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1. ELITE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (E.D.P.) OVERVIEW

The Elite Development Program will provide those athletes with exceptional skill, the opportunity to participate at a level of play that will further enhance their ringette™ abilities. The Elite Development Program is the responsibility of the Elite Development Committee. The Elite Development Program was initiated in 1988 to co-ordinate ORA's activities in preparing for, and competing in, the Canada Winter Games. Its mandate has since been expanded to include participation in all elite play events, such as the Canada Winter Games (C.W.G.), Ontario Winter Games (O.W.G.), and the World Championships. At that time Ringette™'s involvement in the C.W.G. shall be evaluated according to its success. It's continued participation will be determined at that time. In order to produce as many elite athletes as possible and also to build a strong base of highly skilled athletes the Elite Development Program will provide the opportunity for elite competition as detailed below:

- i. The Elite Development Program will run in four-year cycles culminating in the year of the Canada Winter Games (C.W.G.) event.
- ii. Each four year cycle will be broken down into two, two-year segments. The first two-year segment will be a preparatory phase to organize and select the representatives for Team Ontario to compete in the C.W.G. event. The second two-year segment will be a competitive phase during which Team Ontario will train, prepare and compete in exhibition games and tournaments. It will culminate with the Canada Winter Games in the final year.
- iii. The Elite Development Committee is responsible for ensuring elite Provincial All-Star Teams (Team Ontario) are organized, trained, and maintained to participate in National level competitions such as the Canada Games and other elite competitions such as the: "Ontario Cup", other Province's Provincial Teams' Invitational Tournaments, and/or other competitions as developed and approved by O.R.A. In addition, the Elite Development Committee is responsible for ensuring elite athletes are organized, trained and made ready to participate either as a team or as individuals in the World Championships or any qualifier Ringette Canada organizes for that event.
- iv. To assist in the selection of Team Ontario, the Ontario Winter Games competition will be used as a vehicle to evaluate players. To this end, each two year segment will consist of a one year Preparatory phase and a one year Competitive phase for Regional teams competing in the Ontario Winter Games. Each two-year segment is completed when the Regional Teams participate in the O.W.G. (March 1998, March 2000, etc.).
- v. Each of the six (6) geographical regions is responsible for organizing, training and maintaining an elite "squad" of athletes to participate on Regional All-Star Team (R.A.T.) in elite competition such as the Ontario Winter Games and Regional Challenge Cup Tournaments.

- vi. The age group of Elite Teams, both Provincial and Regional, will be determined by the age requirement of the Elite Event to be attended such as the O.W.G., C.W.G., and International Competitions like the World Championships.

a. **Ontario Winter Games**

- i. Every two years the Ontario Winter Games is offered to all sports to apply for participation. Ringette™ has traditionally been selected as a participating sport by the O.W.G. Committee. The Elite Development Committee has the mandate to select the division to participate, taking into consideration: date, place, O.W.G. technical policies, competitive level and whether or not the O.W.G. will be used as a vehicle to select Team Ontario for the C.W.G.
- ii. The O.W.G. event in the first two-year segment of a four year cycle will be one of several events used to evaluate players to be invited to selection sessions for Team Ontario for the next C.W.G. Therefore the age requirement and competitive level for O.W.G. will be based upon the age group for the next C.W.G.
- iii. Age group for the 2007 Canada Winter Games is 18 and under, therefore the age for the 2006 Ontario Winter Games event will be 17 and under.
- iv. Tournament Format
 - Six (6) team full round robin
 - Team with highest points after round robin advance to championship game.
 - Teams with the second and third highest points advance to the semifinal game to determine the bronze medalist.
 - Team winning semifinal game advances to the championship game to determine the gold and silver medalists.
 - Shot clocks will be used in all games at the Ontario Winter Games.
 - All games will be two (2) twenty (20) minute periods.
 - Mini Games: Any tie which will result in a team not being able to participate in a medal game, will require mini-games to be played to determine who will participate in the medal game. e.g. three (3) teams tied for second place, the breaking procedures determine second place, then a mini-game to eliminate a team from the proceedings.
 - All games will be played until a winner is declared.

b. Regional All-Star Team, (R.A.T.)

