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1.0 PROGRAM MANDATE

1.1 INTRODUCTION 1.1.1 Committee is to function on a Provincial basis developing content encouraging

- Athlete Recruitment
- Long Term Sport Development Implementation (LTAD)
- Athlete Development
- Athlete Networking
- Sport Development

Promoting a safe and inclusive environment for all.

Regional Coordinators act as liaisons and advisors to the community associations to promote all aspects of athlete development.

1.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

1.2.1 Athlete Recruitment

- Outreach
- Come Try Ringette™
- Ringette™ for Life Opportunities
- High School and Post-Secondary Ringette™
- Alternate Ringette™

1.2.2 Long Term Development (LTAD) Implementation

- ABC
- Skills Matrix
- Team Activity Log
- Compliance Information

1.2.3 Athlete Networking

- Athlete Representatives
- Social Media
- Forums

1.2.4 Sport Development

- Promoting the Sport
- Growth
- Skills Videos
- Athlete Awards

1.2.5 Promoting a Safe and Inclusive Environment

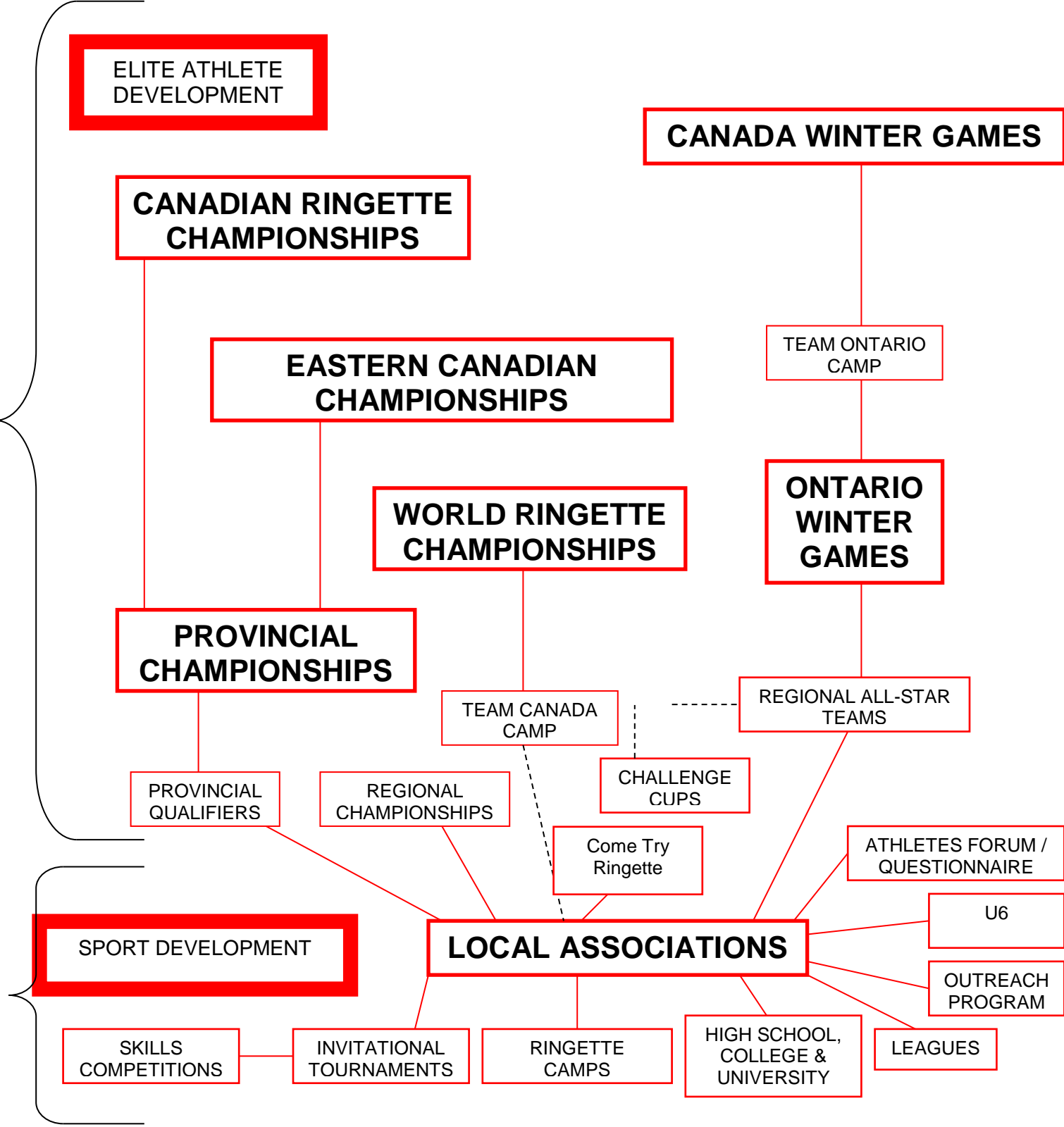
- Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Policies
- Fair Ice Policy
- Fair Play Policy
- Code of Conduct

