

SUMMARY OF NCRRL RULES AND PROCEDURES

The following are some of the rules of the NCRRL which all coaches should be familiar with. If a coach has a concern, they must contact their Association Representative who will then contact the appropriate League Representative. Please note the first two articles, 3.07 and 2.09, come from the NCRRL Regulations. All the remaining articles come from the NCRRL Playing Rules.

Complaints

3.07 Teams must address all complaints, except those regarding on-ice officials (see 2.09), through their appropriate Association League Representative. Their representative will then contact the League Convenor. No parents or coaches are allowed to call any member of the NCRRL Executive. All complaints etc. must go through their Association Representative first.

Complaints Regarding On-Ice Officials

2.09 The Officiating Committee shall consider all matters relating to discipline of referees. Complaints regarding officiating in a particular association must be filed with the team's local association first, then submitted by the Association's NCRRL representative to the NCRRL Referee Committee and/or the NCRRL President, which will investigate or monitor the situation with the local Referee-in-Chief.

Player Eligibility and Call Up Rules (For Regular Season Only – see following section for call up rules for Play Offs)

1.03 To be eligible to play, a player must register in her home Association and must be registered with the ORA or FSRQ.

1.04 A team may call up a player within the same Association or from another Association as a substitute for a missing player, but may only call up the same player a maximum of three (3) times during the season. Players may be called up from a lower age and/or skill level (i.e. from a lower skill level at the same age, or from the same or lower skill level at a lower age).

For example, U19 Belle A can call up a player from U19 Belle B, U16 Junior A or U16 Junior B. U16 Junior B can call up a player from U14 Tween B or U14 Tween C.

Lateral call ups are not allowed at any level except U8 and U9.

Please refer to the Player Call Up Chart on the NCRRL website for specific guidance.

1.06 A team may call up enough players to bring its roster up to twelve (12) skaters maximum, but not to exceed its number of registered players.

As approved at the September, 2009 seeding meeting, in the interest of developing 'B' players,

teams at the U12 Petite Provincial, U14 Tween A, U16 Junior A and U19 Belle A level may call up enough players from the 'B' team at the same age level to bring their roster up to the number of registered players.

Note that these rules apply to league games only. See the ORA Operating Manual, Games & Tournaments Section, for call up rules for tournaments.

The use of an ineligible player will result in the game being defaulted.

Exceptions to Call Up Rules for Goalies

Goalies are exempt from the 3 time limitation. As well, a team that has no goalie on its roster may call up a goalie in accordance with the call up rules with the addition that in this case the roster may exceed its number of registered players by one. In every game involving a call up of a goalie using this exemption, an email must be submitted to the League Age Group Convenor specifying the team, the name of the call up and what team she is registered with, along with the game number, date, time and division of the game. Complete details of the call up **MUST** be written on the comments of the Game Sheet before the game commences. Details must include all of the information above.

Call Up Rules for Playoffs

ALL call ups and player substitutions, including goalies, for play off games must be approved by the League Age Group Convenor. Convenors are only authorized to approve call ups that follow the League call up rules and comply with the Player Call Up Chart on the NCRRL website. Requests for call ups outside of these parameters must be sent in writing to the Convenor and the Convenor must consult the League Executive for approval. Requests must be made a minimum of 24 hours before the game – last minute requests for exemptions to the call up rules will not be approved.

Designation of Call Up Players on Game Sheet

1.07 Call up players shall be designated as such on the game sheet, including age and skill level. The rules for call up players shall apply equally to skaters and goalies, except for the two exceptions noted above.

Team Rules

1.08 There shall be no more than five (5) persons i.e. coaches, managers, trainers, and assistants allowed on the bench at any one time. The officials shall call a delay of game penalty for violation of this rule.

1.09 One bench staff member on the bench must be female, 18 years of age or older, who is not a player on the team. Violation of this rule shall result in the game's being declared a default by the referee.

1.10 A game may be played with a minimum of seven (7) players (including goalie) where others are detained by weather or other unforeseen circumstances; such additional players may join the game when they arrive. The minimum allowed number of players must have participated before the game finishes or else the game will be defaulted. It should be noted that this is not a recommended number of players for a team.