i. Challenge Cup Responsibilities

Registration Fee	–	Set by host to break even
Notification of Event	–	Sent by host timing as any tournament
Notification of Attendance	–	Sent by team to host, c/c Elite Development
Ice	–	Obtained by host, Elite Development to advise how much is needed
Schedule	–	Done by ORA office. Sent to host, Elite Development and teams 3 weeks prior to event
Medals	–	Provided by Host, Gold and Silver; include cost in breakeven budget
Challenge Cup	–	Provided by ORA
Skills Competition	-	Organized and run by Elite Development. Medals are part of breakeven Budget
Arena Convening	–	Host Committee – 2 people per arena
Publicity/Advertising	–	Host locally; Elite Development Provincially
Officials	–	ORA provide through Chair, Officiating (cost included in Officiating Budget)
Minor Officials	-	Host Committee – Scorekeepers, shot clock operators and timekeepers
Equipment	–	Host (Rings, shot clocks, etc.).
First Aid	–	Host to provide adequate first aid (St. John's Ambulance)
Hotels	–	Individual teams (Host may recommend who to contact)
Fundraising	–	With the approval of the Host, Elite Development should fundraise during the events
Facilities	–	Host to obtain – Showcase our Sport
	-	Fun, Friendly
	-	Correct Ringette™ markings
Wall Charts	–	Elite Development to provide to the host
	-	Host/Elite Development to maintain
Internet	-	Host and Elite Development work together to utilize the Internet.

ii. The exact number of athletes is left to each Region to decide, up to a maximum of 18. It is also the region's responsibility to select their team's bench staff.

iii. Each Regional AAA team should have two (2) sets of jerseys, one (1) predominantly dark and one (1) predominantly white. Uniform numbers on both sets must be the same and the players keep the same uniform numbers through out the AAA season. Uniforms must meet the criteria of the Ringette Canada Rulebook.

- iv. Player eligibility be defined by residency only for all AAA teams. Players living in another Province, playing in Ontario, are not eligible for Team Ontario. A player who resides in a Region where there is no Regional All Star team has the right to tryout and play for the closest Regional All-Star team with Board approval.

NOTE: Residency does not include temporary secondary residences.

- (Also Membership Services - Recruitment of Player Guidelines Section 8).
 - Ontario Winter Games have the final say in the number of participants.
- v. The AAA teams must be registered by **OCTOBER 31st** and the final roster submitted for the Ontario Winter Games must come from the **OCTOBER 31st** Team Registration List. If a member of the final Ontario Winter Games roster is unable to attend the Ontario Winter Games, the team will be allowed to substitute from their original **OCTOBER 31st** Team Registration List within the requirements of the Ontario Winter Games technical guidelines.
- vi. Athletes with outstanding skating and ringette™ team skills from all competitive levels are encouraged to tryout for their respective Regional Squads. Athletes who wish to tryout should contact the Region.
- vii. Subject to financing, the Elite Development Committee will make every effort to provide the Regional All-Star Teams with up to three (3) events prior to the Ontario Winter Games.
- viii. It is recommended that Bench Staff for Regional All-Star Teams be selected early in Year 1 of each two-year segment. Tryouts for Regional Teams may commence any time.

c. Canada Winter Games

- i. The Canada Winter Games is a Sports Festival for Provincial Teams of many different winter sports, held every four years. Ringette Canada is responsible for submitting application to participate. The Canada Winter Games Committee has selected ringette™ as a full participant in the C.W.G. since 1991.
- ii. Ringette Canada, through consultation with the Canada Winter Games Council, develops the event guidelines and particulars such as event venue, rules, age division, number of teams, level of play, etc.
- iii. Each Province is responsible for the development and organization of their Provincial team(s) to participate in the event. For this event, if you refer to the Sport Specific system model you will see the level of play is “AAA”. The elite athletes of our existing competitive structure are selected for Team Ontario as opposed to “Team Units” advancing through a series of championships.