The Sport Development Committee will be liaison to all Standing Committees.

**1.3 REGIONAL
CO-ORDINATOR
LIAISON FACTORS**

- 1.3.1 Communicate at Regional Committee Meetings, explaining program mandate
- 1.3.2 Assist local associations in getting started on various projects
- 1.3.3 Communicate with local associations regularly regarding their progress on Sport Development initiatives
- 1.3.4 Act as a sounding board for new initiatives and concerns from the local associations
- 1.3.5 Share new initiatives and concerns with the Provincial Committee as requested
- 1.3.6 Communicate the need for the regions to submit their recommendations for the Sport Development Awards.

2.0 ATHLETE MODEL



3.0 RECRUITING

3.1 NEW ASSOCIATION OUTREACH

Introductory Outreach Clinics

This aspect of the program involves one to one contact between experienced Ringette™ people and the new group requiring assistance in starting Ringette™. Member associations have been called upon to speak to groups embarking upon a Ringette™ program. Current member associations have contributed greatly by taking a team of players into a new community and teaching the sport through demonstrations and presentations.

Through our experience with this program, it has become evident that because the goals of OUTREACH are shared universally among our members, Ringette™ people who REACH OUT to assist others with their Ringette™ programs facilitates its development.

3.2 OUTREACH

- 3.2.1 Should you hear of a community or school in your area wishing to start a program, contact the Sport Development Co-ordinator in your region so that an Outreach Clinic can be arranged or an Information Kit provided.
- 3.2.2 Gym Ringette™ Equipment sets are available to local associations, Schools, Community Activity Groups and other interested parties. Contact your Regional Sport Development Co-ordinator to book a set of equipment today (some sets are available at the Provincial Office)
- 3.2.3 An outreach representative may call upon your association to assist a nearby community in starting a Ringette™ program. Your association's assistance with such a clinic would be greatly appreciated.
- 3.2.4 Should an interested athlete approach a local association to join, this athlete could be directed to the local association. This local association representative could provide information package/registration and if in place direct the local athlete representative to speak to this potential recruit. The Regional Sport Development Co-ordinator would be available to provide assistance as requested.
- 3.2.5 If you need assistance in maintaining your Ringette™ program, perhaps Sport Development can help you - please advise us of your situation.
- 3.2.6 Any Outreach Associations please consult with Membership Services.
- 3.2.7 The Outreach subsidy will be based entirely on final membership registration figures submitted in accordance with O.R.A. Registration Procedures. (Membership Services, Section 1-7).

- 3.2.8 Create an opportunity for association members to meet and interact with elite athletes. Please refer to the Outreach Package for ideas. Contact your Regional Athlete Development Co-ordinator for assistance.

