

| Policy Section | Change | Policy Version | Date Approved | Effective Date |
|----------------|--|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| All | New Policy | 0 | 2002 | 2002 |
| All | Policy Revisions | 0.1 – 0.7 | 2003-2011 | 2003-2011 |
| All | Split Policy into sections 1.0 – 23.0, Appendix A – C | 1 | 2012 | 2012 |
| 2.0 – 10.0 | Wording Changes, added new sections | 2 | 2014 | 2014 |
| All | Wording changes, added new sections | 3 | 09/07/2017 | 09/07/2017 |
| All | Spelling, Punctuation | 4 | N/A | 11/03/2017 |
| 8.2 8.4.2 | Changed 123 League to Chinook League Separated League decisions from Provincials decisions Added Competitions Committee to oversee advance-retreat decisions for Session 3 and Provincials | 5 | 06/20/2024 | 07/01/2024 |

8.0 TEAM ADVANCE/RETREAT POLICY

8.1 Purpose

To provide a process to change the level (tier) of a team partway through a season should the original registered level (tier) not be considered the correct level competitively.

8.2 Applicability

1. Any Ringette Alberta registered team participating in the leagues specified in 8.2.2 and 8.2.3
2. Chinook League or its successor
3. Black Gold League or its successor

8.3 Principles

1. Any team that has been seeded by the format specified in the Tiering Policy may request to be advanced or retreated to a higher or lower level respectively, to improve the likelihood of meaningful competition for itself and its competitors.
2. Any team which feels an opposing team is seeded incorrectly according to the Tiering Policy may request that an opposing team be advanced or retreated to improve the likelihood of meaningful competition for itself and/or its competitors.
3. The Ringette Alberta Competitions Committee will assist in aligning tiering decisions provincially.
 - 8.3.3.1 The Competitions Committee will determine the viability of re-tiering after both sessions 1 and 2 using data from the tiering committee.
4. This policy delegates the authority of team re-tiering (moving from one level to another) from Ringette Alberta to Leagues specified in 8.2.2 and 8.2.3 with input from the Competitions Committee when those leagues make a decision on team tiering for:
 - 8.3.4.1 Session 2
 - 8.3.4.2 All Ringette Alberta sanctioned tournaments that commence 14 days or more after the *Provincial Decision Date* except:
 - 8.3.4.3 When the subject team is participating in its home tournament and the host committee has already accepted teams into the subject team's original tier and the host committee informs the competing teams.
5. Leagues are free to *re-pool* teams within a level in their respective leagues for ease of league operations or facilitating competitive equity without this re-pooling being considered applicable for 8.3.4.1, 8.3.4.2 and 8.3.4.3.

8.4 Requirements

1. League Advance/Retreat Timelines
 - 1.1. Any team that has been tiered by the format specified in the Tiering Policy under a given competition level and wishes to apply to advance to a higher level of play or retreat to a lower level of play must apply to its league on or before the date specified by the league and in the manner required by the league.
 - 1.2. Any team that wishes to advance an opposing team must apply to the opposing team's league on or before the date specified by the league and in the manner required by the league.
 - 1.3. Leagues must notify all teams who are being considered for an advance or retreat, as well as the teams' associations, in writing, no less than 5 days in advance of the *Leagues' Consideration Date* of their status and the reasons they are being considered for re-tiering.
 - 1.4. If they desire, teams which are the subject of a possible advance or retreat have until the expiration of the timeline specified by their League, as communicated in 8.4.1.3 to provide written rationale to their League to remain at the level assigned the team according to the Tiering Policy.
 - 1.5. A fee, if any, as specified by the league must accompany advance or retreat requests.
2. Advance/Retreat Timelines for Provincials
 - 2.1. Advance/Retreat for Provincials are at the sole discretion of Ringette Alberta with input of the Leagues. Final advance/retreat decisions for Session 3 and Provincials will be based on game statistics
3. Right of Appeal
 - 3.1. The Leagues' advance/retreat is not appealable.
 - 3.2. Ringette Alberta's Provincials advance/retreat decision is not appealable.
 - 3.3. The opportunity for a team to "make its case" is afforded to the team in 8.4.1.4.
 - 3.4. Prior to January 14th of the current season, the leagues retain the right to revisit their Provincial Decision
4. Reporting and Acceptance
 - 4.1. The decision of the leagues must be communicated to Ringette Alberta, in writing, no later than December 14th of the season in

8.5 Definitions

Re-pool: re-arrange teams into groups for competitive equity or other reasons within the same age level and tier, e.g., Red and White pools within U14B.

Re-tiering: Move a team from one level or tier within an age group to another level or tier within the same or other age group or for competitive equity or other reasons. eg. Move a team from U12C to U12B.

League Decision: The decision made by the leagues specified in 8.2.2 and 8.2.3 at a common meeting involving both leagues for competition types specified in 8.3.3.

Provincials Qualifier: Session 3 games (refer to League schedule) are used to determine the teams who qualify for Provincials.

Provincials Decision: The decision made by the Ringette Alberta Competitions Committee on Provincials advance/retreat. Applicable to U14 – U19 divisions only.

Leagues' Consideration Date: the date that the Black Gold League and the Chinook League commence their deliberations on the tiering of teams subject to this policy.

Provincial Decision Date: the date that the Black Gold League and the Chinook League reach their decision Provincially on the tiering of teams subject to this policy.

8.6 References

4.0 Tiering Policy