1.14 The away team shall change sweaters in the event of a sweater colour conflict, as determined by the referee. This is in accordance with the ORA rule.

1.15 The home team shall supply the game sheet. It is also the home team's responsibility to provide a scorekeeper, timekeeper and shot clock operator, if applicable, even to a neutral site.

U8, U9, U10 Rules

In accordance with former NCRRL Playing Rules 1.17 and 1.18 as well as Compliance requirements issued by the ORA Sport Development Committee in September 2011, the U8, U9 and U10 divisions will play with the following special rules:

U8

- One coach per team is to be on the ice during play for instructional purposes all season.
- The two minute buzzer will be used all season to introduce line changes. Clock will run continuously for the full 2 minute duration.
- Periods will be allocated as follows: 16 minutes for the first half and 14 minutes for the second to accommodate the 2 minute interval requirement.
- No goalie pads will be worn; however, a goalie stick can be used by the 'goalies'.
- Basic Ringette rules will be observed. During the **first half of the NCRRL playing season**, when a penalty is assessed, possession of the ring will be awarded to the non-penalized team in the normal fashion; however, no penalty time will be served.
- During the **second half of the NCRRL playing season** when a penalty is assessed, possession of the ring will be awarded to the non-penalized team and no penalty time will be served; however, the player will be asked to go to the bench and a new player sent onto the ice.
- No scores will be posted on the scoreboard; however, game sheets will be kept. The Mercy Rule (see below) will apply.

U9

- One member of the coaching staff is permitted on the ice during play for instructional purposes as required during **the first half of the NCRRL playing season**.
- All players must rotate through all positions, including goaltender.
- During the **first half of the NCRRL playing season**, when a penalty is assessed,

possession of the ring will be awarded to the non-penalized team in the normal fashion; however, no penalty time will be served. During the **second half of the NCRRL playing season**, penalties will be assessed in the normal fashion; however, penalty time to be served will be one (1) minute.

- The Mercy Rule (see below) will apply.

U10

- Official Rules apply; however, no shot clock will be used.
- All players must rotate through all positions, including goaltender.
- The Mercy Rule (see below) will apply.

Mercy Rule re: Goal Spread at U8, U9 and U10

In the U8, U9 and U10 Divisions a seven (7) goal spread ends the official score recording (on the Game Sheet, and on the Scoreboard in the case of U9 and U10) until the team behind in the score scores to close the gap. When there is a 7 goal spread the referee will not go to the Timekeeper's Bench to record any more goals for the leading team. Play will start as normal with a free pass at centre ice. If the team behind in the score does score to close the gap, **ONLY** goals scored **AFTER THAT** by the leading team will be recorded, again until a 7 goal spread is reached (and the above rule starts over). Note that there will be no attempt to remember or record goals that were not recorded after a 7 goal spread had previously been reached. The referee will note in the comments on the Game Sheet that the Mercy Rule was applied at **SOME** point in the game. On submission of the Game Score Report it will be noted that the Mercy Rule was applied at **SOME** point in the game and a check box will be filled in on the Online Game Report.

Goal Recording at U12 to U19

At the U12 to U19 level, all goals scored will be entered on the Game Sheet, but the maximum goal spread to be shown on the Scoreboard is seven (7).

Sportsmanship Rule for U9, U10 and all B and C teams, U12 to U19

Game points are normally awarded as one point for a tie and two points for a win. However, in the interest of good sportsmanship, if there is a goal spread of eight (8) or more on the Game Sheet, only one point will be awarded to the winning team. In other words, a team that wins by more than 7 goals will lose a point for the win. As is always the case, the losing team will not be awarded any points. Note that should the losing team score against themselves; the above sanctions will not apply.

Length of Halves

1.19 Each period will consist of fifteen (15) minutes stop time. The game shall end upon

expiry of the time on the game clock or on termination of the ice hour, as deemed by the referee, whichever occurs first. The second period may be set longer than fifteen (15) minutes with the consent of both coaches, where it appears at the end of the first period that time may be available, as decided by the referee, **except during playoffs**.