3.3 OUTREACH PACKAGES

3.3.1 New Associations

- Covering Letter
- Regional Co-ordinator contact numbers
- 1 Rule Book
- Event Posters and Promotional Posters
- Resource Order Form
- Promotional Brochures
- Membership Application Form

3.3.2 Alternative Ringette™ Programs

Proposals for Alternative Ringette™ Programs shall be accepted under the Outreach Program upon the recommendation of the Sport Development Committee and subsequent Board of Directors approval. Alternative Ringette™ Programs are to be reviewed and approved annually for a maximum of 4-Year Outreach Program.

Examples of alternative Ringette™ programs include but are not limited to:

- Roller Ringette™
- Gym Ringette™
- Specialty Teams
- High School Ringette™

3.3.3 Individual Athletes

- Covering Letter
- Promotional Brochures
- Resource Material Order
- Membership Application Form
- Local Contact List

3.3.4 Registration Procedures

- New Association is part of the Outreach Program for a 4 year term. All Outreach Associations must follow the registration procedures applicable to all Ringette™ Associations in Ontario.
- Registration documents must be completed in their entirety. These include as found in Membership Services, Section 1-7.
- The Ontario Ringette Association will subsidize all Outreach Associations for each registered player, official, volunteer and bench staff member in the following manner:

- Year 1 - 100% subsidy
 - Year 2 - 100% subsidy, except the Annual Association Membership Fee
 - Year 3 - All except the Annual Association Membership fee, dues and insurance
 - Year 4 - All except the Annual Association Membership fee, dues and insurance.
- The Outreach subsidy will be based entirely on final membership registration figures submitted in accordance with O.R.A. Registration Procedures. (Membership Services, Section 1-7).

In addition to the above procedures and subsidies, outreach associations are also governed by the following:

- **First Year:** The association is restricted to operating within its own Regions boundaries. Bench Staff qualifications are usually waived by the Region.
- **Second Year:** May participate outside their own Region, but qualifications of applicable bench staff may have to be met.
- **Third and Fourth Year:** Similar to second year associations, pertaining to may participate outside their own Region. Proper qualification of Bench Staff, Referees, etc. will be required.
- **Fifth Year:** become full members of the Ontario Ringette Association and governed by all rules and procedures accordingly. Outreach Program subsidies will no longer apply.

New Adult Associations are also governed by the above requirements.

The request for funding for University/Outreach must be received in the ORA office no later than January 8th of the current playing season.

3.4 RINGETTE™ FOR LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

Sport Development Committee will provide resources and support for athletes to move into new roles including:

- Officiating
- Coaching
- Administrator

3.5 COME TRY RINGETTE

Information about Come Try Ringette can be found at:
<http://www.cometryringette.ca/>.

- To host a Come Try Ringette event, please contact the Ontario Ringette Association's Technical Director at tech@ontario-ringette.com.

- Come Try Ringette trainers will receive a \$100.00 honorarium for each approved Come Try Ringette training session they conduct.

**3.6 HIGH SCHOOL
AND POST-
SECONDARY
RINGETTE**

For Information visit:

[High School](#)

[Post Secondary](#)

**3.7 ATHLETE
AWARDS**

Award will be given annually to both Provincial and Regional level athletes. For criteria and nominations see Membership Services Section 14.3.6 and 14.4.3. For the Nominations Form see Appendix – Membership Services M-F-19.

4.0 SPORT DEVELOPMENT

4.1 RINGETTE DAY CAMPS AND SCHOOLS

4.1.1 Day Camps

A day camp is a combination of ringette™ and extra curricular activities. Run by an Association or Region. The participants have a minimum 2 hours on ice and 1 hour in the class each day. The day camp runs for a minimum of four (4) consecutive days.

4.1.2 Ringette™ Schools

A ringette™ school is strictly on-ice instruction and ringette™ classroom sessions. Run by an Association or Region. The participants have a minimum 2 hours on-ice and 1 hour in the class each day. The school runs for a minimum of four (4) days; usually afternoons or evenings.

4.1.3 Player Clinics

Player clinics run through and Association or Region are comprised of in-ice and classroom instruction. These can be a specialty clinic offered in one afternoon/evening or over several days.

