

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

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1. PROGRAM MANDATE

The Adult Development Program was established to provide the continuation of the sport of Ringette™ for adults in the province of Ontario.

As participants in the sport of Ringette™ at the adult level, the Committee recognizes you have specific needs and requirements, many of which are very different from those of youth. Your Provincial Standing Committee would like to emphasize that the organization and development of programs and activities has been geared to meet your specific needs and requirements. In these times of change, teams should maintain a degree of flexibility that will provide the adult players with a place to play at their level of skill.

1.1 PURPOSE

- 1.1.1 To provide Ringette™ to all players at their level of ability.
- 1.1.2 To provide resource material to these players to enhance their enjoyment and knowledge of the game.
- 1.1.3 To create programs geared to the adult participating in Ringette™.
- 1.1.4 To provide a continuing program at an adult level for athletes coming up through the minor system. (“Ringette™ for Life”).
- 1.1.5 To encourage FUN - FITNESS – FRIENDSHIP.

1.2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.2.1 To liaise and communicate with the Provincial Standing Committees and the Board of Directors on behalf of the adult participants.
- 1.2.2 To maximize adult participation and enrollment.
- 1.2.3 To encourage the development of community-hosted Invitational Tournaments in the 18+ and 35+ participant divisions.
- 1.2.4 To encourage information and resource exchange between Regions.
- 1.2.5 To educate and encourage adult enrollment within the Provincial Sport Association and to utilize the existing technical and administrative programs to service their needs.
- 1.2.6 To establish and maintain a working relationship with each Regional Committee.
- 1.2.7 To enhance the lines of communication throughout the membership.
- 1.2.8 To develop and promote the 35+ and Co-ed divisions.

1.2.9 To liaise and communicate with 18+/35+ teams and local associations within your Region.

2. PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

2.1 ADULT COME TRY RINGETTE

If your group would like assistance on starting Adult Ringette or expanding your current program your Regional ADP Coordinator can help you run an Adult Come Try Ringette session. Funding may also be available to cover some of the costs so ask your coordinator how to access the funds.

2.2 UNIVERSITY PLAY

Many Universities in Ontario are forming ringette teams to participate not only in University leagues and the University Challenge Cup (UCC), but also ORA sanctioned tournaments. All teams are required to register with ORA. Ringette Canada and ORA rules apply at all ORA sanctioned events.

2.3 TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments are offered at the 18+/35+ level throughout the season. Teams are required to apply at their seeded level or higher.

2.4 ONTARIO ADULT INVITATIONAL CUP

A seasonal, province-wide, tournament for adult teams. This will provide an end of season championship venue for teams at the BB level and below.

2.5 RECOGNITION AWARDS PROGRAM

The Adult Program accepts nominations annually for the Adult Provincial Contribution Award as stated under Membership Services. Submissions for these awards must be made through the ORA office before APRIL 1ST. The Committee will select a suitable recipient and the Awards will be announced at the ORA Annual General Meeting. Regional Adult Contribution Awards should be submitted to the Region and are chosen by the Regional Executive and presented within the region. Contact your ADP Coordinator for more information.

3. **ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

3.1 LEVELS OF PLAY

- 3.1.1 AA/A: For the highly competitive athlete coming from the elite and competitive ranks of the minor system.
- 3.1.2 B/BB: For the competitive athlete who plays with others of the same caliber; with few exceptions, players coming from the minor system would find this level most suitable.
- 3.1.3 C/CC: For players with good skating and Ringette™ skills and may have come up through the minor leagues.
- 3.1.4 Development (D): The least skilled of the levels, enjoyed by players new to the sport as well as those with experience. Includes beginners, schools and outreach.

