

SPORT DEVELOPMENT

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1. **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

- Skills Matrix
- Compliance Information

1.2.3 Sport Development

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

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

1.3 REGIONAL COORDINATOR 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. RECRUITING

2.1 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.

2.2 OUTREACH

2.2.1 Should you hear of a community or school in your area wishing to start a program, contact the Sport Development Coordinator in your region so that an Outreach Clinic can be arranged, or an Information Kit provided.

2.2.2 Gym Ringette Equipment sets are available to local associations, Schools, Community Activity Groups and other interested parties. Contact your Regional Sport Development Coordinator to book a set of equipment today (some sets are available at the Provincial Office)

2.2.3 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.

2.2.4 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 Coordinator would be available to provide assistance as requested.

2.2.5 If you need assistance in maintaining your Ringette program, perhaps Sport Development can help you - please advise us of your situation.

2.2.6 Any Outreach Associations please consult with Membership Services.

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- 2.2.7 The Outreach subsidy will be based entirely on final membership registration figures submitted in accordance with RO Registration Procedures. (Membership Services, Section 1-7).
- 2.2.8 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 Coordinator for assistance.

2.3 OUTREACH PACKAGES

2.3.1 New Associations

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

2.3.2 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

2.3.3 Individual Athletes

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

2.3.4 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.

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- Ringette Ontario 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 RO 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 Region's 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 Ringette Ontario 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 RO office no later than January 8th of the current playing season.

2.4 RINGETTE FOR LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Officiating
- Coaching
- Administrator

2.5 COME TRY RINGETTE

Information about Come Try Ringette can be found at: www.cometryringette.ca

- To host a Come Try Ringette event, please contact Ringette Ontario'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.

2.6 POST-SECONDARY RINGETTE

For Information visit: <https://ontario-ringette.com/post-secondary-ringette/>

2.7 ATHLETE AWARDS

Awards will be given annually to both Provincial and Regional level athletes. For criteria and nominations see [Membership Services – Volunteer Recognition Section](#) 14.3 and 14.4. For the Nominations Form see Membership Services form M-F-19.

3. **DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

3.1 RINGETTE DAY CAMPS AND SCHOOLS

3.1.1 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.

3.1.2 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.

3.1.3 Player Clinics

Player clinics run through an Association or Region are comprised of on-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 RO by filing Camp Registration Form (SD-F-01) and paying the RO Administration Fee: \$15.00.

3.2 PLAYER RESOURCE MATERIAL

3.2.1 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 Skills Matrix Evaluations are October 31 and March 31st. 2 sets must be completed for each team U8 to U12.

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

4. CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

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

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

4.1 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 Ringette Ontario programs, activities and events, by making all individuals aware that there is an expectation of appropriate behavior, consistent with the values of Ringette Ontario, at all times.

4.2 DEFINITIONS

The following term has this meaning in this Policy:

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

4.3 APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY

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

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

4.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

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

4.5 HARASSMENT POLICY, BULLYING AND HAZING POLICY

Ringette Ontario policies should be reviewed by going to: [SD Policies](#)

4.6 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:

- 4.6.1 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;
- 4.6.2 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;
- 4.6.3 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;
- 4.6.4 Under no circumstances provide, promote or condone the use of drugs or performance-enhancing substances;
- 4.6.5 Accept and promote athletes' personal goals and refer athletes to other coaches and sports specialists as appropriate and as opportunities arise;
- 4.6.6 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.
- 4.6.7 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.

4.7 ATHLETES

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

- 4.7.1 Report any medical problems in a timely fashion, where such problems may limit the athlete's ability to travel, train or compete;
- 4.7.2 Participate and appear on time in all competitions, practices, training sessions, events, activities or projects;

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4.7.3 Properly represent themselves and not attempt to enter a competition for which they are not eligible, by reason of age, classification or other reasons.

4.7.4 Adhere to Ringette Ontario's rules and requirements regarding clothing and equipment.

4.8 PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND SPECTATORS

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

4.8.1 Encourage athletes to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence;

4.8.2 Never ridicule a participant for making a mistake during a performance or practice;

4.8.3 Provide positive comments that motivate and encourage participants continued effort;

4.8.4 Respect the decisions and judgments of officials, and encourage athletes to do the same;

4.8.5 Never question an official's or Ontario Ringette professional staffs' judgment or honesty;

4.8.6 Respect and show appreciation to all competitors and to the coaches, officials, professional staff and other volunteers.

5. **FAIR ICE**

5.1 PLAY FAIR

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

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 RESPECT ALL PLAYERS, COACHES, OFFICIALS (ON AND OFF ICE) AND SPECTATORS

- Fair play means respect.
- Without opponents, there can be no game
- Form a team in which all members are equal.

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

5.5 PROMOTE THE INTEREST OF RINGETTE

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

5.6 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.

5.7 REJECT CORRUPTION, DRUGS, ALCOHOL, RACISM, VIOLENCE AND OTHER DANGERS TO OUR SPORT.

5.7.1 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.

5.7.2 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.

5.7.3 Show that ringette does not condone violence.

5.8 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.

5.9 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.

6. FAIR ICE POLICY & CHART

Fair Ice Policy and Fair Ice Chart can be found here: [Fair Ice Policy](#)

7. 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.

7.1 PARTICIPANT RIGHTS IN SELECTION

- 7.1.1 Selection criteria must be established by the body having the right to do so.
- 7.1.2 Selection criteria must be clear, concise, and, where discretion is avoidable, it must be confined.
- 7.1.3 Participants must be protected from bias.
- 7.1.4 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 Ringette Ontario”.

7.2 U12 TEAM FORMATION

Associations be permitted preliminary U12P team formations during the spring, where up to 8 skaters and 1 goaltender can be offered per team. For Associations that will be hosting 2 teams at U12P, they are permitted to offer up to 8 skaters and 1 goaltender spots for their Tier 1 team and then up to another 8 skaters and 1 goaltender spot for a second U12P team without determination of which team they will be assigned to until final tryouts in the fall. Absolutely no team activities are permitted during the summer. Teams will be finalized during a last round of tryouts in the fall with Team Roster finalized by September 15th.

Note: Holding tryouts in the spring is optional for each Association and any Association is permitted to start and complete the full tryout process in the fall.

8. **COMPLIANCE INFORMATION**

Compliance information can be found at: <https://ontario-ringette.com/resources/compliance/>

8.1 NON-COMPLIANCE

- 8.1.1 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.
- 8.1.2 If a team is found to be in contravention of the compliance rules, the Sport Development Committee will reform the team.

9. **ATHLETE NETWORKING**

9.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 9.1.1 To establish a strong network of athletes throughout the Province, working toward both good internal and external Athlete Development.
- 9.1.2 To distribute promotional resources and make them readily available.

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

9.2 ASSOCIATION ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE

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

This would include:

- 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 Ringette Ontario office for review.

9.3 PURPOSE

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

9.4 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 Coordinator.

9.5 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

9.6 RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSOCIATION ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVES

- 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 Coordinator
- 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.

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- 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 Coordinator.

9.7 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.