

Discipline Policy

1. General Principles

- Members and participants are expected to fulfill certain responsibilities and obligations including, but not limited to, complying with the Rules of Ringette as published by Ringette Canada, the Bylaws of RPEI, and the Policies & Procedures of RPEI.
- Any violation of these rules, bylaws, policies, and procedures may be subject to sanctions pursuant to this policy.

2. Discipline Committee

- The discipline committee will consist of the presidents of each member club and the RPEI president.
- In the event that the matter involves one of the members, a family member or any team that they coach or manage, a designate with no conflict-of-interest from the same club or the RPEI board of directors will be chosen.

3. Game Incidents- Reporting

- It is the responsibility of the official to report any game incidents.
- The official must summarize the incident on the official game sheet, either when the incident occurs or immediately following the game. When completed, the official must sign and date the report.
- A full report must be written and sent to the Director of Officials no later than 24 hours after the incident.
- The Director of Officials will bring the report to the attention of the RPEI president and the RPEI Executive Director
- The RPEI president, or designate, will inform those involved of automatic sanctions within 72 hours of the incident
- The board of RPEI will be advised of any automatic suspensions. Others may also be advised as deemed necessary to ensure compliance.

4. Automatic Suspensions for Game Incidents

- The following game suspensions will be applied automatically for any player or coach or other bench staff assessed a match penalty as reported by the officials in 3.:

	1 st Offence (minimum)	2 nd Offence (within a season of play, minimum)	3 rd Offence (within a season of play)
Spitting	3	6	remainder of season
Hair Pulling	3	6	remainder of season
Head Butting	3	6	remainder of season
Spearing	4	8	remainder of season
Butt Ending	4	8	remainder of season
Stick Swinging	4	8	remainder of season
Kicking	3	6	remainder of season
Attempt to Injure	4	8	remainder of season
Fighting- instigator	3	6	remainder of season
Fighting- participator	2	4	remainder of season
Abuse of official- verbal	1	2	remainder of season
Abuse of official- physical (minimal- ex. Touch or brush)	3	remainder of season	remainder of season

Abuse of official- physical (moderate- ex. Push)	5	remainder of season	remainder of season
Abuse of official- physical (excessive- ex. Punch, attempt to punch)	7	remainder of season	remainder of season
Actions as outlined in Section 18.1.f (Official Rules and Case Book)	1	4	remainder of season

- The following game suspensions will be applied automatically for any player or coach or other bench staff assessed a misconduct penalty as reported by the officials in 3.:

	1 st Offence (minimum)	2 nd Offence (within a season of play, minimum)	3 rd Offence (within a season of play)
Behaviour as outlined in Section 16 – Misconduct Penalties (Official Rules & Case Book)	0	1	5

- Automatic suspensions are placed as a minimum. Increased suspension time or additional sanctions may be imposed by the disciplinary committee.
- The automatic suspensions listed in the above table include the Consequences of Penalties, as outlined in the Ringette Canada Official Rule & Case Book.
- When a team leaves the ice or refuses to start play as per Ringette Canada rules, all bench staff indicated on the game sheet will receive a minimum 5 game suspension. The team will also be subjected to a \$250 minimal fine. All players and team staff will be suspended indefinitely until the fine is paid in full by the team, club, or provincial organization.
- When a team withdraws, fails to show or drops out of a tournament within 7 days of the tournament start, all team staff indicated on the tournament registration form or game sheet will receive a minimum 5 game suspension. The team will also forfeit the tournament fee and be subject to an additional fine equivalent to the value of the tournament registration fee.
- Incidents resulting in automatic suspensions accumulate within a season of play and accumulate based on occurrence, not on the specific nature of each offence.
- All incidents subject to an automatic suspension are kept on file for a rolling 24 month period and will be considered in cases of disciplinary hearing.
- These suspensions apply to all game incidents taking place during RPEI sanctioned events including league play, tournaments, and exhibition games.
- If a person incurs a 3rd offence within a season of play, he/she will be subject to a disciplinary committee meeting and RPEI reserves the right to extend the suspension indefinitely.

5. Appeals of Automatic Suspensions

- Automatic suspensions may be appealed on sufficient grounds if filed in writing to the RPEI president between 24-48 hours after notice is sent. Sufficient grounds are limited to:
 - Mistake on the part of the official (ex. the official did not give the penalty he/she intended)