Camps, schools and clinics must be registered with the ORA by filing Camp Registration Form (ATH-F-02) and paying the O.R.A. Administration Fee: \$15.00.

4.2 PLAYER RESOURCE MATERIAL

4.2.1 Skills Videos

The Skills Matrix videos are resources to be used in conjunction with the Skills Matrix evaluations. They are demonstrations of twenty essential skills relating to the U8-U10 Skills Matrix. Evaluators are encouraged to make use of these videos to maintain consistency across Ontario.

The deadline for submitting a second set of Skills Matrix Evaluations is March 31st.

Associations who do not submit both sets of Skills Matrix Evaluations for every team U12 and below will be fined \$500.00.

5.0 CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

Ontario Ringette is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. Further, Ontario Ringette supports equal opportunity and prohibits discriminatory practices. Participants of Ontario Ringette, parents/guardians of Ontario Ringette participants, and spectators at Ontario Ringette's events are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner consistent with the values of Ontario Ringette.

Conduct that violates this Code of Conduct and Ethics may be subject to sanctions pursuant to Ontario Ringette's policies related to discipline and complaints.

5.1 PURPOSE

Everyone has a duty to report infractions. This is done by filing a written complaint to your Association, Region or the Provincial Office.

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure a safe and positive environment within Ontario Ringette programs, activities and events, by making all individuals aware that there is an expectation of appropriate behavior, consistent with the values of Ontario Ringette, at all times.

5.2 DEFINITIONS

The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:

5.2.1 "*Individuals*" - Ontario Ringette Participants, parents/guardians of Ontario Ringette Participants, spectators at Ontario Ringette events and Ontario Ringette professional staff.

5.2.2 "*Ontario Ringette*" – Ontario Ringette Association.

5.3 APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY

This policy applies to Individuals relating to conduct that that may arise during the course of Ontario Ringette's business, activities and events, including but not limited to, office environment, competitions, practices, training camps, travel, and any meetings of staff, committees or the Board of Directors.

This policy applies to conduct that may occur outside of Ontario Ringette's business, activities and events when such conduct adversely affects relationships within Ontario Ringette's work and sport environment and is detrimental to the image and reputation of the Ontario Ringette Association.

Conduct arising within the business, activities and events of clubs or other organizations affiliated with Ontario Ringette will be dealt with using the policies and mechanisms of such organizations.

5.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of Ontario Ringette Members and other Individuals by adhering to the following policies:

5.5 HARASSMENT POLICY

Harassment is defined as comment or conduct (through any medium) directed towards an individual or group, which is offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, degrading or malicious.

Harassment may occur between peers (eg: player to player in the same age group, parent to official, coach to coach) or between someone in a position of power or authority and an adult in a subordinate position (eg: coach to player, sports

administrator to employee).

5.5.1 Types of behavior that constitute harassment include, but are not limited to:

- Written or verbal abuse, threats or outbursts;
- The display of visual material which is offensive or which one ought to know is offensive;
- Unwelcome remarks, jokes, comments, innuendos or taunts about a person's looks, body, attire, age, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation;
- Leering or other suggestive or obscene gestures;
- Condescending or patronizing behaviour which is intended to undermine self-esteem, diminish performance or adversely affect working conditions;
- Practical jokes that cause awkwardness or embarrassment, endangers a person's safety or negatively affect performance;
- Any form of hazing or bullying;
- Unwanted physical contact including touching, petting, pinching or kissing;
- Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances, requests or invitations;
- Physical or sexual assault;
- Threats of retaliation against an individual who reports harassment.

5.5.2 Sanctions

Any complaints of harassment deemed not to be frivolous or vexatious by the Ontario Ringette Association President or delegate will be considered a Major Infraction complaint and would be subject to the applicable sanctions (as per Sports Administration – Discipline and Complaints Policy).

5.6

Bullying Policy

Bullying involves a person expressing their power through the humiliation of another person.

