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## **PLAYER MOVEMENT POLICY**

### **Prince George Ringette Association**

#### **1. Purpose**

The most important person in the community sport experience is the athlete. Ringette BC supports the Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) framework adopted by Ringette Canada<sup>1</sup>. The LTAD framework takes into consideration not only an athlete's physical capabilities, but also considers their cognitive and social development along with their leadership potential.

The Prince George Ringette Association (PGRA) has a responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our young athletes, and to make decisions that are in the best interest of the participant. As such, all decisions regarding player advancement will take into account all aspects of a player's development.

#### **2. Scope**

PGRA will abide by the guidelines set out in this policy when considering any requests for player advancement past the U10 Division<sup>2</sup>.

This policy applies to moving players within "Club Teams". Requests for player advancement at competitive levels with regard to any Zones, AA or elite teams will be completed by the Northern League or Ringette BC.

#### **3. Principles**

While Ringette BC strongly recommends that players participate in their age appropriate division, the PGRA recognizes that from time to time it may be required to consider the matter of an underage player being permitted to "play up" or an overage player being permitted to "play down" an age group. Such exceptional circumstances are clearly defined in this policy, along with

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ringettebc.ca/athletes/long-term-athlete-development/>

<sup>2</sup> *It is understood that movement of players to and from the U10 Division (including from U10 to U12) can be accomplished through discussion between the Committee, parents and the Head Coach after receipt of a player movement request. The Player Movement Committee will not evaluate movements to and from U10 with the same thoroughness as outlined in this policy, but will consider competitiveness of ability, physical size and maturity level of the evaluated player as well as the players in the requested division (if moving up, compared to the oldest players and if moving down compared to the youngest); and whether the player is physiologically, emotionally, and mentally ready to handle such a move.*

the decision making process and the evaluation procedure to be applied to each and every case.

In all cases, consideration will be given to what is best for the athlete in question according to the LTAD model. It is recognized that players should not be moved up or down a division to satisfy the need for team formation, because they are the best player on their team, they are better than players in the above age group, for car-pooling purposes, or to play with siblings, etc.

In all cases, adherence to the processes outlined for requests, evaluation and decision-making must be followed. The decision to move or not move an underage player to a higher age group team or overage player to a lower age group team must involve all parties (parents, coaches, Committee and player).

#### **4. Process**

The parent(s)/guardian of a player shall outline their request in writing to the President of the PGRA.

Athletes that submit a request are required to attend practice/evaluations in their own age division, not the requested age division, regardless of the status of their Player Movement request. If this procedure is not followed the request will be denied. This automatic denial will not be grounds for appeal.

If any player movement requests are received by the President, the Head Coach Selection and Team Formation Committee (Committee) consisting of:

- the Director of Coaching;
- the Vice-President;
- one other Board Member; and,
- President or Past-President (ex-officio member).

The Committee shall then:

- Consult the affected coach of the lower age group team(s) (in writing) to assess her/his view of the impact of the player(s) being released from the lower age group or added to the lower age group.
- Consult the affected coach of the older age group team(s) (in writing) to assess her/his view of the impact of the player(s) being permitted to try out for (or be placed on) the older age group team, or being released from the older age group.

*If* there is a majority consensus with the player moving up or down a 'U' division, the Committee will then evaluate the request according to the criteria below:

- Players may only be one year removed from the requested playing division (i.e.: an 11-year old could request to play in the U14 Division,

however a 10-year old could not, etc.).

- The move does not impede the ability of the effected playing age divisions to field a team; and
- The move does not adversely affect the team sizes for all involved.

If the above criteria are fully satisfied, players will then be evaluated in their designated playing division first and must meet the following:

- Underage players must be truly elite, demonstrated by rating at the top of their designated playing division. This means scoring a “5” (highest skill level) under the majority of skill assessment categories in their designated division, regardless of where the average score or second best score is.
- Overage players moving down must rate in the bottom fifteen (15%) of their designated playing division.
- In divisions where formal player evaluations do not exist, the Committee will conduct its own evaluation of the player in comparison to peers in their designated division before making any recommendation.

If the designated playing division criteria is met, the player will be evaluated in the requested playing division second and must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Underage players must be competitive in ability compared to the majority of players in the requested playing division.
- Overage players must be comparable or less than comparable in ability to the majority of players in the requested playing division.
- In divisions where formal player evaluations do not exist, the Committee will conduct an informal evaluation of the players in the desired division to determine if the above criteria are met before making any recommendation.

No underage player may displace a PGRA age appropriate player on a Club Team or if the age appropriate player is within the skill development level expected for that age level.

If the requested playing division criteria are met, the Committee will consider the following factors:

- Physical size and maturity level of the evaluated player as well as the players in the requested division (if moving up, compared to the oldest players and if moving down compared to the youngest); and
- Whether the player is physiologically, emotionally, and mentally ready

to handle such a move.

If the Committee has majority agreement after discussion of the above items, a recommendation will be drafted and sent to the PGRA Board for approval. This decision is then sent to the Northern League and Ringette BC for final approval. Players may begin playing with the requested division only after this recommendation has received final approval from Ringette BC.

If the Committee does not have majority agreement the Committee will inform the Coaches, Parent(s) / Guardian, and President that the player is not eligible to move under this policy.

## **5. Timeline**

Player movement requests can be submitted to the President after registration has been completed for the upcoming season and must be received prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Committee must meet to review the requests by October 5<sup>th</sup> of each year with recommendations submitted to the PGRA Board by the earlier of:

- Five (5) days before the Northern League tournament in Terrace; or,
- October 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **6. Compliance and Consequences**

Decisions on player movement can be appealed under the Appeals Policy provided the player has not violated the requirement to attend practice/evaluations in their own age division prior to or following the decision.

Utilization of players outside of the Ringette BC guidelines on player pick-up, or in a division that is not their designated division or for which they have not been recommended or approved to play, will be grounds for action against offending Team Staff under the Discipline and Complaints Policy.

## **7. Exceptions**

For new registrants (with previous ringette experience) to the Prince George Ringette Association after October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the parent(s)/guardian may submit a request in writing to the President of the PGRA for player movement. The recommendation by the Committee to the PGRA Board will take into consideration the past association's recommendation on the request.