



British Columbia Ringette Association

POLICY MANUAL

- e. The instructor(s) must be competent in instructing the age and skill level of the participants. Wherever possible, BCRA instructors will have experience and training in areas such as coaching, skill instruction, athlete development, sport science, first aid, officiating, or other relevant areas of expertise.
- f. The instructor(s) must always act as a positive role model, reflecting BCRA values, emphasizing fair play, sportsmanship, and encourages participants to have fun.

3. Masters Development

3.1 Program Mandate

The masters development program for BC is established to provide the continuation of fun, friendship, exercise and sportsmanship for adults who wish to play ringette at the masters level.

As participants in the sport of ringette at the adult (masters) level, BCRA recognizes you have specific needs and requirements, many of which are very different from those of youth. In this time of growth in this division, teams should maintain a degree of flexibility that will provide the masters players with a place to play at their skill level.

3.2 Purpose

- To provide ringette to all players at their level of ability
- To provide resource material to these players to enhance their enjoyment and knowledge of the game.
- To create programs geared to the adult participating in ringette.
- To provide a continuing program at an adult level for athletes coming up through the minor system.
- To encourage FUN – FITNESS – FRIENDSHIP

3.3 Goals and Objectives

- To encourage the development of community hosted invitational tournaments in the masters participant divisions.
- To encourage information and resource exchange between leagues.
- To enhance the lines of communication throughout the community.
- To continue the growth in numbers of masters all across the Province, by continuing to promote and inform about adult ringette.
- To liaise and communicate with other local associations within your league.
- To promote to beginners by providing schools and teams with materials necessary within each association.

3.4 Levels of Play

- A: For the competitive athlete who plays with others of the same caliber; with few exceptions, players coming from the minor system would find this level most suitable.
- B: For players with moderate to good skating and ringette skills and may have come through the minor leagues.
- C: (Recreational) The least skilled of the levels, enjoyed by players new to the sport as well as those with



experience.

3.5 Membership

All masters affiliates shall register in accordance with BCRA registration membership. Masters teams who are not currently affiliated with a minor (youth) ringette association will be charged a registered member fee.

3.6 Age Divisions

The masters division is made up of players 30 yrs and older (no ceiling) with the following exceptions in the masters B and C divisions:

- Any player who is 21 –29 yrs old who has NO previous experience playing ice sports may register on a masters team.
- Any player who is 26 – 29 yrs old and is an *ex league player is allowed to register on a masters team provided there are no more than 3 players under 30 yrs old registered on that team (including in that 3, inexperienced underage players as mentioned in 1-4-1-a).
- Any player who is 30 years of age or older and is an ex-league player may register on a masters team provided that no more than 30% of that team's roster (based on a roster of no more than 18 players) is made up of such players (including in that percentage any underage ex-league players as mentioned in 1-4.1-b).
* An ex league player is distinguished as such by playing 5 or more years in the minor (youth) league.

3.7 Outreach and Assistance

If your group would like advice or assistance on starting masters ringette or building your current program BCRA can either help you or direct you to the masters rep in your area to provide assistance in areas of communications, promotions, organizing etc.

3.8 Coaches Clinics/Officiating Clinics

BCRA offers Coaching Certification Programs to its members to improve your knowledge of ringette and coaching in general. BCRA also offers all levels of National Officiating Certification Programs to ensure that your referees know the rules and are trained to apply them properly.

3.9 Resource Material

Rulebooks, coaching manuals, game sheets and promotional materials are available for sale to our members. As members you have access to these items. For details call BCRA office.

3.10 Tournament Sanctioning Guidelines

- a. All masters tournaments must be sanctioned by BCRA as per the BRCA sanctioning guidelines.
- b. Masters teams participating in provincial championships shall adhere to the BCRA provincials guidelines.



- c. All masters tournaments must be officiated by certified referees.

3.11 Bench Staff Requirements

- a. All bench staff must be registered members (players, coaches, managers or trainers) with BCRA.
- b. All masters teams must have a minimum of 1 certified level 1 coach (this may be a player currently registered on the team). See coaching development section for requirements
- c. All coaching staff is required to sign the Coaching Code of Conduct Agreement at the beginning of the Ringette season and have it submitted to BCRA with the registration fees. See appendix for example.

3.12 Bench Staff Suspensions

See Coaching, section F of policy manual.

3.13 Substitutes

All substitutes are subject to approval by the tournament chair.

NOTE: The substitution procedure is designed to assist masters teams who, from time to time, experience a last minute shortage of players due to injury or illness. It is not intended to build a team's roster size, but to avoid any last minute cancellations.

