



## **Import Policy**

Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues Ringette Association (EFCLRA) Import Policy is designed to provide opportunity for athletes coming from associations that are not fielding a team at their desired tier (ex. a player who is hopeful to compete in each age level "A" division and their present association is not icing a team at that level). The Policy is also here to support moments where an athlete and their family are looking to build a new opportunity with our association, and their former association is supportive of their transfer. Lastly, families move, and our policy is here to acknowledge changes in address.

Passed:

Last Revision:  
August 2017

## **1. Purpose & Scope**

- Ensure fair access for Edmonton residents while allowing limited non-resident (“import”) participation where it does not harm local team viability and follows Ringette Alberta residency, release, and affiliation rules.

## **2. Definitions**

- Import player: Athlete whose home association is not Edmonton Ringette (per Ringette Alberta Residency Policy).

## **3. Annual Capacity & Caps**

- Division caps: At U12–U19 A/B, a maximum of 2 import skaters per team. One (1) import goalie may be permitted in addition if no suitable resident goalie is available.
- Program cap: Association-wide import total will be set pre-evaluations (and published) based on resident registration and ice resources.

## **4. Transparent Team Size Setting**

- Before tryouts, publish team size ranges per division (e.g., U14A: 15–17 including goalies).
- The default target team size is used for evaluation math.
- Any change requires a written rationale by the Evaluation Oversight Committee (EOC) and will be posted within 24 hours.

## **5. Evaluation & Ranking Requirements**

- Imports must:
  - Attend the same minimum number of evaluation sessions as residents.
  - Rank within:
    - Top 50% of the final A-team ranking (U12, U14)
    - Top 60% (U16)
    - Top 75% (U19)
- If two or more imports qualify, the tiebreakers are applied in this order: positional need, skating/skills composite, game-sense score, and LTAD indicators.

## **6. Priority & Viability Checks**

- Imports may not be rostered if doing so would prevent forming a viable Edmonton resident team in that division/tier.
- If the home association declares that losing the athlete endangers its own team viability, the EOC must consult that association before approving the import.

## **7. Release & Residency Compliance**

- All imports must follow Ringette Alberta Release procedures and deadlines; no roster spot is confirmed until the completed Release is filed.
- Coaches are responsible for residency/boundary compliance; ineligible-player sanctions apply (forfeits and suspension).

- Relocation athletes: Athletes who relocate personally within the City of Edmonton boundary shall be welcomed and evaluated with the same approach as all other athletes in our association. They are required to produce documentation confirming their new address and must secure, in writing, confirmation from their current association that they are aware of the move and will sign the required Ringette Alberta release forms. Relocation athletes are not considered imports once proof of residence is verified.
- Legacy EFCLRA/ERC athletes: If an athlete previously registered with either EFCLRA or Edmonton Ringette Club (ERC) is not currently an Edmonton resident and wishes to continue to participate with EFCLRA, they shall be welcomed and evaluated with the same approach as all other athletes. These athletes are considered imports and will be subject to the same ranking, cap, and viability provisions as other imports.

## **8. Coach Role & Conflict Checks**

- Head coaches cannot veto an import who qualifies under Sections 5–7.
- Selection decisions are made by the EOC; the coach provides input on positional needs only.
- All EOC members and head coaches must file a Conflict-of-Interest declaration before selections.
- Any EOC member or coach with a declared conflict will recuse themselves from deliberation and decision-making for that athlete.

## **9. Goalies (Special Provision)**

- Where no Edmonton goalie is available at the required competitive level, the EOC may:
- Approve 1 import goalie regardless of the cap; or
- Use affiliation as per RAB rules while a resident goalie is developed/located.

## **10. Timelines & Process**

- Interested import players must indicate interest via written submission by September 1.
- The EOC will provide written decisions, with a one-paragraph rationale (accepted/waitlist/declined), no later than September 7.

## **11. Transparency & Reporting**

- After team formation, publish per division: team size, number of resident players, number of imports (by position), and whether a goalie exemption was used.
- An annual import summary shall be provided to the membership at the AGM.
- An internal audit file must be maintained and made available to the Board upon request.

## **12. Appeals**

- Imports or residents may appeal process errors only (not rankings) within 72 hours to a 3-person panel independent of the EOC.
- The panel must provide an outcome within 5 days.