- iv. The Elite Development Committee has the mandate and is responsible for ensuring that an elite team called “Team Ontario” is organized, evaluated, selected, trained and maintained to participate in the Canada Games and other elite competitions such as the “Ontario Cup”, a Provincial Teams calibre Tournament.

d. Representatives to the Canada Winter Games:

- i. Team Ontario for the Canada Winter Games shall be operated according to the basic four-year plan shown below. It may be amended by the Team Ontario Bench Staff to fit the current situation. The detailed version will be forwarded to the Elite Development Committee and all Regions for perusal by Regional Executives, Regional Teams Coaching Staff and Communities.

Year 1	-	Rest
Year 2	-	Bench Staff Selection, review previous program, plan and organize. Organize current team program and plan.
Year 3	-	Player evaluation. Selection starts near end of year.
Year 4	-	Player selection, training and competition. Evaluate, analyze, report and make recommendation for Provincial Team Program on basic plan.

- ii. The only source of players will be from the six (6) geographical Regional All-Star Teams, including those players on their spare lists available to the Regional Teams during the second two year cycle are eligible to be invited to Team Ontario tryouts. Exceptions will be made only in the most exceptional of circumstances, such as; new players who move into the region after tryouts, or those who were injured during the period of tryouts. Any player who is injured at the time of Regional Tryouts must register at the tryout with proof of injury.

NOTE: This will allow the Regional Team coaches to select their squads based upon Regional Team needs and they will not have to select their team based upon Provincial Team needs.

- iii. Players will be evaluated at Challenge Cups for Regional Teams, the O.W.G., at Invitational Tournaments, Provincial and National Championships. Selected players will be invited to training sessions to be held after April of the Ontario Winter Games.
- iv. Subject to financing, the Elite Development Committee will make every effort to provide Team Ontario with at least two Provincial calibre events in the final year of participation. One “Ontario Cup” Challenge, inviting teams from other provinces to participate, and one or more out of province event(s). The Team Ontario Bench Staff shall make every effort to organize exhibition games, practices, and to attend Invitational Tournaments on a regular basis through each season.

- v. Team Ontario players be allowed to play with their home association teams as well as with Team Ontario.
- vi. The goalies for Team Ontario must be chosen from the six (6) Regional All-Star Teams.
- vii. The Selection Process for players to attend Team Ontario Tryout Camp will be as follows: At the end of each Challenge Cups and at the end of the Ontario Winter Games, the head Coach of each Regional “AAA” Team participating, will submit to the Coach of Team Ontario a ranking list of his/her players. This list will consist of the two (2) top centres, the top three (3) forwards and the top three (3) defence players. The ranking will be assigned a point value of 5 for first, 3 for second and 1 for third. At the conclusion of all events, the Regional teams will be asked to send up to five (5) players to the Team Ontario tryout. While the selection does not have to be 1 centre, 2 forwards, and 2 defence players; the players nominated to come must be the highest ranking players for their positions from the tabulated event rankings. (i.e. if a player accumulated the most forward player points on her team after the three (3) events, then this player must be the first forward picked). In addition to the above players maximum thirty (30), the Coaching Staff of Team Ontario will, from all remaining players on the Regional “AAA” teams, pick additional players to bring the roster of skaters attending the tryout camp to forty (40). Finally, the Team Ontario Coaching Staff are also completely responsible for goaltender selection. This will bring the planned tryout camp to forty-five (45) players.

e. Bench Staff

- i. All bench staff for Canada Winter Games must provide a Police Record Check as outlined by ORA Guidelines.
- ii. The Bench Staff of Team Ontario may not hold any bench position on any team within the age category of the Team Ontario playing personnel during the Canada Winter Games/Ontario Winter Games playing seasons. If Team Ontario is comprised of Tweens, Juniors and Belles, the Bench Staff of Team Ontario cannot hold any bench position in these age groups - any level and cannot be added to a roster after the C.W.G. are over. The Bench Staff are eligible to coach at any level not in conflict with Team Ontario ages. (Petite, Open, examples).
- iii. Criteria for selecting Bench Staff – refer to Coaching Section.

f. Tween Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships

The Gold Medal team in the Tween division of the Provincial AA Championships in that year should represent Ontario at the Tween Eastern Canadian Championship.

