



POLICY TITLE: AFFILIATION POLICY

Effective Date: August 30, 2017

PURPOSE

Player affiliation allows an association to create a team at a level where there are not enough players for a viable team and allows a team to replace absent, sick, injured, or suspended players **on a game by game basis**. Player affiliation cannot be used to improve the competitiveness of a team at the expense of ice time for a regular player.

The intent of player affiliation is to provide SGRA teams with “back-up” player options when a specific need exists. The purpose of player affiliation is team viability, not player development.

SCOPE

All Spruce Grove Ringette Association teams registered with Ringette Alberta may affiliate players who are also registered within our association and Ringette Alberta.

PRINCIPLES

1. All player affiliation within SGRA must comply with Ringette Alberta and Black Gold League (BGL) policies and guidelines. Refer to RAB policy [5.0 Player Affiliation](#) for details. SGRA policy below supplements/exceptions what is already identified in RAB’s policy.
2. Affiliate players will be identified and selected from the next lowest level utilizing data from initial player assessment/evaluation process and input from the current coaches. In some cases, it may be necessary to affiliate from more than one level or age division lower. (i.e. player availability, skill levels, confliction with provincial playdown and champion dates, etc.). Affiliate selection will be reviewed by the Division Director, and Director of Player Development and Assessment, and may include the President prior to submission to the Registrar.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Timelines
 - The deadline for Ringette Alberta to receive all Player Affiliation forms, without paying a late fee is set in the RAB [Critical Date](#) schedule of the currently playing season.
2. Fees
 - There are no additional registration fees for an affiliate player.
3. Guidelines
 - Affiliate players (skaters and goalies) main responsibility is to her full-time team’s schedule

(practices, league games, exhibition games, playdowns, provincials and tournaments).

- Players shall only be on a maximum of two rosters, once as a regular player and once as an affiliate player.
- Refer to RAB policy [5.0 Player Affiliation](#) for details, specifications, and playing time restrictions and/or limitations.
- Using best practice, coaches of all teams are only permitted to use affiliate players when they have a player absence and/or to maintain team viability.
- Coaches will offer equal opportunity to affiliates as replacement players by rotating with no single affiliate consistently chosen.
- Parents/guardians of the affiliate as well as the full-time team head coach must be notified when the affiliate plays for the affiliated team. Approval from full-time head coach also must not be unreasonably withheld.
- The regular practice ice is for the regular rostered players (skaters and goalies) to have full development time and attention with their coaches and fellow players. **Affiliate players (skaters and goalies) are not to be attending the affiliating team's practice ice.** The intent of player affiliation is not additional player development or additional ice time for a select few players. This creates an environment of preferential treatment and animosity among members of our association.
- In rare instances when an affiliate is needed for a game and it's necessary to attend practice for a specific reason, it must be cleared with the affiliate's regular coach prior to and notify Division Director. The use of practice ice will be monitored by SGRA for compliance to guidelines.

COMPLIANCE AND CONSEQUENCES

Coaches or members violating the SGRA Player Affiliation intent, guidelines, and policy will be subject to disciplinary action by SGRA. This will include and is not limited to suspension of Head Coach or Acting Head Coach and reporting to Ringette Alberta for further disciplinary action. Refer to RAB policy [5.0 Player Affiliation](#) for details and consequence to offences.