Bullying occurs between people at any age. It is inappropriate behaviour that is typically cruel, demeaning and hostile toward the bullying target.

The actual issue of bullying is not addressed by the law, except when the behaviour does become a criminal issue – e.g. extortion, physical assault etc.

5.6.1 Bullying can be broken down into four types:

- **Physical** – ex. hit or kick victims; take/damage personal property
- **Verbal** – ex. name calling; insults; constant teasing
- **Social** - ex. try to cut off victims from social connection by convincing peers to exclude or reject a certain person
- **Cyber** – ex. use electronic sources including, but not limited to: Facebook, twitter, texting, etc. to accomplish the bully's aims

5.6.2 Types of behaviour that constitute bullying include, but are not limited to:

- Unwarranted yelling and screaming directed at the target;
- Continually criticizing the target’s abilities;
- Blaming the target for mistakes;
- Making unreasonable demands related to performance;
- Repeated insults or put downs of the target;
- Repeated threats to remove or restrict opportunities or privileges;
- Denying or discounting the target’s accomplishment;
- Threats of physical violence;
- Actual physical violence.

5.6.3 Sanctions

Any complaints of bullying deemed not to be frivolous or vexatious by the Ontario Ringette Association President or delegate will be considered a Major Infraction complaint and would be subject to the applicable sanctions (as per Sports Administration – Discipline and Complaints Policy).

5.7

Hazing Policy

Hazing refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate.

Hazing is a broad term encompassing any action or activity which does not contribute to the positive development of a person; which inflicts or intends to cause physical or mental harm or anxieties; which may demean, degrade or disgrace any person regardless of location, intent, or consent of participants; any action or situation which intentionally or unintentionally endangers an athlete for admission into or affiliation with any team.

Any instance where an athlete is pressured by his or her teammates to participate in an activity with which the athlete is uncomfortable is considered to be an incidence of hazing.

5.7.1 Three Categories of Hazing

- **Subtle** – Actions that are against accepted and organization standards of conduct, behavior and good taste. An activity or attitude directed toward an athlete or an act which ridicules, humiliates, and/or embarrasses.
 - Ex. Deception, assigning demerits, implied threats, deprivation of privileges
- **Harassment** - Anything that causes anguish or physical discomfort to an athlete, any activity directed toward an athlete which confuses, frustrates or causes undue stress.
 - Ex. Verbal abuse, threats, wearing embarrassing attire, sleep

deprivation, sexual simulations

- **Violent** – Any form of action that may cause physical punishment or any action that may cause bodily harm and/or touching in private places and/or de-clothing of an athlete.
 - Ex. Forced alcohol/drug consumption, beating/paddling or assault, branding, burning, public nudity, and/or bondage

5.7.2 Sanctions

Any complaints of hazing deemed not to be frivolous or vexatious by the Ontario Ringette Association President or delegate will be considered a Major Infraction complaint and would be subject to the applicable sanctions (as per Sports Administration – Discipline and Complaints Policy).

5.8 COACHES

In addition, Coaches have additional responsibilities. The athlete-coach relationship is a privileged one and plays a critical role in the personal as well as athletic development of their athletes. Coaches must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it. Coaches will at all times:

- 5.8.1 Ensure a safe environment by selecting activities and establishing controls that are suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness level of athletes, including educating athletes as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment;
- 5.8.2 Prepare athletes systematically and progressively, using appropriate time frames and monitoring physical and psychological adjustments while refraining from using training methods or techniques that may harm athletes;
- 5.8.3 Avoid compromising the present and future health of athletes by communicating and co-operating with sport medicine professionals in the diagnosis, treatment and management of athletes' medical and psychological problems;
- 5.8.4 Under no circumstances provide, promote or condone the use of drugs or performance-enhancing substances;
- 5.8.5 Accept and promote athletes' personal goals and refer athletes to other coaches and sports specialists as appropriate and as opportunities arise;
- 5.8.6 At no time engage in an intimate or sexual relationship with an athlete under the age of 18 years and at no time engage in an intimate or sexual relation with an athlete over the age of 18 if the coach is in a position of power, trust or authority over the athlete.
- 5.8.7 Where an athlete has qualified for a training camp, provincial team, national team, etc., the Coach will support the program, applicable coaching staff and Ontario Ringette.

