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1. RULES DEVELOPMENT

The Official Rules of Ringette™ are the copyright of Ringette Canada (Canada 1974) and are not allowed to be changed, reproduced or revised without the written consent of Ringette Canada. These rules are to be followed at all O.R.A. Sanctioned Events.

a. Rule Change Process

- i. Suggestions for changes to playing rules, endorsed by a Provincial/Territorial association, a Ringette Canada Technical Committee or the International Ringette Federation, are entertained by Ringette Canada every three (3) years. The next rule change cycle will commence with the 2005-2006 season.
- ii. Members seeking endorsement by the O.R.A. submit their suggestions on Rule Change Suggestion Forms (Appendix O-F-05) which must be received by the O.R.A. office no later than **JUNE 15, 2006**.
- iii. The O.R.A. Provincial Rules Development Committee reviews all proposed rule changes received by the deadline date.
- iv. Rule change suggestions receiving two-thirds of the votes cast by members of the Provincial Rules Development Committee are forwarded to the O.R.A. Board of Directors for approval. The O.R.A. office sends approved suggestions to Ringette Canada by **SEPTEMBER 1st**.
- v. Ringette Canada circulates its rule change submissions to the Provinces/Territories by **SEPTEMBER 15th**.
- vi. The Rules Development Committee reviews the rule change submissions and votes on each proposed change. Two-thirds of the votes cast are required to support any changes.
- vii. Voting results, comments and recommendations of the Rules Development Committee about Ringette Canada's Rule Change submissions are forwarded to the O.R.A. Board of Directors for approval. The O.R.A. office sends approved voting results, comments and recommendations to Ringette Canada for receipt by **DECEMBER 1st**.
- viii. Ringette Canada circulates the National Rule Development Change Package to the Provincial/Territorial Associations by **MARCH 1st**.
- ix. The Rules Development Committee reviews the National Rule Change Package and votes on each proposed rule change. Two-thirds of the votes cast shall be required to support any changes.

- x. Voting results, comments and recommendations of the Rules Development Committee about the National Rule Change Package are forwarded to the O.R.A. Board of Directors for approval. The O.R.A. representative will vote on the suggested changes at the next Ringette Canada AGM.
- xi. Playing rules changes receiving two-thirds votes cast at the Ringette Canada A.G.M, except those identified as 'probationary', become effective in **SEPTEMBER 2008**.
- xii. The Official Rules of Ringette will be printed in its entirety every third season (i.e. 2005, 2008, 2011).

b. Equipment Rule Change Process

- i. Suggestions for changes to equipment rules, endorsed by a Provincial/Territorial Association, a Ringette Canada Technical Committee or the International Ringette Federation, are entertained annually by Ringette Canada.
- ii. Members seeking endorsement by the O.R.A. submit their suggestions on Rule Change Suggestion Forms (Appendix O-F-05) which must be received by the O.R.A. office by **SEPTEMBER 30th** in each year.
- iii. The O.R.A. Rules Development Committee shall review all equipment rule change suggestions received by the deadline.
- iv. Equipment rule change suggestions receiving two-thirds of the votes cast by the committee are forwarded to the O.R.A. Board of Directors for approval. The O.R.A. office sends approved suggestions to Ringette Canada by **JANUARY 15th**.
- v. Ringette Canada circulates suggestions endorsed by its Technical Council to the Provincial/Territorial Associations for review.
- vi. Provincial/Territorial Associations vote on proposed equipment rule changes at the next Ringette Canada A.G.M.
- vii. Equipment rule changes will be effective the season following their approval at the Ringette Canada A.G.M.

As the Official Rules of Ringette are printed every third year, equipment rule changes will be communicated by Ringette Canada as follows:

- Official memo to the Provincial/Territorial Associations
- Posting of the rule changes on the Ringette Canada Website
- Incorporation of the changes into officiating and coaching clinic materials.

The Provincial/Territorial Associations are expected to communicate equipment rule changes to their members in a reasonable manner.

Approved equipment rule changes will be included in the next edition of the official rules of Ringette™.

c. Rules Development Chair

Chair of the Rules Development Committee is a volunteer appointed to a three (3) year term by the Board of Directors, in consultation with the Officiating Development Chair. The Chair may or may not be a Director, but should have a sound knowledge and understanding of the official rules of Ringette™. The Chair's term of office will coincide with that of Ringette Canada's three (3) year Rule Change Process.

d. Responsibilities of the Chair

The Chair shall:

- i. Communicate the rule change process to the members.
- ii. Advise the Games and Tournaments, Adult, Officiating, Coaching and Athlete Development Standing Committees of the rule change process.
- iii. Recommend to the O.R.A. Board of Directors improvements to the Rules Development Programs of the O.R.A. and Ringette Canada.
- iv. In consultation with the respective Program Chairs, select members of the Rules Development Committee.
- v. Collate rule change suggestions submitted to the O.R.A. by its members and circulate them to members of the Rules Development Committee.
- vi. Conduct discussion and voting by the Rules Development Committee members on these suggestions.
- vii. Collate the suggestions supported by the Rules Development Committee as the proposed Provincial Rule Change Package and forward this package to the O.R.A. Board of Directors for approval at a Board meeting to take place before **SEPTEMBER 1st**.
- viii. Circulate to members of the Rules Development Committee the Playing Rule Change Submissions received from Ringette Canada.
- ix. Conduct discussion and voting by the Rules Development Committee members on these submissions.

- x. Advise the O.R.A. Board of Directors of the results of voting by the Rules Development Committee for approval at a Board meeting to take place before **DECEMBER 1st**.
- xi. Circulate to members of the Rules Development Committee the National Rule Change Package received from Ringette Canada.
- xii. Conduct discussion and voting by the Rules Development Committee members on the suggestions in this package.
- xiii. Advise the O.R.A. Board of Directors of the results of voting by the Rules Development Committee for approval at the Board meeting to take place before **JUNE 1st**.

For equipment rule change suggestions not included as part of the three-year Ringette Canada rule change process, the Chair shall perform duties analogous to those outlined for the three-year cycle with appropriate changes in deadlines.

e. Rules Development Committee

The positions set out below comprise the 13-member Rules Development Committee:

- i. The Chair
- ii. The Chairs of the Standing Committees for Coaching, Games and Tournaments, Officiating and Athlete Development (or their delegates)
- iii. Two (2) officials (minimum Level 3)
- iv. Two (2) coaches (minimum full Certified Level 1)
- v. Two (2) players (minimum age 18 years)
- vi. The O.R.A. Technical Vice-President (or designate)
- vii. The O.R.A. Technical Director (as applicable; ex officio, non-voting)

The officials, coaches and players selected shall serve for a one-year term when playing rule changes are considered. During the 2 years when only equipment rule change suggestions are considered, officials, coaches and players shall be selected only if needed to consider such suggestions.