

Exceptional Player Policy

1. Eligibility and Application Process Exceptional **U14 and U16** players in the final year of their age division may apply to try out for the next age division by submitting a Player Movement Request Form and a \$500 deposit 14 days before tryouts. The deposit will be refunded only if the athlete is both approved to try out and selected for the higher age division team.

2. Mandatory Participation in Age-Division Tryouts All athletes submitting a Player Movement Request must also participate in tryouts for their current age division, regardless of the status of their application for the older age division.

3 . Evaluation and Approval Process A Player Movement Committee will review all applications.

The Ringette New Brunswick (RNB) committee, selected by RNB Executive Director, will include:

- The provincial team head coaches for the athlete's current age division and the next age division.
- At least two coaches certified at the Competition Introduction (CI) level or higher.
- The Director of High Performance as the committee chair.
- The committee's decision on the application will be final, with no appeal process.
- **If there is a conflict of interest (direct or inferred) with any of the committee members and the player, the Director of Coaching may be added to the committee to ensure impartiality.**

4. Evaluation Criteria The decision to permit an athlete to try out for the older age division will be based on the following:

- **Skill Superiority:** The athlete must demonstrate skills and abilities that are significantly superior to peers in their current age division.
- **Team Contribution:** The athlete must be assessed as a top-five player in the older division or as the starting goaltender for that team.
- **Maturity and Fit:** The athlete's emotional and social maturity must align with the dynamics of the older age division.
- **Developmental Benefit:** The committee must determine that the athlete's overall development would be better supported by playing in the older age division than by serving as a leader in their current division.

5. Transparency and Communication The committee will provide a written rationale for its decision to ensure transparency and clarity for the athlete and their family.

6. Athlete-Centered Development This policy prioritizes the long-term development and well-being of the athlete, balancing skill advancement, team cohesion, and personal growth.

7. Policy Review This policy will be reviewed and updated periodically by RNB Board / HP Committee to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.