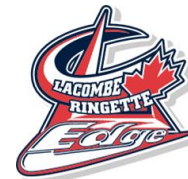


LACOMBE RINGETTE ASSOCIATION

OPERATING PROCEDURES: PLAYER AFFILIATION



Effective Date: 22 August 2023

Summary: Procedure for coaches to follow in requests for an affiliate player.

OVERVIEW

Affiliation is the only mechanism by which players are permitted to participate at sanctioned ringette events on a different team than the one they were assigned to through the Lacombe Ringette Association's (LRA) evaluation process.

Player affiliation within LRA will follow the requirements of [Ringette Alberta's Player Affiliation Policy](#). Permitted affiliations are listed in the tables found on Ringette Alberta's website.

These guidelines describe what constraints the Association will apply in addition to those defined by Ringette Alberta and Black Gold League.

In most cases, affiliation is limited to assignment to an appropriate team one tier up. This will include either within the assigned division or, if at the top of a division, the second lowest tier within the higher division. The Executive Members of the LRA Board will decide on any requested affiliation that would effectively move a player beyond one level up.

PURPOSE AND INTENT:

The purpose of affiliation is team viability, not player development.

Player affiliation is intended to provide teams with back-up player options when a specific need exists to replace absent, sick, injured, or suspended players, and is to be used by all LRA teams on a game by game basis.

BOUNDARIES AND GUIDELINES:

All player affiliation within LRA must comply with Ringette Alberta and BGL policies and guidelines.

Any given player can be affiliated with only one other team.

Affiliation is conditional on the player, parents, coaches, and Association agreeing to the affiliation and completing the necessary Player Affiliation form.

Affiliation of LRA players to an association outside of LRA requires Executive Committee approval.

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Player affiliation cannot be used to improve the competitiveness of a team at the expense of ice time for a regular player on that team.

Prior to dressing affiliates, it is crucial that coaches familiarize themselves with Ringette Alberta's Affiliation Policy to ensure skater / goalie threshold numbers are followed.

Affiliate players must be properly recorded on game sheets.

PROCESS – Choosing Affiliates:

The LRA Coaching Director will hold an affiliation meeting in the fall after teams have been formed and before the season begins.

Affiliate players will usually be selected from the next lowest level team in the association. In some cases however, it may be necessary to affiliate a player from more than one level or age division lower (eg player availability, skill levels, etc.). This will be reviewed and approved on an individual situation basis by the Division Directors and Executive Committee.

No team will be permitted to sign affiliates from a team two or more levels below them if that leaves another LRA team situated between those levels without a team to choose affiliates from.

PROCESS – Requesting Affiliates:

An affiliate may play in games, subject to Ringette Alberta constraints on the team they are affiliating to, provided that the affiliate would not miss a game of their full-time team.

A coach of a team with 11 players on their roster with no players absent may not request an affiliate in order to give that player extra ice time or to improve the competitiveness of the team.

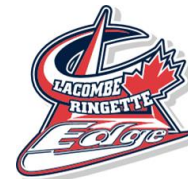
Before a team can use affiliate players, the coach of the requesting team must consult with the parents of the selected player(s) and the coach of the affiliate athlete's full-time team in each instance where an affiliate is requested.

Affiliated players are responsible to their own team schedule first (including games, practices, exhibition games, playoffs, tournaments, etc.). Exceptions to this will require approval from both coaches and the age appropriate division director.

Coaches may not reasonably withhold use of an affiliate when approval of the request does not compromise the player's ability to attend the games or practices of their full-time team.

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A coach may invite an affiliate to practice with the team they are affiliated to only if the affiliate's commitment to their full-time team is not compromised.

PROCESS – Goalie Affiliates:

U10 and U12 are defined by Ringette Canada as Childrens' Ringette with no player designated as a full-time goalie. It is expected that players on teams in those age groups will share goaltending duties. An affiliate requested to play goal may only be used when they fit under the threshold of 12 players total on the team for that game.

Affiliate goalies may only be requested if a team's regular goalie is injured or unavailable. A stronger affiliate goalie may not be requested from a lower team to replace a team's regular goalie when the regular goalie is available to play.

APPLICATION GUIDANCE:

It is expected that all coaches will abide by these guidelines. Coaches violating the intent of these guidelines will be subject to consequences and disciplinary action as determined by the LRA Executive Committee, which may include removal from their coaching duties.