Equipment

Effective as of the 2010/2011 season, mouth guards are mandatory for all levels of play.

Penalty Boxes

At all levels, the NCRRL have adopted a local rule that players will serve penalties in the penalty box closest to their team's bench.

Game Cancellation and Rescheduling

3.10 Criteria for cancelling or rescheduling games

No game will be cancelled or rescheduled except due to:

- loss of ice (such as power failure at the arena; ice double booked);
- inclement weather;
- tournament participation (with proper notice); or
- a league problem (such as no referees show up for a game).

Lack of a coach, goalie, or skater(s) are not valid reasons to cancel or reschedule a game. Games cancelled for any reason other than loss of ice, inclement weather or tournament participation will result in an automatic default by the cancelling team. Further, the cancelling team (and its parent association) will be held responsible for the cost of the game ice and any fees payable to officials not given proper notice of the cancellation.

If a team believes that they have an exceptional reason to cancel a game, they must have their association president or designated representative submit a request for special consideration to the League. The NCRRL will not consider requests made directly by teams.

3.11 Proper notice

Whenever a game is being cancelled for legitimate reasons, the first thing the cancelling team must do is contact the other team.

A team cancelling a game due to a tournament must notify the other team:

- a minimum of two weeks prior to the scheduled game for games during the first half of the NCRRL playing season;
- immediately after the league schedule for the second half of the season is published on the web site, but no later than January 10th;

Teams wanting to cancel or reschedule a game due to last-minute entry into a tournament must make the request through their association president or designated representative.

It is the responsibility of the cancelling team to file an online Cancelled Game Report through the NCRRL website. If you are cancelling a game less than 48 hours in advance, you must also contact the Regional Referee Assignors and the NCRRL Referee-In-Chief.

Once a rescheduled game date has been determined you must also file an online Rescheduled Game Report through the NCRRL website. If the rescheduled game date is known at the same time that the game is being cancelled, then only the Rescheduled Game Report needs to be submitted.

3.12 Protocol for cancellation and rescheduling

In the case of loss of ice or inclement weather, the cancelling team must contact the Regional Referee Assignors, the NCRRL Referee-In-Chief and the other team as quickly as possible to avoid unnecessary travel and expense. The cancelling team shall be responsible for the cost of the game ice (if applicable) and any fees payable to officials not given proper notice of the cancellation.

The away team is the cancelling team by default in situations of inclement weather unless both teams are travelling, in which case either team may cancel.

In all cases of cancellations and regardless of the circumstances, the home team will be given the first opportunity to provide two possible dates for rescheduling the game. However, the home team is not obligated to do so unless they are also the cancelling team, in which case they must be the first to provide the alternate dates. The dates and times provided must not conflict with either team's league or tournament schedule and must be appropriate for the division and level of the teams involved. If the dates offered meet these conditions, the visiting team must accept one of the two dates or forfeit the game.

If the home team is unable to propose two acceptable dates, the visiting team will provide two possible dates and times. If the dates and times offered meet the conditions noted above, the home team must accept one of the proposed dates or forfeit the game.

The date for the rescheduled game must be determined, in cases of participation in a tournament, within two weeks of the date that notice of the tournament was provided by the cancelling team, and in all other cases, within two weeks of the originally scheduled game. The details of the rescheduled game must be reported by the cancelling team through the NCRRL website. This does not mean that the game has to be played within two weeks, only that the date of the game must be decided within two weeks. The game must, however, be played before the end of the current half of the season and before the start of play offs.

Should the date of the rescheduled game not be decided within two weeks of the originally scheduled game, the League Executive will review the dates offered by both teams. Should it be

found that one of the teams did not fully co-operate and accept a reasonable offered date, that team will forfeit the game.

League Officials (Statistician and Age Group Convenor), your Association Referee-in-Chief (if it is your home game), and your Association Statistician must be notified of the rescheduled game date, time and arena. The filing of an online Cancelled Game Report or Rescheduled Game Report is designed to automatically notify these people.

