



Edmonton Ringette -Player Affiliation Policy

Edmonton Ringette will comply with all Alberta Ringette Affiliation Policies (available on Ringette Alberta [website](#)) in addition to the guidelines below. If following a guideline below will be in violation of Ringette Alberta policies, Ringette Alberta policies should apply. Anyone intending to use affiliation should ensure Ringette Alberta affiliation policies are reviewed and understood along with the guidelines below.

1. Definitions

Players: Includes goaltenders and skaters.

Skater: A player dressed to play defense, forward or Centre for a particular game.

Competitors: Includes dressed goaltenders and skaters for a particular game.

2. General

Affiliation is the main mechanism by which Ringette Alberta and Edmonton Ringette permit Players to play on a different Team than the one registered with. Any given Player can be affiliated with only one other Team. There are some exceptions for Provincial, Western Canadian, and National playoffs and in some cases for Tournaments, and for Double-Carded Players. Goalies may also have exceptions as per Albert Ringette policies.

3. Purpose

Player affiliation can allow a team to be created at a level where there are not enough players for a viable team. It also 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.

It needs to be understood that being an affiliate is a privilege. As such there is no guarantee that the player will participate in any games or practices at the higher level. That will be at the discretion of the higher-level coach. The affiliates need to bear in mind that they are not paying an extra fee to be affiliated and hence do not have the same rights and privileges of the higher team.

4. Selection of Affiliates Process

- a. The number of skater and goalie 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).



- b. A list of affiliates will be developed by the Evaluations Director at the end of the evaluation process and before the affiliation draft takes place. This list will only include those players who indicated they wished to be considered for affiliation when they registered for the season.
- c. Affiliates should be selected as close to the time of the team draft as possible (if applicable) when evaluation results are available.
- d. 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. The affiliation draft process should follow the same draft process used for team formation. 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.
- e. Order of the draft process should start with U19A, and finish with U10 Step 1.
- f. It is recommended that coaches select affiliates from more than one team when possible.
- g. If there are multiple teams at the same upper level choosing affiliates, all upper-level coaches should be present and alternate selecting affiliates.
- h. If multiple teams are selecting "from" the same level of available affiliates, all upper-level coaches should be present and alternate selecting affiliates.
- i. Where only 1 team is formed at the level recommended for choosing affiliates from, affiliates can also be chosen from the level noted in the row above the recommended level. Example: If the U10 Step 3 team only has one U10 Step 2 team to select players from, they may also look to the row above and select players from U10 Step 1.
- j. When choosing affiliates from teams that are at different levels, selection of affiliates should alternate between the different levels.
- k. Affiliation is an activity primarily housed within a given association, however, cross association affiliation is supported. In partnership with Edmonton Ringette Club, prior to EFCLRA's affiliation draft, we invite them to select no more than two skaters and one goalie to affiliate with their teams. They must contact the players/family to ensure interest, if accepted they must notify the Evaluations Director so they know to remove them from any list prior to our team's selection process. We expect ERC to welcome affiliates to various practices and activities as we do not wish to have emergency only affiliations between our associations. This applies to U14A->U14AA and U16A->U16AA. At U19AA ERC may select as many U19A affiliates as they wish.
- l. Affiliation within Edmonton Ringette will be selected using these guidelines. The Evaluations Director may need to set affiliation limits at levels that affiliate up to U16 and U19. At those ages, in years when we are fielding smaller rosters, affiliation is more common and affiliates from different teams and levels are required to help support the roster.



Affiliate Player From (Primary):	Affiliate Player From (Secondary):	To Upper-Level Team:
U10 Step 1 *Cross Affiliation	N/A	U10 Step 1 *Cross Affiliation
U10 Step 1	N/A	U10 Step 2
U10 Step 2	N/A	U10 Step 3
U10 Step 3		U12C
U10 Step 3 (top 2 players)	U12C	U12B
U12B	U12C	U12A
U12B	U12C	U14C
U12A	U14C	U14B
U14B	U12A	U14A
U14B	U14C	U16C
U16C	U14B, U14A (if no U16C)	U16B
U16B	U14A	U16A
U16A	U16B	U19B
U19B	U16A	U19A
See Alberta Ringette Policy		Open/Masters/NRL

- m. 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.
- n. It is the coach's responsibility to contact the player's parents and have them sign the Affiliate form.
- o. Complete forms are to be submitted to the Division Director of the team that the affiliate will be playing for – not the Director where the player is coming from.
- p. 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.
- q. Edmonton Registrar submits forms to Ringette Alberta before the identified deadline.



- r. If approved, the Registrar will register the Affiliation according to the processes of Ringette Alberta.
 - s. Goalie affiliates shall follow the same guidelines for selection above. They may be able to be selected by multiple teams if allowed by Ringette Alberta.
5. Affiliate Use for Games- please refer to [RAB Affiliation Policy](#)
- a. An affiliate will not be brought up to play at the expense of a full-time player. Example: the full-time player will not sit on the bench or not dress so that an affiliate can play.
 - b. A coach can bring up an affiliate to bring numbers up to the levels as per Ringette Alberta criteria. In those cases, the affiliate can have the same amount of ice time as the other players, it is however the coaches' discretion.
 - c. Allowable use of affiliates and the number allowed in game play is governed by Ringette Alberta's Player Affiliation Policy.
 - d. The choice of using the same affiliate for games is the discretion of the upper-level coach. It is recommended that affiliates are rotated but it is not mandatory.
 - e. Penalties for Affiliation Violation and/or Abuse at league play, tournaments, Playdowns or Provincial Championships include team losses, and suspensions for coaches – as per Ringette Alberta policies.
6. Affiliates in Tournaments - please refer to [RAB Affiliation Policy](#)
Except for Combined Teams, an Affiliate may play in tournaments, subject to Ringette Alberta constraints, on the Team they are affiliated provided that:
- a. The Affiliate has been properly identified on the Tournament Registration form, regardless of whether such form had provision for doing so.
 - b. The "Use of Affiliate" Form has been completed including all required signatures at least 3 days prior to the day of the first game of the team.
 - c. The Affiliate would not miss a game of their own Team, provided all parties involved consent.
7. Affiliate use in Practices
- a. Being an affiliate player should not give the affiliated player access to an excessive amount of additional practice ice time compared to non-affiliated players.
 - b. Coaches should not invite affiliates to all practices.
 - c. It would be reasonable for a coach to extend an invitation to all affiliates to one practice early in the season to be able to skate with the team and meet the other players.
 - d. It would be reasonable for a coach to extend an invitation for an affiliate to join a practice leading up to a game where they have been asked to play.
 - e. It would be reasonable for a coach to extend an invitation for an affiliate to a practice if there will be upper team members absent and affiliates are required for a successful practice.
 - f. Bringing the affiliate to practices will be at the upper-level coach's discretion. There is no obligation to use affiliates at practices.



8. Guidelines for Affiliate players

- a. The affiliate's first loyalty will be to their own team. An affiliate must not miss an event/game or practice for their own team, to play with the affiliated team, unless approved by the coaching staff. The upper-level coach must obtain this approval from the affiliate's coach in the case of a conflict.
- b. The loyalty of an affiliate is to their own team first and their affiliate team second. This includes:
 - i. practice,
 - ii. league games,
 - iii. playoffs,
 - iv. tournaments,
 - v. any formalized game.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.