



Policy Title (RNB) High Performance (HP) Athletes Playing at the Community Level (Double Carding Policy): Ringuette New Brunswick

Approval Date: 10/03/0024

Purpose: To balance the development needs of RNB HP Players with the requirements for forming community teams, while ensuring a supportive and competitive environment for all participants.

Scope: This policy applies to all RNB HP players and local associations. This policy outlines the conditions under which RNB HP athletes may play at both the High Performance and community levels.

Policy Statement:

1. **Insufficient registration numbers to form a community team:** In cases where a community team cannot be formed due to insufficient player numbers, RNB HP Players may be granted an exception to participate (double card) at the community level, subject to RNB Board Approval on a case-by-case basis.
2. **Double Carding at a higher age division:** When space is available, RNB HP Players can double card within their local association's community level at a higher age division than they are currently registered. (i.e. U16AA player playing 18+ [Open])

Policy Details:

1. **Conditions for Community Level Play (insufficient registration numbers):**

Local associations facing insufficient registration numbers must first explore strategies to increase player numbers, such as affiliates/call-ups or merging with other associations, before seeking RNB Board Approval to add RNB HP Players to their roster.

RNB HP Players granted the exception to double card must be identified on the roster of their local association team and be fully registered at the community level for the entire season.

If conflicts arise between RNB HP Players' primary team and their community team activities, priority must always be given to their RNB HP commitments (practice, games, team-building, etc.)

2. Conditions for double carding at a higher age division:

RNB HP Players who wish to double card are required to participate in a higher age division (i.e., U16 can play U19 (if the division is available) or U18+ [Open] and U19 players can play U18+ [Open]) to ensure they are continuously challenged and can further develop their skills.

This participation helps to improve the RNB HP player's skill and gets them ready for higher levels of play, while keeping the competition fair in the community division.

RNB HP Players must be identified on the roster of their local association team and fully registered at the community level.

If there is a conflict between a RNB HP Player's primary team activities (i.e., practice, game, team building), the RNB HP Player is to make their primary team (RNB HP) activities their priority.

Communication and Implementation:

RNB and local associations will communicate the policy clearly to players, parents, and coaches at the start of each season.

Regular updates and reviews will be conducted to ensure the policy remains effective and relevant to the needs of the players and the association.