3.2 SEEDING OF TEAMS

- 3.2.1 G&T will be responsible for ranking and seeding the 18+ / 35+ A/AA for Provincials and for assisting in determining divisions at tournaments.
- 3.2.2 Adult will be responsible for seeding the 18+ / 35+ BB and lower level teams for purpose of tournament play. For league play, it is highly recommended that Associations/leagues consult with their Regional ADP to assist with seeding.
- 3.2.3 Each team and/or association will be responsible for seeding their 18+/35+ BB and lower level teams at the beginning of the playing season and registering them in accordance with the Levels of Play in Article 3.1 above.
- 3.2.4 The Adult Development Committee may reseed teams during the playing season in accordance with the following process:
 - The Adult Development Committee will accumulate statistics and evaluate the team's performance for seeding adjustments in sanctioned play on an on-going basis. Adjustments to seeding are based on on-ice performance at tournaments. League play may be taken into consideration.
 - Teams with male skaters may be reseeded at any time to a higher level in accordance with the skill level of the male skater.
 - Regional Adult Coordinators (or the Chair) may identify any team (within or outside of their region) that, based on available data, should be considered for reseeding at any time. The Adult Coordinator will be required to submit the request with documented rationale to the Adult Development Committee for consideration. The Committee will then evaluate based on the information provided and render a decision.

- Teams will be informed in writing by their Regional Adult Coordinator of any seeding changes for tournament play. Rationale for the reseeding decision shall be provided.
- The latest date for notification of reseeding shall be January 8th of the playing season.
- Reseeded teams will have 5 business days to respond back to their Regional Adult Coordinator with the list of upcoming tournaments they have applied to, indicating the host, date, level of play and if acceptance has been confirmed.
- Tournaments that the reseeded team has been accepted into or applied to play in, will be advised of the new playing level of the team and requested to adjust the placement of the team where possible.
- Note: Tournaments where the reseeded team has been accepted in, that are to be held within 5 weeks of the reseeding notice to the team, will not be required to make any change to the placement of the team.

3.2.5 Following the reseeding of a team the ORA office will be notified and the team's TRF skill level will be updated in the registration system to the new level of the team.

3.3 AGE DIVISIONS

3.3.1 18+ → 18 and up (no ceiling)

35+ → 35 and up (no ceiling)

Any player designated 18+ will be subjected to all rules and governance which apply to the 18+ and 35+ divisions.

3.4 Membership/Registration

3.4.1 All participants (players, bench staff, volunteers, etc.) on 18+/35+ teams shall register in accordance with ORA Registration Classes.

3.4.2 Adult teams/Groups who are not currently affiliated with a ringette association will be charged a Registered Members fee.

3.4.3 The Adult Development Program is excluded from the Two Team Player Rule, as outlined in the Games and Tournaments and Membership Services sections of the Operating Manual. Refer to the Player Affiliation Policy 3.6 below for more information.

3.4.4 Team registration is due by NOVEMBER 15th. Information Change Form changes must be completed by JANUARY 8th. Players registering after January 8th will be reviewed for approval by the Adult Committee on a case by case basis.

3.4.5 Players relocating from region to region and players wishing to change teams after the registration deadline (November 15th) are required to complete then 18+/35+ Transfer Application Form (ADP-F-01) and submit it to the Regional ADP Coordinator for approval after obtaining the required signatures.

- 3.4.6 An independent player is a player who is registered with ORA and is not affiliated with a specific team. The independent player shall not be allowed on the ice until the adult independent player registration form (ADP-F-06) and the registration fee is submitted and received by the ORA office.
- 3.4.7 The maximum number of players on a TRF shall be twenty-two (22). Anything over this number must have approval from ADP.
- 3.4.8 Players should be registered on the appropriate skill level TRF.
- 3.4.9 All university Teams shall be required to fully register with ORA and submit the player registration fee.