Defaults

3.13 Defaults will occur:

- when one team fails to show or ice a team to start a game; allowing less than forty (40) minutes running time in which to play the game;
- when a team uses an ineligible player;
- when a team has failed to provide the required ice time for a rescheduled game;
- when a team fails to have a female on the bench;
- when a team fails to have the required number of players by the end of the game.

3.14 In defaulted games, the score shall be recorded as 7-0 with the non-offending team awarded two (2) points in the standings.

3.15 The coaches of both teams must notify the League Age Group Convenor within twenty-four (24) hours. Defaulting team(s) shall be subject to a League Judicial Hearing. Recurrence by the same team more than twice will result in suspension from the League Playoffs.

3.16 A team which commits a 'No Show' may be held responsible for the financial costs (referee cost, ice cost, etc.) for that particular game and, pending review by the League, may be subject to further sanctions (e.g. suspension, elimination from play-offs) at the discretion of the League.

Discipline - Misconduct and Match Penalties

2.03 Misconduct Penalties

A misconduct penalty results in a next game suspension regardless of when the player or coaching staff received it, and is subject to review by the Home Association of the offending player(s) and/or coaching staff. Recurrence in the same season by the same player or same coaching staff shall result in an automatic two (2) game suspension and be subject to a League Judicial Hearing.

2.04 Match Penalties

- Automatic three (3) game suspension if received during the game.

- Automatic five (5) game suspension if received after the game or after the player in question has been asked to leave the ice and return to the dressing room.

The occurrence of a match penalty will automatically be subject to a League Judicial Hearing. Reoccurrence by the same player or same coaching staff of (a) results in automatic five (5) game suspension and of (b) results in automatic ten (10) game suspension, and also is subject to a League Judicial Hearing.

All hearings are to be convened within ten (10) days of the penalty being assessed.

All game suspensions are to be served in the next one (1), two (2), three (3), or more consecutive number of games (not including any Exhibition Games) depending upon the number of suspended games. Please note that if there is a Tournament that the player's team is registered in, which occurs during the period of her suspension, the player will have to serve her suspension during the Tournament until whatever the length of games her suspension is for is complete . This is monitored between the League and ERRRA.

Any game suspension must be reported to the ERRRA G&T Coordinator, Kathy Noxon (noxon6@sympatico.ca or 613-489-2653) by the coaches of both teams within 24 hours or before the next scheduled game – whichever is sooner.

2.05 When a misconduct or match penalty has been assessed, the coaches of both teams must also phone the League Age Group Convenor within twenty-four (24) hours. The Home Association of the offending player(s) and/or coaching staff must report back to the League Executive before the next scheduled game.

If coaches do not comply with the above rule, they will be suspended, with the suspension being the same as the player(s) or coaching staff involved.

If an Association does not report or comply with the above, it will be subject to suspension by the League for the rest of the season.

2.06 Altercations occurring off-ice, e.g. on the way to the dressing room, shall be subject to review by the League Judicial Committee. These altercations occurring off-ice must be reported to the game referee immediately.

In addition to the above, effective as of the 2010/2011 season, the Recommendations of a joint ERRRA/ NCRRL Discipline Committee came into effect. These Recommendations, which address match and misconduct penalties as well as excessive penalties for an individual player or team, are included in Appendix A below.

Game Sheets and Reporting Game Scores

Teams must report all games within 24 hours by submitting the Online Report Form found on the NCRRL website. They must then submit the Original (white) copy of the game sheet to their Community Statistician in accordance with their community procedures. The Community

Statistician will mail the white copies of the game sheets to the League Statistician at “NCRRL Statistician, 1293 Lotus Street, Gloucester, ON, K1J-8A9” noting any changes or errors that may have been made in the electronic reporting.

Reporting game scores and submission of game sheets must be done in a timely fashion or teams will be fined.

