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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.

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| 1 | 1.1 Purpose | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | 1.2 Goals and Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 enrollment. 1.2.3 To encourage the development of community-hosted Invitational Tournaments in the 18+ and 35+ participant divisions, and to increase participation in minor tournaments for 18+ and 35+ divisions. 1.2.4 To encourage information and resource exchange between Regions. 1.2.5 To educate and encourage adult enrollment 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 35+ and Co-ed divisions. 1.2.9 To liaise and communicate with other local associations within your Region |

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 University League** Ringette at the Canadian Universities or Colleges which involve participation between university/college teams only. Ringette Canada rules apply at all ORA sanctioned events.
- 2.6 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+ A/AA divisions. Regional Championships are offered in some regions in B/BB/C/CC and Development (D) divisions. 35+ and Co-ed divisions are being promoted as well for league play.
- 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 ORA Annual General Meeting. 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.

3.0 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

- 3.1 Levels of Play**
- 3.1.1 AA/A: For the highly competitive athlete coming from the elite and competitive ranks of the minor system.
 - 3.1.2 B/BB: 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.
 - 3.1.3 C/CC: For players with good skating and Ringette™ skills and may have come up through the minor leagues.
 - 3.1.4 Development (D): The least skilled of the levels, enjoyed by players new to the sport as well as those with experience. Includes: beginners/schools/outreach.

3.2 Seeding of Teams

- 3.2.1 Seeding of 18+ and 35+ B and C teams is the responsibility of the Adult Development Committee and may be divided into BB/B, CC/C, D 1, 2, 3, etc.
- 3.2.2 G&T will be responsible for ranking and seeding the 18+ / 35+ A/AA teams for Provincials for penalty tracking and for assisting in determining divisions at tournaments.

 G&T will be responsible for 18+ / 35+ A/AA substitutions and composite teams at all sanctioned events.

 G&T in conjunction with Adult Development will be responsible for 18+ / 35+ A/AA substitutions and affiliates when involving 18+ / 35+ BB or lower registered players or third year U19 players.
- 3.2.3 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.
- 3.2.4 By mid December, the Adult Development Committee will identify any teams that, based on available data, are “red flagged” for discussion on re-seeding.
- 3.2.5 Teams will be informed in writing by their Regional Adult Development Coordinator of any seeding changes for tournament play.
- 3.2.6 Teams with male skaters may be reseeded to a higher level in accordance with the skill level of the male skater

3.3 Age Divisions

- 3.3.1 18+ - 18 and up (no ceiling)
- 35+ - 35 and up (no ceiling)

As per Membership Services, section 7.6, the player’s age is determined by December 31st of the current playing season.

Any player designated 18+ will be subjected to all rules and governance which apply to the 18+ and 35+ divisions.

All exceptions to 18+ 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 35+ age division for sanctioned play.

3.3.2 All exceptions to 18+ playing out of age category (players over the age of 18 requesting to play in the U19 division or players under the age of 18 requesting to play in the 18+ division) must receive approval from the regional ADP Coordinator and regional Membership Services Coordinator of both the sending and the receiving regions.

Requests for release require the following:

- Submission of a written request outlining a clear rationale from the player (and parent/guardian if under 18) to regional ADP Coordinator (or ADP Chair if regional position is vacant)
- Player Release from Home Association (see Membership Services Form M-F-07)

In the case of a provincial team, the request must also be approved by the Regional G&T Coordinator.

**3.4 Membership /
 Registration**

- 3.4.1 All adult participants (players, bench staff, volunteers, etc.) shall register in accordance with O.R.A. Registration Classes. Please refer to the Membership Services Section of this Operating Manual.
- 3.4.2 Adult teams/Groups who are not currently affiliated with a ringette association will be charged a Registered Members fee.
- 3.4.3 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 3.6 below for more information.
- 3.4.4 Team registration is due by NOVEMBER 15th. Information Change Form changes must be completed by JANUARY 8th. Players registering after January 8th will be reviewed for approval by the Adult Committee on a case by case basis.
- 3.4.5 Players relocating from region to region and players wishing to change teams after the registration deadline (November 15th) are required to complete then 18+/35+ Transfer Application Form (ADP-F-01) and submit it to the Regional ADP Co-ordinator for approval after obtaining the required signatures.
- 3.4.6 An independent player is a player who is registered with O.R.A. and is not affiliated with a specific team. The independent player shall not be allowed on the ice until the adult independent player registration form (ADP-F-06)

and the registration fee is submitted and received by the ORA office.

- 3.4.7 The maximum number of players on a TRF shall be twenty-two (22). Anything over this number must have approval from ADP.
- 3.4.8 Players should be registered on the appropriate skill level TRF.
- 3.4.9 All university Teams shall be required to fully register with ORA and submit the player registration fee.

3.5 Composite Teams

- 3.5.1 **Definition:** A composite team exists when you have no more than five (5) skaters from any given TRF (goaltender excluded). A composite team can consist of no more than thirteen (13) skaters (15 skaters).

