



MDRA Policy for On-Ice Helper Volunteers (Adopted May 2013)

Each year, some of our higher division players are interested in volunteering within our association as on-ice-helpers. These volunteers are adolescents and young adults wanting to collect high school volunteer hours and/or looking to take on different roles in ringette.

Given the role change of moving from player to volunteer helper, coaches are faced with many questions. How old should they be? What equipment must they wear? What training do they require? Etc.

To provide guidance to our members while ensuring safe opportunities for our young “helpers”, please apply the following:

- Team officials are to use sound judgment when selecting a young person as an on-ice helper. The decision to use a young on-ice helper must be made from a developmental and supportive perspective. We want these “helpers” to provide assistance to team officials while gaining knowledge and experience in a teaching type role. ***This is not designed as an opportunity for players to get extra ice time.***
- An individual who volunteers within the MDRA must be a “registered” Ontario Ringette Association member, or an on-ice official. This ensures that insurance coverage has been secured.
- The individuals may volunteer with a team during practices. They may only be a demonstrator/helper and is not to participate in any scrimmages as a player would.
- The individual must be at minimum one age division higher than the team they are volunteering with. She is not permitted to volunteer as an on-ice helper with a team at the same or higher division.
- On ice helpers 13 years old and under must wear full equipment as required by Ringette Canada. On ice helpers 14 to 18 years old must wear, as a minimum, a CSA certified helmet and appropriate facial protection as required by Ringette Canada, as well as protective gloves and skates.