- ii. Procedural errors
- Appeals of automatic suspensions will be subject to a \$100 filing fee. This fee will be returned in the event that the appeal moves forward.
- Appeals of automatic suspensions will be handled following the procedures outlined in #7 & #8.
- The decision of the Disciplinary Committee will be final; no further appeals can be filed regarding the incident in which the original complaint was filed.
- 6. Other Incidents- Reporting
 - Complaints of other incidents must be sent in writing, via letter or e-mail, to the RPEI president for consideration.
 - Complaints must be signed.
 - Complaints must be submitted within 7 days of an incident.
 - The RPEI president may bring any incident, including game incidents, to the attention of the executive for consideration of whether or not further sanctions may be required and to determine if the discipline committee should review the incident
- 7. Handling of Complaints
 - Within 7 days of the incident, the executive of RPEI must decide whether or not a complaint will be forwarded to the discipline committee. Three out of 4 executives must agree to either forward the complaint or dismiss the complaint as frivolous.
 - The RPEI president will inform those involved of the complaint if it is being considered by the discipline committee.
 - If a complaint is not being forwarded to the discipline committee, a record of the complaint will be kept on file and no further action will be taken.
- 8. Discipline Committee Procedures
 - Once forwarded to the discipline committee, they will consider the evidence and make a decision within 7 days.
 - The discipline committee may seek information from those involved and those who witnessed the incident.
 - All parties have a right to be heard by the discipline committee if a hearing takes place however the hearing will proceed if they decide not to be present.
 - Once a decision has been reached, the RPEI president, or designate, will inform those involved of any sanctions within 24 hours
 - The following sanctions may be applied:
 - i. Written reprimand may be placed in the individual's file
 - ii. Request for a written apology
 - iii. Removal of certain privileges of membership
 - iv. Suspension from team, events, and/or activities
 - v. Payment of a financial fine in an amount to be determined by the discipline committee
 - vi. Suspension from all RPEI activities for a designated period of time
 - vii. Suspension of RPEI funding
 - viii. Expulsion of membership
 - ix. Publication of the Disciplinary Committee's decision
 - x. Other sanctions as may be considered appropriate for the offense
 - Decisions of the discipline committee will be kept on file at the RPEI office
 - The board of RPEI will be advised of any decisions made by the discipline committee. Others may also be advised as deemed necessary to ensure compliance.

- Decisions of the discipline committee may be appealed using the Appeal Policy, (give section details). For appeals of decisions by the discipline committee, the appeals committee should consist of the RPEI Vice-President, or designate, and 2 independent members of the board or the organization.

9. Serving Game Suspensions

- Any coach, player or bench staff serving a game suspension must be recorded on the official game sheet with “suspended” written next to his/her name.
- It is the responsibility of the head coach and team staff to ensure that suspensions are fully served.
- Game sheets should be kept on file by the local club and a copy forwarded to the RPEI office within 24 hours to record compliance.
- Suspensions must be served at the next scheduled game(s) immediately following notice of the suspension, based on the following guidelines:
 - i. The person only belongs to a house league team- no exhibition games will count. Suspensions must be served during regularly scheduled house league or tournament games.
 - ii. The person only belongs to a high performance team- exhibition games will count including those scheduled following notice of the suspension. RPEI reserves the right to determine what qualifies as an exhibition game. Suspensions must be served during high performance team games.
 - iii. The person belongs to both a house league team and a high performance team- the suspension must be served during games at the same level in which the incident occurred (ex. if the incident occurred in a house league game, the suspension will be served in house league games.) according to the guidelines in d.i. and d.ii.
- Anyone serving a suspension is not allowed to participate in any game in any capacity (athlete, coach, official) until the suspension is fully served (ex. if a person belongs to both a house league team and a high performance team and is serving a suspension in house league, they are not allowed to participate in high performance games either until the suspension is served). Anyone serving a suspension is allowed to participate in practices and other off-ice team activities.
- Unserved suspensions at the end of the season will be carried over to the following season. In the case of suspensions which are carried over from the previous season, a player may apply to the President of RPEI for permission to play in exhibition or tournament games for the purpose of trying out for a team. If granted permission, such games do not count towards serving of the suspension.
- For the purposes of this policy, tournament games are considered exhibition games.
- Ringette PEI will uphold all suspensions, sanctions, or disciplinary actions in ringette across international, national, and provincial governing bodies.

10. Suspension

- Notwithstanding the existing disciplinary policies already in place within Ringette Canada and Ringette PEI policies and procedures, this policy will allow the disciplinary committee and president to deal with any issues outside this scope.
- The president, with supervision by the provincial board, augmented by the disciplinary committee if necessary, shall have the power to fine, suspend and/or discipline any member, coach, team official, player, spectator, and on and off-ice officials for any conduct that breaches the Rules of Ringette as published by Ringette Canada, the Bylaws of RPEI, or the Policies & Procedures of RPEI, or any action that may be

considered detrimental to the sport of Ringette. This includes both conduct on and off the ice, comments made in public (including online social media) about any member of the coaching staff, players, on and off ice officials or volunteers, as well as any conduct at any Ringette Canada sanctioned event (including events outside the province of PEI).

- The affected person does have the right to appeal within the specified time frames as outlined in the Appeal Policy, section H of the RPEI Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Any conduct that avails itself to be in contract to the Criminal Code of Canada , or the laws of the Province of Prince Edward Island must be reported to outside authorities for further action.

11. Procedural Time Frames

- RPEI and the discipline committee reserve the right to shorten or increase the timelines of the procedures if circumstances warrant