Composite teams can be formed for Adult tournament play in accordance with the following rules:

- 3.5.2 Composite teams are comprised of players already registered on 18+ /35+ teams who want to participate in tournament play with a group other than their home team.
- 3.5.3 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. (Note: maximum of two (2) players can be carded at the higher level, see chart).

		Composite Team Level				
Player Level	TRF	BB	B	CC	C	D
A		2	X	X	X	X
BB			2	X	X	X
B				2	X	X
CC					2	X
C						2

- 3.5.4 The Adult Composite Team Form (ADP-F-04) must be completed and submitted for approval to the Adult Development Committee no less than thirty (35) days prior to the date of the Adult Tournament/Division they are participating in.
- 3.5.5 If the tournament is out-of-region, the team’s Regional ADP Coordinator must send the Composite Team registration form to the “host” Regional ADP Coordinator for their acceptance (within two (2) days of receipt).
- 3.5.6 If Changes to the composite team roster are required afterwards ADP player substitution rules shall apply.
- 3.5.7 Under special circumstances the ADP Committee may authorize exceptions on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.5.8 Composite teams can be developed at the A/AA level; however, they

require G&T approval to play in sanctioned events.

3.6 Player Affiliation

3.6.1 **Definition:** Affiliation means that a player is registered on two (2) 18+/35+ TRF's of different skills levels (e.g. 18+ C and 18+ B; 18+ B and 18+ A). The affiliated player must identify the "priority team" before playing.

3.6.2 **Purpose:** The intent of player affiliation is to help maintain the viability of smaller associations and to address the issue of players attending University outside of their home community.

3.6.3 **Policy:** In order to register a player as an affiliate a Two-Team Player Agreement must be completed.

- The Two-Team Player Agreement Form (ADP-F-02) must be signed off by the Adult Development Coordinators, and Games and Tournaments if provincial team, by December 15th of the playing season. (Membership Services must also sign off when a U19 player is involved.)
- The Association registrar of the 2nd team must then submit an Information Change form to the ORA and sign-off on the Two-Team Player agreement immediately upon approval.
- A maximum of two (2) two-team players only are allowed on the TRF of the second team.
- A minimum of seven (7) players must be registered before an affiliate player may be added to the team registration form.
- Affiliate players can also include third year U19 players. Agreement form must be signed off by Membership Services.
- There is no restriction as to the number and type of game an affiliate player may play.
- At BB and below, a player attending university may affiliate with the university team and their home association at the same level of play.

3.6.4 Two team player agreement rules do not apply to composite teams.

4.0 Adult Sanctioned Play Rules

- 4.1 Introduction**
- 4.1.1 The 18+/35+ B/BB level and lower are the responsibility of the Adult Development Program. The ADP shall be responsible for the sanctioning of all adult tournament divisions.
- 4.1.2 All sanctioned play at the Adult Provincial Level (A/AA) is the responsibility of G&T.
- 4.1.3 All divisions that are the responsibility of ADP shall follow G&T procedures. Except as noted in the sub-sections below.

- 4.2 Sanctioned Events**
- 4.2.1 There are five (5) different levels of O.R.A. Sanctioned Events, as follows:
- Invitational Tournaments
 - Regional Tournaments
 - Provincial Championships/Qualifiers
 - 3 on 3 Tournaments
 - For O.R.A. disciplinary purposes, any game between two (2) registered O.R.A. teams or between any other Provinces' teams with an O.R.A. registered team.

NOTE: Shot clocks are required at all skill levels except Development (D).

- 4.2.2 When feasible, the Regional ADP Coordinator, or Delegate, should participate in the initial host tournament planning meeting.
- 4.3 Substitution for Sanctioned Events**
- 4.3.1 In addition to the Player Substitution Procedure found in Games and Tournaments Player Substitutions for Invitational Tournaments the following applies:

Where all teams and athletes involved are registered as 18+ and 35+ BB level and lower, substitutions must be approved by the regional ADP Coordinator (or ADP Chair if the regional position is vacant).

Where all teams and athletes involved are registered as 18+ A Level, substitutions must be approved by the regional G&T Coordinator (or G&T Chair if the regional position is vacant).

Where 18+ A team is requesting a substitution involving an athlete registered as 18+ or 35+ BB level and lower, substitutions must be approved by the regional ADP Coordinator (ADP Chair if the regional position is vacant) and the regional G&T Coordinator (or G&T Chair if the regional position is vacant).

All substitutions are to be completed using the TRF Adjustment form (G&T-F-05)

- 4.3.2 Can only be from an appropriate age, same caliber or less, 18+, 35+

A player substituting on an 18+ team at the BB level and lower during a sanctioned event is defined as:

- a person who is registered with a Provincial Ringette Association;
- is in good standing with said Association;
- and is eligible to play Ringette within that jurisdiction.
- Proof of which must be supplied to the ADP committee to their satisfaction

The only exception to the above is when a team is playing in a tournament at a higher skill level than they are registered. Substitutions may be requested from the level equivalent to the level of play at the tournament.

4.3.3 Any player that appears on more than one TRF Adjustment Form in the same sanctioned event constitutes a violation of sanction rules.