5.9 ATHLETES

In addition, **Athletes** who have been selected to a representative team of Ontario Ringette will have additional responsibilities to:

- 5.9.1 Report any medical problems in a timely fashion, where such problems may limit the athlete's ability to travel, train or compete;
- 5.9.2 Participate and appear on time in all competitions, practices, training sessions, events, activities or projects;
- 5.9.3 Properly represent themselves and not attempt to enter a competition for which they are not eligible, by reason of age, classification or other reasons.
- 5.9.4 Adhere to Ontario Ringette's rules and requirements regarding clothing and equipment.

5.10 PARENTS/ GUARDIANS AND SPECTATORS

In addition, **Parents/Guardians** of Ontario Ringette Members and **Spectators** at events will:

- 5.10.1 Encourage athletes to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence;
- 5.10.2 Never ridicule a participant for making a mistake during a performance or practice;
- 5.10.3 Provide positive comments that motivate and encourage participants continued effort;
- 5.10.4 Respect the decisions and judgments of officials, and encourage athletes to do the same;
- 5.10.5 Never question an official's or Ontario Ringette professional staffs' judgment or honesty;
- 5.10.6 Respect and show appreciation to all competitors and to the coaches, officials, professional staff and other volunteers.

6.0 FAIR PLAY POLICY

6.1 Play Fair

Winning is pointless if it has been achieved unfairly or dishonestly.
Remember: It is a game.

6.2 Play to win but accept defeat with dignity

Play to win, until the final whistle. But remember nobody wins all the time.
You win some; you lose some. Learn to win and lose graciously.

6.3 Observe the Laws of the Game

All games need rules to guide them.
Learn them; it will help you to understand the game better. It is equally important to understand the spirit of the rules. They are designed to make the game fun to play and fun to watch.

6.4 Respect all players, coaches, officials (on and off ice) and spectators

Fair play means respect.

6.4.1 Without opponents, there can be no game

6.4.2 Form a team in which all members are equal.

6.4.3 Officials are there to maintain discipline and fair play. Always accept their decisions without arguing, and help them to enable all participants to have a more enjoyable game.

6.4.4 Spectators give the game atmosphere. They want to see the game played fairly, but they must also behave with respect.

6.5 Promote the interest of Ringette

Encourage other people to watch and play fairly. Be an ambassador for the game.

6.6 Honour those who defend Ringette's good reputation

Sometimes, somebody does something exceptional that deserves our special recognition they should be honoured and their fine example publicized.

6.7 Reject corruption, drugs, alcohol, racism, violence and other dangers to our sport.

6.7.1 Watch out for attempts to tempt you into cheating or using drugs. Drugs have no place in ringette, in any other sport, or in society as a whole. Say no to drugs.

6.7.2 Help to kick racism and bigotry out of ringette. Treat all players and everyone else equally, regardless of their religion, race, gender or national origin.

6.7.3 Show that ringette does not condone violence.

6.8 Help others to resist corrupting pressures.

You may hear that team-mates or other people you know are being tempted to cheat in some way or otherwise engage in behavior deemed unacceptable. They need your help. Support them in making the right choices.

6.9 Denounce those who attempt to discredit our sport.

Stand up to anybody who is encouraging others to cheat or engage in other unacceptable behavior. It is better to expose them and have them removed before they can do any damage.

