

AFFILIATION POLICY SUPPLEMENT

In addition to the rules set out in the Edmonton Ringette Rules and regulations, Section B II, C, this appendix is a supplemental procedure intended to clarify the existing rules & regulations surrounding player affiliation.

A. Policy Scope and Intent:

- I. 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.

The primary purpose of affiliation is to benefit the team that the player is being affiliated to, and is not designed to be a mechanism of player development.

All affiliation within Edmonton Ringette will follow the rules and regulations outlined by Ringette Alberta.

Affiliation within Edmonton Ringette will follow a 'next level down' process as listed below:

U8 will affiliate to U10
U10 will affiliate to U12C
U12C will affiliate to U12B
U12B will affiliate to U12A
U12A will affiliate to U14B
U14B will affiliate to U14A
U14A will affiliate to U16B, or to U14AA
U16B will affiliate to U16A
U16A will affiliate to U19B
U19B will affiliate to U19A

U14AA will affiliate to U16AA
U16AA will affiliate to U19AA

- II. Rare exceptions to the 'next level down' rule can be made on a case by case basis, to expand the affiliation 2 levels down.

The expansion to the 2nd level down would happen 'in addition to' the team drafting eligible affiliates from the next level down. Thus, a team would complete their drafting of players from the next level down, then proceed to drafting of players from the 2nd level down – please refer to the section below entitled "Selection Of Affiliates By Teams" as to how the mechanics of this process will work. Example:

- U14A would draft eligible affiliates from U14B

- U14A would proceed to draft eligible affiliates from U12(Petite) A, and would draft U12(Petite) A players in the format described below in Selection Of Affiliates

By Teams”

If 2 level down affiliation is requested, application by the coach requesting affiliation must be made to the Divisional Director(s) involved (note: more than one Director application is required if the 2nd level affiliate resides in a different division). The requesting coach must make a logical and sensible case as to why the next level down process will not meet their team’s needs, and why they feel they need to go 2 levels down.

Approval of the 2nd level down affiliation is at the discretion of the Division Director and Executive.

No affiliation past 2 levels down will be permitted.

B. Goalie Affiliates:

Goalies will affiliate according to:

- the rules and regulations outlined by Ringette Alberta
- the policies outlined within the Edmonton Ringette Rules and Regulations

C. Identification Of Eligible Affiliate Players – “Who Is Eligible To Be An Affiliate?”

Once a player has been identified as an eligible affiliate (below), the process outlined in Edmonton Ringette’s Rules and Regulations under Section B, II, C, 1 through 5 will be followed in addition to the points below:

- Affiliation at all levels is not based on year or age of the player. It is totally dependent upon the rankings from the evaluations completed at the start of the year. In cases where full evaluations do not occur (ie. Active Start), current coach recommendations will be used. For Active Start 2, the affiliation will normally only be offered to the players moving into U10 the year following. If however the Director/Coach feels another player warrants affiliation, this can be allowed on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Division Director.
- The number of affiliates identified to affiliate upwards, will be determined by the Director of the Upper Level- e.g.: U14 Director will determine how many affiliates are required for each level of U14, based on team size and the resulting expectation of need for affiliates. I.e. A team of 10 skaters will require affiliates more often than a team of 15.
- When the team formation process (draft) is undertaken, the players will usually be grouped into ‘boxes’ of a specified number of players. These same boxes will also serve as the groupings of potential affiliates and the coaches will select affiliates from these boxes until the required number of affiliates (plus up to two alternates), has been exhausted. A minimum of 2 boxes will be open at one time to select affiliates, and, a third box cannot be opened until one of the previous is completely closed off.

NOTE: Not all players identified as potential affiliates will be chosen as affiliates as coaches will have a variety of similarly rated players to choose from.

- Following the draft, coaches will contact their affiliates to confirm their willingness to affiliate, and coordinate signing the required Ringette Alberta Player Affiliation Form. If a player selected declines to affiliate, they may not affiliate to any other team, and one of the alternate players selected will replace them.

- ‘Coaches Pick’: If a coach at an upper level desires a player for affiliation and that player is not identified as a potential affiliate (i.e. they do not reside in a selection box as described above), the coach can approach the Divisional Director for that player and request an exception. Only one exception (coach pick) is allowed per team.

D. Selection Of Affiliates By Teams:

In addition to the rules set out in the Edmonton Ringette Rules and regulations, Section B, II, C, 4, the following is a supplemental rule/regulation:

As outlined in Section B, II, C, 4, the selection of the affiliates by the coaches will proceed in a draft format.

