



COMPETITIONS

RINGETTE ONTARIO PROTESTS & GRIEVANCES

1.1 TOURNAMENT DISCIPLINE, PROTEST AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

1.1.1 It is strongly recommended that Sanctioned Tournaments have a Discipline, Protest and Grievance (DPG) Committee, as appointed by the Chair, consisting of three (3) registered Ringette Ontario participants i.e., official, coach, etc. The RO Program Manager (or designate) should act as ex-officio. The Referee-in-Chief of the tournament should also be considered as one of the participants.

The DPG Committee will convene should any of the following Sanction Rules be violated by a participating player, bench staff, or team during the RO Sanctioned Event.

1.1.2 At Provincial Events, a Provincial Discipline, Protest and Grievance Committee of four (4) people: Ringette Ontario Operations Director as Chair, the Championship Director of Officials (or designate), Ringette Ontario Program Manager, and one (1) impartial participant.

In the case that one of these individuals has a conflict, then the Provincial Host Chair (or designate) may replace that individual.

The Committee will convene should any of the Codes of Conduct, or any of the Sanction Rules be violated by a participating player, bench staff, or team during the Ringette Ontario Sanctioned Event.

1.1.3 **NOTE:** *A representative of the DPG Committee may not participate in a decision involving their Home Club.*

1.1.4 No Protests and/or Grievances shall be entertained against the official's judgment and/or application of the playing rules on the ice. Questions concerning the on-ice rule interpretations shall be directed to the Referee-in-Chief of the Tournament.

1.1.5 The RO Program Manager (or designate) assigned to the event be copied on all minutes of any DPG Committee Meeting. Minutes MUST be taken.

1.2 DISCIPLINE

1.2.1 All match and misconduct penalties must be reviewed by the DPG Committee. Additionally, any violations of the RO Code of Conduct may result in discipline from the DPG Committee and/or Ringette Ontario.

1.2.2 Match and/or Misconduct Penalty Suspensions

The following guidelines apply to all play directly under Ringette Canada.

The suspensions specified (in number of games), are over and above those specified and outlined in Section 20.3e Match Penalty (Consequences of Penalties) of the Official Rules of Ringette, for Match penalty infractions.

Per rule 4.4 of Ringette Ontario's Competition Rules:

If a misconduct penalty is assessed against an athlete or member of the bench staff during or after the game, the following suspensions are to be applied. The suspensions are to be served in the next regularly scheduled games.

- First offense = one (1) game
- Second offense in the same season = three (3) games
- Third offense in the same season = five (5) games
- Fourth offense = indefinite pending hearing with the Ringette Ontario Competitions Oversight Committee.

Per rule 4.5 of Ringette Ontario's Competition Rules:

If a match penalty is assessed against a player or Bench Staff in Ringette Ontario sanctioned play, the player/bench staff shall receive an automatic two (2) game suspension for a match penalty assessed during play, to be served in the next two (2) regularly scheduled games, and an automatic three (3) game suspension for a match penalty assessed after the game, to be served in the next three (3) regularly scheduled games. The player/bench staff shall be suspended from any team until the full suspension is served with the team, they were a member of when the penalty occurred.

NOTE: Ringette Canada's one game suspension is included in the number of games to be missed. (i.e. if a player receives a match after the game, they must sit out one (1) game, Ringette Canada's suspension, and two (2) games, Ringette Ontario's suspension).

Based on the circumstances surrounding the Match penalty, the DPG Committee *may* choose to impose a game suspension, without appeal, up to a maximum number of games stated for the specific infraction(s). Additional suspensions may be imposed should the circumstances warrant the same. Should an individual commit more than one of these infractions in the same game, the suspension penalties imposed shall be additive.

Athlete/Team Official Assessed a MATCH penalty for:	
Action	Max additional # of games
Contact penalty from behind	4
Slew Footing	3
Hair Pulling	3
Face Masking	3
Head Butting	3
Spearing, Butt Ending or Kicking	4
Stick Swinging	4
Deliberate Attempt to injure (ex: deliberate hits to the head, kneeing, rough play, cross-checking, boarding)	4
Fighting - Instigating	4
Fighting - Participating (including those in addition to the original participants)	2
Athlete/Team Official Assessed a MISCONDUCT or MATCH penalty for:	
Abuse of an Official (on-ice and minor officials)	
Excessive verbal abuse, during or after a game (misconduct)	2
Excessive verbal abuse post-game on-ice (misconduct plus match)	3
Physical – Minimal (ex: touch, brush)	3
Physical – Moderate (Ex: push)	5
Physical – Excessive (Ex: punch (or attempt to), attempt to injure, action causing official to fall)	7
Code of Conduct Violations	
Individuals who are deemed to be in violation of the Ringette Ontario Code of Conduct (including bullying and/or cyberbullying) are subject to suspension and/or other action, as deemed appropriate upon review by the Ringette Ontario Operations Director. Tournament DPG Committees should take statements and notes and submit to operationsdirector@ringetteontario.com along with their recommendation of suspension length.	

1.3 PROTESTS

1.3.1 At a Sanctioned Event, the only actions that may be protested are:

- Ineligible Bench Staff
 - Bench Staff who is not registered and verified with RO.
 - A Bench Staff on any team other than the one(s) they are registered on, except as allowed as a properly documented substitute.
 - Bench Staff that do not have the required qualifications.

- Bench Staff participating while under RO suspension.
- Ineligible Players
 - A player who is not registered and verified with RO.
 - A player on any team other than the one(s) they are registered on, except as allowed as a properly documented substitute.
 - A player playing while under Ringette Ontario suspension.

Substantiated violation of the above will result in team disqualification from the tournament. The team will also be subject to sanction fines levied by Ringette Ontario.

1.4 GRIEVANCE

- 1.4.1 At a Sanctioned Event, a Ringette Ontario participant can grieve any action not covered under the Protest Section.
- 1.4.2 The interpretation of a grievance is that it is of such a serious nature that the cash deposit will be \$250.00 non-refundable, payable to the Hosting Association.
NOTE: The host can change this amount.
- 1.4.3 No grievance will be allowed against the judgement and application of the playing rules on the ice. Questions concerning rule interpretations shall be directed to the Referee-In-Chief of the tournament.
- 1.4.4 All upheld grievances shall automatically go to the Club President for potential further disciplinary action.

1.5 PROCEDURES FOR PROTESTS AND/OR GRIEVANCES

- 1.5.1 Coach will inform the on-ice official at the end of the game of their intention of protesting a violation of the tournament rules or initiating a grievance. The official will record the intended protest in the "Notes" section on the online game sheet (or the front of the game sheet if using paper).
- 1.5.2 The coach will submit the protest and/or grievance in writing to the Tournament Arena Convener on duty within thirty (30) minutes of the end of the game. A \$250.00 cash deposit must accompany the submission.
NOTE: This amount can be changed at the host's discretion.
- 1.5.3 The Arena Convenor shall contact a representative of the DPG Committee immediately.
- 1.5.4 The Tournament DPG Committee shall meet within two (2) hours of notification of a protest and/or grievance and will inform both coaches of the teams involved within one (1) hour of the end of their meeting as to whether the violation is

substantiated or otherwise.

Note: If the protest and/or grievance is substantiated and upheld, the \$250.00 deposit will be returned.

1.6 VIOLATION OF SANCTION RULES

1.6.1 Violations of sanction rules are to be administered by Ringette Ontario. Sanctioned rules and fines are outlined at the following link: [Violations of Sanctioned Rules](#)