7.0 FAIR ICE POLICY

	U-10	U-12		U-14		U-16		U-19	
Game Type	Regional	Regional	Provs	Regional	Provs	Regional	Provs	Regional	Provs
League Development Games (1st part of the season)	E	E	E	E	D2	E	D2	E	D2
League Competition (2nd part of the season)	E	E	E	D2	D2	D2	D2	D2	D2
Tournaments/ Regionals/ Provincials	E	D1	D1	D2	D2	D2	D3	D2	D3

7.1 EQUAL (E): Is defined as equal ice-time every game to the best of the coach, allowing for the uncertainty in the frequency in stoppages of play

7.2 GOALTENDERS:

7.2.1 Goaltenders have the option of changing at half-time of each game or playing full games as long as they have equal game time throughout a season and/or tournament. Goaltenders are restricted to a one game differential throughout the season and during tournaments. Further, coaches have the ability to use goaltenders anytime during the post round robin play as they decide. (post round robin play includes mini-games) There is an expectation that throughout the season, each player will have accumulated approximately the same amount of ice time, to the best abilities of the coach.

7.2.2 Contract for An Additional/Substitution Goalie at a Provincial Event U14, U16 and U19.

This role is unique to the A and AA Provincial Championships, and the Fair Ice Policy will not apply. The Additional/Substitution Goalie will be allowed to play in up to a maximum of 2 games except in the case of illness or injury to the original team goalie.

Contract for an Additional/Substitution Goalie at a Provincial Event U14, U16 and U19 Form (SD-F-02) must be completed and submitted to the G&T Committee.

7.3 DISCRETION 1 (D1)

Is defined as equal ice time every game, however, there is the ability for a coach to use select players in the last two (2) minutes of regulation and overtime.

7.4 DISCRETION 2 (D2): Is defined as equal ice time every game, however, there is the ability for a coach to use select players in the last two (2) minutes of regulation time, overtime and any situation that does not require five (5) skaters vs. five (5) skaters.

7.5 DISCRETION 3 (D3): Is defined as equal ice time every game, however, there is the ability for a coach to use select players in the last two (2) minutes of regulation time, overtime and any situation that does not require five (5) skaters vs. five (5) skaters. Further, coaches have the ability to use players anytime during post round robin play as they decide. (post round robin play includes mini games)

7.6 GRIEVANCES Grievances are to be addressed to the Sport Development committee. Any violations of this policy will be addressed per the Minor Infraction Sanctions at the discretion of Sport Development.

7.6.1 The following violation may result in sanctions from a warning to a suspension:

- in a game an observable difference in the playing time players of the same position.

7.7 NUMBER OF OBSERVABLE OFFENSES ON FILE FOR COACH

- One (1), official warning issued.
- Two (2), coach suspended for seven (7) days.
- Three (3,) coach suspended for thirty (30) days.
- Four (4), coach suspended for one (1) calendar year.
- Five (5), coach suspended for three (3) calendar year.

7.8 PROCESS FOR RE-SETTING NUMBER OF OBSERVABLE OFFENSES FOR COACH

- If the number of infractions is two (2) or less and the time since the last infraction is equal to or greater than three (3) years, then the number of infractions is reset to zero (0)

8.0 TEAM VIABILITY:

While recognizing that player skill levels are to be considered when determining teams it is understood that the needs of the association to ice a viable team supersedes the needs of an individual player. A viable team is considered to be ten (10) skaters plus a goalie for U14 Divisions and below and fifteen (15) skaters plus a goalie at U16 and U19 Divisions. Associations may choose to register a team with fewer players than the determined viable number; however age level releases will follow these numbers.

8.1 PARTICIPANT RIGHTS IN SELECTION

8.1.1 Selection criteria must be established by the body having the right to do so.

8.1.2 Selection criteria must be clear, concise, and, where discretion is avoidable, it must be confined.

8.1.3 Participants must be protected from bias.

8.1.4 There must be an opportunity for Appeal.

For the purposes of this policy, Participant is defined as: “anyone who pays a registration fee and participates at competitive events sponsored by the Ontario Ringette Association”.

8.2 U12 TEAM FORMATION

Associations be permitted a preliminary U12 team formation during the spring, with absolutely no team events through the summer and then teams will be finalized during a last round of tryouts in the fall.