If you have any questions please send an e-mail to: ncrrl_statistician@erra.ncrrl.on.ca

Appendix A

ERRA/NCRRL Discipline Committee Recommendations

History

In the Spring of 2007, an Ad Hoc committee was formed under the joint umbrella of ERRA/NCRRL to review overly aggressive play in the region. After the initial discussions, three areas were identified as requiring further review and discussion:

- Reporting and tracking of serious or major penalties (i.e.: match and misconducts)
- Tracking individual penalty minute totals and setting acceptable thresholds for age groups
- Tracking team penalty minute totals and setting acceptable thresholds for age groups

In the fall of 2010 the Ontario Ringette Association also issued guidelines to be followed regarding excessive penalties in a single game. New guidelines posted at http://www.ontario-ringette.com/administration/member_notices/Penalties.pdf

Progress

Reporting and tracking of serious or major penalties

The ERRA RIC has posted a new form on the ERRA web site that allows referees to report match/misconduct penalties immediately after their games. It is recommended that this report (regardless of whether it is an Open, LERQ, or NCRRL game) be automatically sent to the following people:

ERRA Games & Tournament Chair
ERRA RIC
NCRRL RIC
NCRRL President
NCRRL Discipline Chair

All Level Convenors

Respective Association President of the team assessed the penalty

The process for reviewing these major penalties is outlined below.

Regulations

- Discipline and reviews to be conducted along existing lines of administration: all tournament, Open, or LERQ games are the responsibility of ERRA. NCRRL will be responsible for their league and play-off games
- If a discipline committee hearing is called for, this hearing must be convened within ten days of the penalty being assessed.
- If a discipline committee hearing is required, the player or team official appearing before the hearing panel is not permitted to participate in a sanctioned game until the review process is complete and all assessed penalties and supplementary discipline, if applicable, has been served.
- Should it be determined that a formal hearing is required, the ERRA Discipline Committee or NCRRL Discipline Chair will call upon three to five objective members from a common pool within the region to form the review panel. Also to be included should be the RIC (ERRA or NCRRL) or their designated representative.
- Discipline thresholds, both for a team and an individual, are subject to annual review. Any changes will be posted on the ERRA/NCRRL web sites.
- An automatic review and possible formal hearings will occur, **in all cases**, when the following has occurred:

In the same playing season (including tournaments, play-off or exhibition games), a player or team official is assessed:

- i. Any match penalty
- ii. Any misconduct penalty. As per ORA rules any misconduct penalty carries over a suspension of the next regularly scheduled game
- iii. In any single game a player accumulates 10 minutes of penalty time. As per ORA rules the player is ejected from the game and serves a suspension of the next regularly scheduled game
- iv. During the season, accumulation of 40 minutes in total penalties, compiled in any manner, during league play only

League convenors will make every reasonable effort to advise team coaches and respective association presidents when they have a player or team official that has reached thirty (30) total penalty minutes.

Team Thresholds

In addition to the individual regulations outlined above, there are also team thresholds. The level convenor will contact any team if **both** of the following two conditions are met:

- ✓ The team in question is averaging more than 10 pim per game, **and**
- ✓ The team in question is averaging 50% more pim than the average for the division.

NOTE: NCRRL Discipline Chair will be responsible for carrying out random spot checks to ensure that level convenors are correctly calculating pim totals and teams are being evaluated as per the guidelines and the schedule set out below.

Suggested Procedure

Step 1: League level convenors will review team pim totals on a regular, agreed upon basis (November 1st, December 1st, February 1st, March 1st) and red flag any team that is exceeding acceptable league guidelines of 10 pim or more per game and surpassing their division pim average by more than 50%.

Step 2: *If a team exceeds on both qualifiers*, the level convenor will contact the team coach by e-mail and c/c the respective association president. The convenor will ask that precautionary action be taken to reduce the number of penalties and avoid any possible discipline from the league. The convenor will follow-up as per the prescribed schedule.

Step 3: Upon the next review, if the team in question has not dropped down below the acceptable levels, *under both qualifiers*, the respective coach and president will be required to meet with the league discipline committee. Present at this meeting should be the league discipline chair, three members of the discipline pool with no conflict of interest, the level convenor, the team coach and association president. At this meeting the league will seek reasons why this team has accumulated so many pim, suggest ways to curb this behavior and outline possible repercussions if it is not done. Minutes of this meeting will be recorded and e-mailed to the respective coach and association president.

