



## **Under-Age Player Policy**

### **Applicability**

This policy applies to all West Ottawa Ringette Association players and teams, except those in Open (adult).

### **Definitions**

An "Under-Age Player" is any player who wishes to play in a particular age group while still being age-eligible to play in a younger age group. For example, a player still eligible to play at the U14 level but playing at the U16 level would be an Under-Age Player.

### **Policy**

The policy of the West Ottawa Ringette Association is that Under-Age Players will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, such as where there are unusual player development needs. Each case will be reviewed by the West Ottawa Ringette Association Executive in accordance with the guiding principles (see below) and approved or denied based on each specific situation.

### **Requests to be an Under-Age Player**

Requests for a player to play in an older age group must be submitted in writing to the West Ottawa Ringette Association Executive (to the attention of the Vice President) prior to any tryout or sort out sessions.

### **Guiding Principles:**

In making a determination, the Executive will be guided by the principles of Long Term Athlete Development set by Ringette Canada. Details of those principles can be found here: [Ringette Canada - LTAD](#). By respecting the principles of LTAD, the Executive will look to do what is best for all players and only the exceptional player will be allowed to play up an age category. Consistent with these principles, factors that will be considered by the Executive are the physical strength, emotional health and social development of the player.

In addition, for the Under-Age Player to be considered eligible to play up an age category, the player must rank as one of the top 3 players during the tryout or sort out sessions. A goalie would have to be the top Goalie.

Reviewed and approved Jan 2022.