9.0 COMPLIANCE INFORMATION:

Compliance information can be found at:

<http://ontario-ringette.com/resources/compliance/>

9.1 NON - COMPLIANCE

9.1.1 If a team or an association is found to be non-compliant for any of the compliancy rules, they will be subject to a \$500 fine and/or the team deemed ineligible to participant in sanctioned play.

9.1.2 If a team is found to be in contravention of the compliance rules, the Sport Development Committee will reform the team.

10.0 ATHLETE NETWORKING

10.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 10.1.1 To establish a strong network of athletes throughout the Province, working toward both good internal and external Athlete Development.
- 10.1.2 To involve every Ringette™ Association in activities during Ringette™ Week, to show the public what Ringette™ is and to increase the visibility of the many positive aspects of the sport.
- 10.1.3 To distribute promotional resources, and make them readily available.

To work in conjunction with all program areas in promoting and publicizing projects in the community, region and province.

10.2 ASSOCIATION ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE

The athlete representatives will be available to support network activities of the Regional Athlete Development Co-ordinator.

This would include:

- working the Ringette™ for Life opportunities
- the establishment of forums/questionnaires for all levels of play
- to record and summarize the results of the Athlete Forum and direct this information to the Regional Co-ordinator who will in-turn forward this information to the O.R.A. office for distribution to the Committee and Chair.

10.3 PURPOSE

The purpose of having an athlete representative is to ensure that athletes' views and interests are represented and promoted at all levels of the Ontario Ringette Association on all issues which, directly or indirectly, affect any Ringette™ player.

10.4 ELIGIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENT

The position of association athlete representative is open to any Ringette™ athlete over the age of sixteen (16) whether active or retired from competition for less than one (1) year, or at the discretion of the Regional Athlete Development Co-ordinator.

10.5 APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATION ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVES

Nominations for the position of Association Athlete Representative should take into consideration the athlete's record of involvement as follows:

- Number of years as a player
- Level of participation, i.e. regional, provincial, national
- Participation as a Ringette™ volunteer.

10.6 RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSOCIATION ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVES:

The duties of the Association Athlete Representative are as follows:

- Represent athletes at Regional or Association level
- Report to the athletes at regular intervals during the year
- Provide a mechanism for athletes to point out confidential concerns and keep them confidential
- Communicate with the Regional Sport Development Co-ordinator
- Direct athletes' concerns and views to responsible bodies
- Promote team unity through positive actions
- Advise her/his successor of all procedures, contacts and activities that

have occurred during her/his term, and facilitate her/his integration into the position

- Chair the Regional/Association Athletes' Forum which may be held annually
- Where possible, assist with promotional activities of the Region, especially where player participation is the focus.
- Promote Athlete Development Awards to their associations
- Encourage athletes to complete the Athlete Development Questionnaire
Collect the results of the Athlete Questionnaire and direct these to the Regional Athlete Development Co-ordinator.

10.7 ATHLETE FORUMS

Provide an annual meeting for discussion and information exchange among athletes. Athlete Forums may be organized and facilitated by the association athlete representative and the information will be recorded and sent to the Regional Athlete Development Co-ordinator who will in-turn forward this information to the O.R.A.

10.8 INTERNET COMMUNICATION

Expand the utilization of the O.R.A. Facebook Page and Twitter as tools to increase athlete networking.

10.9 NATIONAL PROVINCIAL RINGETTE™ WEEK

Beginning the second Sunday of every November there is an opportunity for the O.R.A. and its member associations throughout the province to promote Ringette™. It is one of the major promotional vehicles and is a weeklong series of provincial, regional and local Ringette™ activities designed to give our sport so much, needed special attention.

10.10 EXPENDITURES

Any costs incurred by the members of the Sport Development Committee or by the Finance Committee must be included in the budget presented to the Vice President Finance each year. Expenditures beyond those included in the budgets will be the responsibility of the member incurring the expense.