3.5 COMPOSITE TEAMS

3.5.1 **Definition:**

- A composite team is one in which players from two (2) or more teams are combined in order to participate in an ORA sanctioned event.
 - A composite team exists when you have no more than six (6) skaters from any given TRF (goaltender excluded).
 - A composite team can consist of no more than thirteen (13) skaters and two (2) goaltenders.
- 3.5.2 Composite teams are comprised of players already registered on 18+ /35+ teams who want to participate in tournament play with a group other than their home team.
 - 3.5.3 Composite teams are registered at the level of highest team. For example, 6 players are coming from one Open 18+BB team, 4 players from another Open 18+B team and 3 players are from an Open 18+CC team, the team would be registered as an Open 18+BB team.
 - 3.5.4 The Adult Composite Team Form (ADP-F-04) must be completed and submitted for approval to the Adult Development Committee no less than thirty (35) days prior to the date of the Adult Tournament/Division they are participating in.
 - 3.5.5 If changes to the composite team roster are required afterwards, ADP player substitution rules shall apply.
 - 3.5.6 Under special circumstances the ADP Committee may authorize exceptions on a case-by-case basis.
 - 3.5.7 Composite teams can be developed at the A/AA level; however, they require G&T approval to play in sanctioned events.

3.6 PLAYER AFFILIATION

3.6.1 **Definition:** Affiliation means that a player is registered on two (2) 18+/35+ TRF's of different skills levels (e.g. 18+ C and 18+ B; 18+ B and 18+ A). The affiliated player must identify the "priority team" before playing.

3.6.2 **Purpose:** The intent of player affiliation is to help maintain the viability of smaller associations and to address the issue of players attending University outside of their home community.

3.6.3 **Policy:** In order to register a player as an affiliate a Two-Team (TT) Player Agreement must be completed.

- The Two-Team Player Agreement Form (ADP-F-02) must be signed off by the Regional Adult Coordinator (or ADP Chair if the regional position is vacant). If the TT agreement involves two (2) regions, then both Regional Coordinators must approve.
- If the TT agreement involves an 18+A/AA team, then the Regional G&T Coordinator (or G&T Chair if the regional position is vacant) must also approve.
- Affiliate players can also include third year U19 players. In this case Membership Services Form (M-F-02) must be used. It will require the Regional ADP Coordinator to also approve if an 18+BB team or lower team is involved.
- The deadline for submission of the TT Player Agreement shall be December 1st of the playing season for BB and below.
- The Association registrar of the receiving team must submit an Information Change form to the ORA and sign-off on the Two-Team Player agreement immediately upon receipt of the approved TT Player Agreement Form.
- The Adult Committee reserves the right to limit the number of TT players on any given team.
- A minimum of seven (7) players must be registered before an affiliate player may be added to the team registration form.
- There is no restriction as to the number and type of games an affiliate player may play.
- At BB and below, a player attending university may affiliate with the university team and their home association at the same level of play (Note: this applies to BB or lower registered University Teams only).

3.6.4 Two team player agreement rules do not apply to composite teams.

4. ADULT SANCTIONED PLAY RULES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The 18+/35+ B/BB level and lower are the responsibility of the Adult Development Program. The ADP shall be responsible for the sanctioning of all adult tournament divisions.
- 4.1.2 All sanctioned play at the Adult Provincial Level (A/AA) is the responsibility of G&T.
- 4.1.3 All divisions that are the responsibility of ADP shall follow G&T procedures. Except as noted in the sub-sections below.

4.2 SANCTIONED EVENTS

4.2.1 There are **four (4)** different levels of ORA Sanctioned Events, as follows:

- Invitational Tournaments
- Regional Tournaments
- **Provincial Championships**
- For ORA disciplinary purposes, any game between two (2) registered ORA teams or between any other Provinces' teams with an ORA registered team.

NOTE: Shot clocks are required at all skill levels except Development (D).

4.2.2 When feasible, the Regional ADP Coordinator, or Delegate, should participate in the initial host tournament planning meeting.