In the event of a successful request to affiliate a player from the ‘2nd level down’, the team

| ROUND 1 | ROUND 2 | ROUND 3 | ROUND 4 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| U14 B1 | U14 B3 | U14 B1 | U14B3 |
| U14B2 | U14B2 | U14B2 | U14B2 |
| U14B3 | U14 B1 | U14 B3 | U14B1 |
| U14 A | U14 A | U14A | U14A |

requesting the 2nd level down will participate in the draft selection process along with the coaches choosing players in the ‘next level down’. However, the team requesting the ‘2nd level down’ affiliate will assume the ‘last spot’ within the draft selection process and will not be afforded 2 picks in a row.

For example - U14 A wants to select a U12A affiliate:

- U14 A would commence their affiliation draft by choosing eligible players from the identified U14 B group. The B group cannot be bypassed and players must be selected before the U14A team can proceed on to U12A

- Following the completion of the drafting of U14B players, the U14A coach(s) would be folded into the draft process, along with the U14B coaches as follows:

*Assume 3 U14B teams & 1 U14A team. Draft format would be:

By adding the U14A selection at the end of each round, it ensures that the U14B teams are not disadvantaged in the affiliation selection process.

When determining if affiliates can play in games, the coaches of the next level up have full discretion as to which players are selected. However, in the event of a ‘2nd level down’ scenario, the upper level coach cannot use a ‘2nd level down’ player unless the next level

down players are unavailable. Thus, 2nd level down affiliate is the last choice for game play.

E. Conflicts In Scheduling between ‘Own’ Team and ‘Affiliate’ Team – Home Team ‘Veto’

As identified in Section B II, C, 5.2 of the Edmonton Ringette Rules and Regulations, the loyalty of an affiliate is to their own team first and their affiliate team second. This includes:

- practice,
- league games,
- playoffs,
- tournaments,
- any formalized game

As the intended benefit of affiliation is to make a team viable at the upper level, the same can be said that the overuse of an affiliate cannot make the affiliates home team any less viable in game play – regular season, exhibition, playoffs, tournament or otherwise. Thus, playing with an affiliate team cannot be undertaken at the expense of the players own team due to absence or performance due to overuse by the affiliate team.

In the event of a:

- perceived scheduling conflict between the affiliates ‘own’ team and the affiliate team or,
- if the affiliate’s home team coach perceives a performance issue due to over involvement with the affiliate team,

all the coaches (home team and affiliate team) along with the affiliates parents will meet to discuss the situation and are encouraged to reach a compromise point that is within the best interest of the HOME TEAM – and not the affiliate team. The affiliate themselves will normally not be part of the discussion.

If a compromise cannot be made, the affiliate’s home team coach will have the final decision to veto the affiliate’s participation with the affiliate team on a case by case basis.

In each situation where the home team coach uses the ‘veto’, the coach must inform the Divisional Director(s) immediately. In turn, the Divisional Director(s) must document the circumstances of the situation and provide the details of the circumstance at the next Board of Directors meeting during their monthly report.

This policy applies to all affiliate players - both skaters and goalies.

F. Confirmation and Registration of Affiliates With Edmonton Ringette and Ringette Alberta

Once the affiliates have been selected by the coaches in the process described above the

following must happen:

1. Affiliation forms must be filled out completely
2. Complete forms are to be submitted to Division Director of the team that the affiliate will be playing for – not the Director where the player is coming from.
3. Division Director submits forms to Edmonton Ringette Registrar. The Edmonton Registrar will not accept any affiliation forms unless they come directly from a Divisional Director.
4. Edmonton Registrar submits forms to Ringette Alberta before identified deadline.

The inclusion of the Divisional Director in the process ensures that the process is being followed as intended.

G. Penalties For Violation Of Affiliate Rules

Edmonton Ringette will follow the rules for policy violation as outlined in Ringette Alberta's Player Affiliation Policy (5.0):

5.4.9 Compliance and Consequences

Penalties for Affiliation Violation and/or Abuse at league play, tournaments, Playdowns or Provincial Championships:

- First time offense - the team will receive a loss for the game in which the violation and/or abuse occurred, and the score will be recorded as a 0-6 loss for the penalized team
- Second time offense (within two calendar years of the first offense) - the Head Coach or Acting Head Coach will receive a 3 game suspension and the team will receive a loss for the game in which the violation and/or abuse occurred and the score will be recorded as a 0-6 loss for the penalized team
- Third and subsequent offenses (within two calendar years of the first offense) - a disciplinary hearing will be held and the Head Coach or Acting Head Coach will receive a minimum 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 0-6 loss for the penalized team