada Rules must be used in any division of a Sanctioned Event where Out-of-Province teams participate.**
- i. League and exhibition games scheduled out of Province must be submitted to the O.R.A. office before participation in the game.

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 J,B,D,O
- AA Provincial AA Championship & Qualifiers
- A Provincial A Championship & Qualifiers
- B Regional B Championships
- C Regional C Championships

11. SHOT CLOCK RULE

a. Overview

Description: The purpose of this is to increase the spectator appeal of Ringette by reducing the amount of “ring-ragging”. The 30 second shot clock should force the team in possession of the ring (normally the attacking team) to make a conclusive play quickly and, ideally, to attempt to score. This will give the team not in possession of the ring (normally the defending team) more opportunities to gain control of the ring.

Minor Official: The Shot Clock Operator is responsible to start, stop and reset the shot clock in accordance with the rules below or as directed by an on-ice official. The Shot Clock Operator is a minor official, in addition to the timekeeper and scorekeeper.

Equipment: A separate clock, in addition to the game clock, that counts down time in seconds is required.

i. Control Unit. The control unit must enable the operator to start, stop and reset the shot clock. The shot clock time shall appear simultaneously on both display units.

- Location. The control unit should be located in the penalty bench.
- Start. The shot clock shall count down to zero.
- Stop. The shot clock shall suspend the count down.
- Reset. The shot clock shall reset to 30 seconds. If counting down when reset, the shot clock will count down from 30 seconds. If stopped when reset, the shot clock will remain at 30 seconds until started.
- Zero. When the count down is complete (the shot clock reaches 0 seconds) the shot clock shall generate an audible signal.

ii. Display Units

- Two identical display units are required. Each display unit must be not less than 45.72cm (18 in.) in height and width, and display two digits. The displayed numbers must be of sufficient size, and brightness or contrast, that the on-ice participants and spectators can easily see them.

- In each end zone, one display unit shall be mounted behind and above the end boards. The position of the display units relative to the goal must be identical in each end zone. **The preferred location of the display units is approximately 4 - 6 feet off centre to the net on the opposite side to where the net official is normally positioned.**

b. Definition:

- i. Shot on Goal. A Shot on Goal is taken when the team in possession of the ring legally propels the ring toward the other team's goal and:
 - the ring enters the net
 - the ring contacts a goal post or the cross bar
 - the ring contacts the goalkeeper or AGK within the goal crease
 - the ring contacts the goalkeeper outside the goal crease and that contact prevents the ring from entering the net.

c. Playing Rules:

- i. The shot clock shall count down only when the game clock counts down. The shot clock shall be started when play is started and stopped when play is stopped.
- ii. The shot clock shall be reset when:
 - the team in possession of the ring takes a shot on goal
 - control of the ring changes from one team to the other team
 - a delayed penalty is signalled. If additional delayed penalties are signalled before play is stopped, the shot clock shall not be reset again
 - a penalty causes the non-penalized team to commit a violation and play is stopped as a result
 - **it is the start of a new period.**
- iii. When the shot clock reaches zero seconds:
 - play is stopped, as the team last in control of the ring has committed a violation
 - the shot clock is reset
 - the ring is awarded to the non-offending team in the zone in which the ring was last contacted or controlled.
- iv. If the shot clock's audible signal sounds in error:
 - play is stopped
 - the shot clock is reset
 - the ring is awarded to the team last in control of the ring in the zone in which play was stopped.

- v. If the shot clock is reset in error, play continues.
- vi. **The shot clock shall be turned off when there is less time remaining in the period than there is on the shot clock (providing the equipment is capable of this).**
- vii. On-Ice Official's Signal. If the shot clock is not reset immediately when a shot on goal is taken or control of the ring changes from one team to the other team, the on-ice official shall signal for the shot clock to be reset by extending an arm straight up with forefinger extended and making a circular motion with that finger.

Note: Although both on-ice officials are responsible to monitor the shot clock, the net official will be more easily seen by the Shot Clock Operator.

- If the net official signals for the shot clock to be reset, the free play line official need not repeat the signal.
- If the free play line official signals for the shot clock to be reset, the net official shall repeat the signal.

12. 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 7 players per team (6 skaters and 1 goalie).

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 concurrently (at each end)
 - penalty shots to be taken by each team by players in order of listing on score sheet

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

- i. Goal will be signalled by referee 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 or shots 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 [3].
- 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.