4.3 SUBSTITUTION FOR SANCTIONED EVENTS

4.3.1 In addition to the Player Substitution Procedure found in Games and Tournaments Player Substitutions for Invitational Tournaments the following applies:

- Where all teams and athletes involved are registered as 18+ and 35+ BB level and lower, substitutions must be approved by the regional ADP Coordinator (or ADP Chair if the regional position is vacant).
- Where all teams and athletes involved are registered as **18+ A/AA** Level, substitutions must be approved by the regional G&T Coordinator (or G&T Chair if the regional position is vacant).
- Where **18+ A/AA** team is requesting a substitution involving an athlete registered as 18+ or 35+ BB level and lower, substitutions must be approved by the regional ADP Coordinator (ADP Chair if the regional position is vacant) and the regional G&T Coordinator (or G&T Chair if the regional position is vacant).

- 4.3.2 All **player** substitutions are to be completed using the TRF Adjustment form (G&T-F-05)
- 4.3.3 **All Bench Staff substitutions must use Bench Staff Substitution Form C-F-02 and be submitted to the ORA office for approval.**
- 4.3.4 Can only be from an appropriate age, same caliber or less, 18+, 35+. The only exception to the above is when a team is playing in a tournament at a higher skill level then they are registered. Substitutions may be requested from the level equivalent to the level of play at the tournament.
- 4.3.5 **U19 registered** players who are 18 years or older on or before December 31st of the playing season, can be considered as a substitution **on 18+ teams.**
- 4.3.6 A player substituting on an 18+ team at the BB level and lower during a sanctioned event is defined as:
- a person who is registered with a Provincial Ringette Association;
 - is in good standing with said Association;
 - is eligible to play Ringette within that jurisdiction.
- Proof of which must be supplied to the ADP committee to their satisfaction
- 4.3.7 Any player that appears on more than one TRF Adjustment Form in the same sanctioned event constitutes a violation of sanction rules.
- 4.3.8 Players may play as a substitute for two (2) tournaments in a season. If a goaltender substitutes as a skater, she is then restricted to two (2) tournaments a season. Goaltenders are exempt when substituting as goaltenders.
- 4.3.9 **For BB teams and lower**, the maximum number of additional skaters is four (4) substitutes in any one (1) game. Rules still apply as defined under ADP and G&T.
- 4.3.10 35+ BB level and lower teams may increase their roster size with the use of additional players to a maximum of thirteen (13) skaters and a goalie.
- 4.3.11 Players registered as independents are exempt from rule 4.3.8 except when substituting on a provincial level team.
- 4.3.12 All substitutions must have prior approval from ADP Regional Coordinator or Chair. **Forms are to be submitted a minimum of fourteen (14) days before the start of the tournament.**

- 4.3.13 Any cross-Region substitutes must be approved by both Regional ADP Coordinators. **The Regional Adult Coordinator of the requesting team will forward the request to the Regional Adult Coordinator of the substituting player to obtain their approval. In cases of cross region, substitution form must be submitted twenty (20) days before the start of the tournament.**

4.4 SPLITTING A TRF

- 4.4.1 18+ teams at the BB level and lower may split into two (2) viable teams seven (7) players and attend the same or separate tournaments on the same weekend. Players must remain on the same team for the entire duration of the tournament. No substitutions allowed in order to create a viable team or add additional players.
- 4.4.2 Any team playing with ten (10) or less skaters and a goalie may be allowed to substitute for injury or illness only.
- 4.4.3 Teams are to use the ADP Composite Team Registration Form (ADP-F-05) to identify and submit their roster to the tournament(s). A copy of the roster is to be submitted to the Regional ADP Coordinator for review a minimum of thirty (35) days prior to the event (extenuating circumstances may be taken into consideration by the ADP Committee).
- 4.4.4 A U19 player who has decided to play 18+ by registering on an 18+ TRF, is not eligible to substitute for a U19 team (except in circumstances were a Two-Team player agreement exists).