4.3.4 Players may play as a substitute for two (2) tournaments in a season. If a goaltender substitutes as a skater, she is then restricted to two (2) tournaments a season. Goaltenders are exempt when substituting as goaltenders.

The maximum number of additional skaters is four (4) substitutes in any one (1) game. Rules still apply as defined under ADP and G&T.

4.3.5 Players registered as independents are exempt from rule 4.3.4 except when substituting on a provincial level team.

4.3.6 35+ BB level and lower teams may increase their roster size with the use of additional players to a maximum of thirteen (13) skaters and a goalie.

4.3.7 18+ teams can call up from the U19 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 substitution.

4.3.8 All substitutions must have prior approval from ADP Regional Coordinator or Chair.

4.3.9 Any cross Region substitutes must be approved by both Regional ADP Coordinators.

4.3.10 Adult team bench staff proof of qualifications and ORA registration must be provided with the Adult TRF Adjustment Form (ADP-F-05)

4.4 Splitting a TRF

4.4.1 18+ teams at the BB level and lower may split into two (2) viable teams seven (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 in order to create a viable team or add additional players.

4.4.2 Any team playing with ten (10) or less skaters and a goalie may be allowed to substitute for injury or illness only.

4.4.3 Teams are to use the ADP Composite Team Registration Form (ADP-F-

05) to identify and submit their roster to the tournament(s). A copy of the roster is to be submitted to the Regional ADP Coordinator for review a minimum of thirty (35) days prior to the event (extenuating circumstances may be taken into consideration by the ADP Committee).

4.4.4 A U19 player who has decided to play 18+ by registering on an 18+ TRF, is not eligible to substitute for a U19 team (except in circumstances where a Two-Team player agreement exists).

4.5 Bench Staff Requirements

4.5.1 18+ / 35+ teams are required to have a qualified bench staff member registered on their TRF and present during sanctioned events.

- for “A” teams, the qualified bench staff member must be a non-playing head coach
- for teams “BB” and lower, the bench staff member may be a coach, trainer, or manager. In all cases, it is recommended that at least one member of the team have first aid 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.

4.5.2 For BB playing levels and lower, the qualified bench staff member may be a player (i.e. not required to have a non-playing bench staff member). However, the player bench staff is responsible for the team and will be subject to all disciplinary actions, including ejection during the games. Please note that it is strongly recommended that teams have a non-playing member of the bench staff for sanctioned events.

4.5.3 All Bench Staff must have proper qualifications and be registered on the TRF. Age requirements must be met.

4.5.4 In seasons in which new rules are in effect, the registered bench staff member of every registered adult team must attend a Rules Clinic or an Officiating Clinic by **JANUARY 8th** of the season.

4.6 Match and Misconduct Penalties

All Match and misconduct penalties must be reported to the team’s regional G&T and Adult Coordinators within twenty-four (24) hours by both teams or before the next scheduled game – whichever is sooner. The balance of G&T section 5.5 remains in effect.

5.0 VIOLATION OF SANCTION RULES

- 5.1 Penalties for Violations** Fines for A/AA teams will be assessed by G&T; fines for BB teams and lower will be assessed by Adult Development.
- 5.2 Violations of Participant Sanction Rules**
- 5.2.1 Penalties for violation of the participant sanction rules shall be in accordance with G&T Manual section 8.2 with the exception of:
- G&T Section 8.2.4 is not applicable
 - G&T Section 8.2.5 for 18+ /35+ play all levels is changed to:
 - Team found using the same substitutions in more than two (2) tournaments.
 - G&T Section 8.2.15 for 18+/35+ play at all levels is changed to:
 - Failure to have numbers visible on the back of jerseys - \$25.00
- 5.3 Penalty for Failure to Report Match/Misconduct Penalties** The penalty for failure to report match and misconduct penalties under G&T section 5.5 and Adult section 4.6 shall result in the coach being assessed a one (1) game suspension
- 5.4 Penalties for Affiliation Violations:**
- 5.4.1 *First time offences:* the team will receive a loss for the game in which the violation occurred and the score will be recorded as 0-7 loss for the penalized team, the actual game score/result for the non-penalized team will not change.
- 5.4.2 *Second time offence (within two calendar years of the first offence):* the Head Coach or Acting Head Coach will receive a three (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; the actual game score/result for the non-penalized team will not change.
- 5.4.3 *Third and subsequent offences:* a disciplinary hearing will be held and the Head Coach or Acting Head Coach will receive a minimum ten (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; the actual game score/result for the non-penalized team will not change.
- 5.5 Head Coach Violations**
- 5.5.1 Failure to have a Head Coach for sanctioned events in accordance with Section 4.5 Bench Staff Requirements will result in a \$50.00 game fine levied for each violation.

6.0 SAFETY

- 6.1 Stick Checks** Random stick checks will be made throughout the season to determine the legality/state of player's sticks.
- 6.2 Equipment Checks** Random equipment checks will be made throughout the season to determine the legality of players' equipment.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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, who is demonstrating obvious signs of impairment, by drugs or alcohol, shall be removed from the game and subject to suspension.
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