The guidelines that apply to the National Championships in g. i. to xii. will apply with the following

exception:

- i. No pickups will be allowed unless the team has less than 10 skaters or only one goalie. All pickups must be from the same associations.

g. National Championships

Elite Development takes over responsibility of the Provincial Teams going to the Nationals once the Champion has been declared. This would include, but not be limited to, player pickups, accommodations, travel and team communication.

- i. The host and dates of the National Championships can be found in the Sanctioned Tournament Listing in the Events and Activities section.
- ii. Gold medal teams in the Junior, Belle and Open divisions of the Provincial AA Championships in that year shall represent Ontario at the National Championships. When the Gold medal team is from the Host Community, they SHALL be Ontario's Representative and the silver medal winner shall have the right of first refusal to become the "designated host". If the gold medal winner is unable to attend, the silver medal winner will have right of first refusal to attend, and then the bronze medal, etc. When a provincial representative team is from the Host Community, it shall have all the rights and privileges afforded to all other teams representing Ontario in the other age groups. A designated host team shall have all the rights and privileges of a "host team".
- iii. The Ontario Ringette Association provides partial funding for the three (3) representatives to the National Championships.
- iv. In accordance with the following guidelines, teams representing Ontario at the National Championships may add players to their rosters.
 - Teams representing Ontario, as well as the host or designated host teams, will be allowed the opportunity to add players to bring their rosters to a maximum of 22 players. No player may be dropped from the current roster to affect any additions.
 - Any player is eligible to be picked up in any age group that she is eligible to play in.
- v. Teams will be eligible to pick up players in the following order
 - Provincial champion registered age group;
 - Provincial champion other eligible age groups;
 - Host in registered age group;
 - Host in other eligible age groups
- vi. Any player who declines an offer to be picked up is not eligible to be picked up by any subsequent team.

- vii. All additional players must be approved by the Elite Development Chair and documented to the O.R.A. Board of Directors, O.R.A. office and Elite Development Committee.
 - viii. The Ontario representatives have 48 hours after the completion of the Provincial AA Championships to select additional players and notify the Elite Development Chair. Following that approval, the host, or designated host, team has an additional 48 hours to select their additional players. Teams cannot invite pick-up players for their teams, before the conclusion of the final game in their division at the Provincial Championships. Any violation may cause the Head Coach or player to be ineligible to attend the National Championships. The Provincial Championship Discipline Committee shall rule on any ineligibility and advise the Elite Development Chair.
 - ix. A player may play on only one team at the Canadian Ringette Championships.
 - x. Ontario Ringette shall book hotel accommodations for all teams attending Nationals, **which must be used**. Each team is responsible for payment of the arrangements. O.R.A. will provide each team with on-ice sweaters and pants. The sweaters and pants must be returned upon completion of the National Championships. The teams representing Ontario at the National Championships have the right to purchase their complete set of sweaters, after the National Championships, **at replacement cost**.
 - xi. The team must book its flights through the official travel sponsor and is responsible for all costs incurred.
 - xii. Ceremonial uniforms will be as provided by the O.R.A. for the teams representing Ontario at the National Championships. Ontario **may** subsidize the cost.
- h. **World Championships**
- i. Every three years the World Championships is offered to all countries to apply to host. The International Ringette Federation (I.R.F.), along with the hosting country, are responsible for the event guidelines and particulars such as event venue, rules, age division(s), number of teams per country, level of play, etc.
 - ii. Ringette Canada is responsible for picking the method of selecting team(s) to represent Canada at the World Championships.
 - iii. Each province is responsible for selecting the participants and/or team(s) to represent itself in whatever qualifying event Ringette Canada chooses as its method of selecting Canada's representative(s). The Elite Development Committee has the mandate to carry out this responsibility for the Ontario Ringette Association.

iv. Representatives to World Championships and/or Qualifiers:

- The Elite Development Committee has the mandate and is responsible for ensuring that athletes are organized, evaluated, selected, trained and made ready to participate in the World Championships and/or any qualifier that Ringette Canada organizes for that event.
- Subject to financing, the Elite Development Committee shall select the method and site to host a selection camp to ensure elite athletes are organized, trained and made ready to participate either as a team or as individuals in the World Championships or any qualifier Ringette Canada organizes for that event.