- a. Eligible players shall be BCRA registered players.
- b. The team can only choose players of the appropriate age category previously stated for A, B and C, who are same caliber or less than the player they replace.
- c. Eligible players must actually replace a player who is unable to attend part or the entire tournament. If the player they are replacing returns to play, the substitute may NOT continue to play, although they could replace another player who was injured or called away. The roster can NEVER increase in number as a result of a substitute. The players must be identified as substitutes and home team noted.
- d. Composite teams must be so identified upon application and home teams noted. Players are allowed to play on composite teams for more than one tournament.
- e. All substitutes must be listed and submitted to the tournament chair with their respective deadlines and or at the event registration and/or before a game to substitute for a player who has had to leave the tournament.

3.14 Tiering

- a. Each masters team will be tiered using a formula to determine which division they will fall under:
 - Masters A
 - Masters B
 - Masters C
- b. Each masters team will submit to tournament chairs their registration information including team information



pertinent to arriving at their tiering level. Information that will be mandatory from every team registered:

- Roster Number
 - Players Age
 - Years played Masters
 - Years played League
 - What year was last year in League?
 - Last division playing league
- c. Masters teams will be asked to tier each individual player on their roster AA, A, B, or C, and submit it to the tournament chair (accompanied by the information as described in 4-5-1-b) in order to be tiered fairly. Information will be entered as a formula that incorporates all data in order for the tournament chair to designate each team to the appropriate division (masters A, B or C).
- d. A masters team that consists of 2 or more players who have played at the National ringette level (including AA and AA teams) within five years previous to joining a masters team will automatically be tiered masters A.

4. Safety

4.1 Equipment

All players must wear the mandatory equipment as per “Official Rules” of Ringette Canada.

- Facemasks and Helmets: All players must wear approved facemasks and helmets in accordance with BCRA Guidelines.
- Shoulder Pads: Shoulder pads are mandatory for all BCRA registered players in the belle division and under. Prior to any player returning from any degree of neck or head injury, they must have a letter of clearance from a practicing medical physician.

4.2 Alcohol and Drug Consumption

- The use of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited. Alcohol consumption by minors is strictly prohibited. Alcohol consumption by those of legal age must be handled with discretion and in a manner not demeaning to BCRA following all laws according to the Liquor License Act of BC.

5. Anti-Doping Policy

5.1 Position Statement

BC Ringette is unequivocally opposed on ethical, medical, and legal grounds, to the practice of doping in sport and fully supports the position of the Sport Services Branch, Ringette Canada and Sport Canada against the use of banned substances and methods. The use, possession, and/or trafficking of banned substances, methods or recreational drugs, or the encouragement or counseling to use banned substances, methods or recreational drugs; and/or taking measures to mask the use of banned substances, methods or recreational drugs by any member of BC Ringette is unacceptable, constitutes



doping violations, and will not be tolerated.

Note: Recreational drugs include all substances, the use of which is restricted or prohibited by law. They include substances that may not already be included under the banned or restricted lists of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). These lists are adopted by BC Ringette.

BC Ringette accepts the Canadian Center for Drug-Free Sport's policy on banned substances: "The deliberate or inadvertent use by an athlete of a substance or method which is banned by the International Olympic Committee constitutes doping. The International Olympic Committee and International Sports Federations forbid such practices. The provision or administration of such banned substances or methods to athletes is forbidden."

BC Ringette acknowledges and endorses the "Standard Operating Procedures" for doping control as developed through the CCDS.

BC Ringette will adhere to Ringette Canada's anti-doping policy (copies are available by contacting the office), which outlines doping control, violations, penalties, etc.

5.2 Prevention

- a. BC Ringette is aware that, at any time, Sport Canada and the CCDS can randomly check ringette players for use of banned substances or methods. BC Ringette, at present, does not conduct independent checks of its athletes, but does comply with standards set by Ringette Canada, and recognizes that checks more likely will occur at the Canadian Ringette Championships, Canada Winter Games and World Championships.
- b. BC Ringette educates its Team BC players directly by supplying the teams with documentation on its anti-doping policy. At the same time, BC Ringette will afford each local association the opportunity to receive information on banned substances and methods, should they desire.

5.3 Doping Penalties

The following penalties are to be used for all athletes representing the province/country at the Canadian Ringette Championships, Canada Winter Games and World Ringette Championships. Local associations are strongly urged to adopt these penalties as well.

- a. BC Ringette shall respect all sanctions/penalties imposed by Sport Canada, World Ringette Federation or Ringette Canada regarding doping violations by BC Ringette athletes.
- b. In addition, for inadvertent or intentional use of banned substances or methods, or refusal to provide a urine sample, the following BC Ringette grid of penalties may be applied:

Inadvertent use:

- verbal or written reprimand; and/or
- barred from next competition or training camp; and/or
- barred from training or competition for a period of time

The above penalties shall be considered for first or second offences. Otherwise:

Intentional use /Failure to provide a sample:

- 1st offence - minimum 1-year suspension



- 2nd offence - life suspension

5.4 Appeals

Appeal of a decision by the BC Ringette board of directors regarding doping violations may be presented by the athlete or representative at any time for consideration.