4.5 BENCH STAFF REQUIREMENTS

- 4.5.1 18+ / 35+ teams are required to have a qualified bench staff member registered on their TRF and present during sanctioned events. **(For league games, consult with league rules to determine if bench staff must be present.)**
- for “A/AA” teams, the qualified bench staff member must be a non-playing head coach
 - for teams “BB” and lower, the bench staff member may be a coach, trainer, or manager. **In the event that the team elects to register only a trainer or Manager, that person is subject to all disciplinary actions and fines, including ejection from the game that would normally be applied to the coach.**
 - In all cases, it is recommended that at least one member of the team have first aid qualifications.

Note: Non-qualified Bench Staff shall not be allowed to participate in ORA Sanctioned Events after JANUARY 8th. Should a member of your association Bench Staff violate this rule, it shall result in team disqualification and/or fines levied.

There shall be no exceptions and/or appeals to this rule. Refer to Coaching Development Section 3 for further details.

- 4.5.2 For BB playing levels and lower, the qualified bench staff member may be a player (i.e. not required to have a non-playing bench staff member). However, the player bench staff is responsible for the team and will be subject to all disciplinary actions, including ejection during the games. Please note that it is strongly recommended that teams have a non-playing member of the bench staff for sanctioned events.
- 4.5.3 All Bench Staff must have proper qualifications and be registered on the TRF. Age requirements must be met.
- 4.5.4 In seasons in which new rules are in effect, the registered bench staff member of every registered adult team must attend a Rules Clinic or an Officiating Clinic by January 8th of the season.

5. VIOLATION OF SANCTION RULES

5.1 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

Fines for A/AA teams will be assessed by G&T; fines for BB teams and lower will be assessed by Adult Development.

5.2 VIOLATIONS OF PARTICIPANT SANCTION RULES

5.2.1 Penalties for violation of the participant sanction rules shall be in accordance with G&T Manual section 8.2 with the exception of:

- G&T Section 8.2.4 is not applicable
- G&T Section 8.2.5 for 18+ /35+ play all levels is changed to:
 - Team found using the same substitutions in more than two (2) tournaments.
- G&T Section 8.2.15 for 18+/35+ play at all levels is changed to:
 - Failure to have numbers visible on the back of jerseys - \$25.00

5.3 PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT MATCH/MISCONDUCT PENALTIES

The penalty for failure to report match and misconduct penalties under G&T section 5.5 and Adult section 4.6 shall result in the coach being assessed a one (1) game suspension

5.4 PENALTIES FOR AFFILIATION VIOLATIONS

- 5.4.1 First time offences: the team will receive a loss for the game in which the violation occurred and the score will be recorded as 0-7 loss for the penalized team, the actual game score/result for the non-penalized team will not change.
- 5.4.2 Second time offence (within two calendar years of the first offence): the Head Coach or Acting Head Coach will receive a three (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 0-7 loss for the penalized team; the actual game score/result for the non-penalized team will not change.
- 5.4.3 Third and subsequent offences: a disciplinary hearing will be held and the Head Coach or Acting Head Coach will receive a minimum ten (10) 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 0-7 loss for the penalized team; the actual game score/result for the non-penalized team will not change.

5.5 HEAD COACH VIOLATIONS

- 5.5.1 Failure to have a Registered Bench Staff **present** for sanctioned events in accordance with Section 4.5 Bench Staff Requirements will result in a \$50.00 game fine levied for each violation.

6. **SAFETY**

6.1 STICK CHECKS

Random stick checks will be made throughout the season to determine the legality/state of player's sticks.

6.2 ALCOHOL/DRUG CONSUMPTION

- 6.2.1 The use of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited.
- 6.2.2 Alcohol consumption by minors is strictly prohibited.
- 6.2.3 Alcohol consumption by those of legal age must be handled with discretion and in a manner not demeaning to the Ontario Ringette Association following all laws according to the Liquor License Act of Ontario.
- 6.2.4 Any person who is demonstrating obvious signs of impairment, by drugs or alcohol, shall be removed from the game and subject to suspension.