

## 1.9 PLAYER RELEASES

RINGETTE BC administers all player releases between its members (30+ Masters and 18+ age players are exempt from the release process). The following release policies and procedures are provided for Club-Association participants only. For release policies and procedures involving AA participants, please refer to Competition & Events.

In developing these release procedures, Ringette BC has aligned its policies and procedures to be consistent with the organization's guiding principles to ensure that all entitled players have an association and team to play on. All associations and members of all associations must use their best efforts to accommodate every person wishing to play. It is incumbent on the associations to manage and report player release applications to Ringette BC according to the following policies:

### A. RELEASE POLICY:

- i. Ringette BC's release policies are designed to support the needs of the individual player. Any person representing an association found to be soliciting players to be released shall be suspended immediately from ringette (with the right to appeal).
- ii. Any coach and/or association, that allows a non-released player to participate in any on-ice activities with his/her team or association in contravention to Ringette BC's release policies, shall be immediately suspended from all Ringette BC sanctioned events and/or fined per week for the duration of the non-released player's involvement prior to approval, at the discretion of Ringette BC.
- iii. Any person or association found to be deliberately violating these policies shall be subject to sanctioning by Ringette BC; with a maximum penalty being disqualification of the member's association from participation in Ringette BC sanctioned events for the remainder of the season.

### B. RELEASE PROCEDURES (GENERAL):

- i. A player must register with the association they intend to play with. If registering with an association outside their residential boundary (See: Section 1.1 Registration Process) they must complete the on-line Player Release Form (on the Ringette BC website) which must be filed with the (receiving) association they wish to register with.
- ii. At no time shall the registration of player from outside an association's geographical jurisdiction replace (or displace) a player previously registered with the association.
- iii. Within 72 hours of receiving a player release application, the (receiving) association is required to notify the (releasing) association having geographical jurisdiction over the

player's area of residence to request a player release. (Notification must include a copy of the completed player release form filed by the applicant.)

- iv. All release requests must be received by Ringette BC no later than October 1st or prior to the commencement of league scheduled tiering games (whichever comes first) of the current playing season.
- v. Ringette BC will only consider releases after October 1st in special circumstances.
- vi. Ringette BC approved releases are valid from September 1st through August 31st of the subsequent year (One playing season).
- vii. The (receiving) association is responsible for filing all player release applications (uncontested & contested) with Ringette BC. If possible, associations should file their seasonal release applications as a group, rather than one at a time.
- viii. Ringette BC shall notify the affected associations and their league of final decisions on release applications within 15 working days of receipt of applications.
- ix. Notwithstanding any other policy contained in this manual, appeals of final release decisions by Ringette BC can be made. Such an appeal is subject the Ringette BC's appeals policy.
- x. The fees related to contested releases are non-refundable and must be presented with the application for contested release. There are no processing fees for an uncontested release application. Please see "Appendix: Rates and Honorariums – Release Procedures" for specific fees.

#### C. RELEASE PROCEDURES NON-TIERED DIVISIONS:

- i. In the Non-Tiered divisions if there is no age division suitable for the player at the time of the application, the (releasing) association may defer their consideration of the release to September 15th in order to allow time for additional player registrations. The (releasing) association must immediately advise the (receiving) association and the player of its intent to defer. During this time, the player is permitted to participate with the (receiving) association.
- ii. Should an uncontested release be possible, refer to Section 1.9 (E) - Uncontested Release Procedure for additional information.
- iii. Should an uncontested release NOT be possible, please refer to Section 1.9 (E) - Contested Release Procedure for additional information.

#### D. RELEASE PROCEDURES TIERED DIVISIONS:

- i. In the tiered divisions if there is no age division or caliber level suitable for the player at the time of the application, the (releasing) association may defer their consideration of the release to September 15th or the date of player evaluations, whichever is later. The (releasing) association must immediately advise the (receiving) association and the player of its intent to defer. During this time, the player is permitted to participate with both the (receiving) and (releasing) association. The player should be encouraged to participate in evaluations with both associations during this time.
- ii. Should an uncontested release be possible, refer to Section 1.9 (E) - Uncontested Release Procedure for additional information.
- iii. Should an uncontested release NOT be possible, please refer to Section 1.9 (E) - Contested Release Procedure for additional information.

#### E. UNCONTESTED RELEASE PROCEDURES:

- i. A player wishing to register with a (receiving) association outside their residential boundary must complete the on-line Player Release Form (on the Ringette BC website) which must be filed with the (receiving) association they wish to register with.
- ii. Within 72 hours of having received a player release application, the (receiving) association is required to notify the association having geographical jurisdiction over the player's area of residence to request an uncontested player release and obtain (releasing) association authorization.
- iii. After obtaining the (releasing) association's authorization, the player is permitted to participate with the (receiving) association, with the understanding that the release is subject to final approval by Ringette BC.
- iv. The (receiving) association is responsible for filing the player release application with Ringette BC. If possible, associations should file their seasonal release applications as a group, rather than one at a time.
- v. Ringette BC shall notify the association and league of its final decision on the release application within 15 working days of receipt of the application.

#### F. CONTESTED RELEASE PROCEDURES:

- i. Should the (receiving) association be unable to obtain an uncontested release, it must immediately advise Ringette BC of the contested release. In the case of contested releases, the player requesting release is only permitted to participate with the (receiving) association once the (receiving) association has notified Ringette BC of the contested release.

- ii. Failure to notify Ringette BC of a contested release may also result in such disciplinary action against the (receiving) association that includes but is not limited to fines and suspension from sanctioned events or activities. (See Release Policy, Section 1.9.B(x))
- iii. Upon notification of a contested release, Ringette BC must contact the unwilling (releasing) association within three (3) working days to advise the (releasing) association that a contested release has been received.
- iv. Upon filing or notification of a contested release, each association is required to provide Ringette BC (within 72 hours) a written submission including any supporting information or documentation regarding their position to support or deny the release application.
- v. Ringette BC will consider the release application and render its final decision within five (5) working days. Ringette BC will place an emphasis on the best interests of the individual player and it's consideration of contested release applications may include but is not limited to:
  - The (releasing) association has no team in the appropriate age level;
  - The (releasing) association has no team at the appropriate skill level of the player;
  - Previous registration with the (receiving) association;
  - Siblings who are registered with the (receiving) association;
  - The player's residence being closer to (receiving) association facilities;
  - The player attending school within the (receiving) association's geographical boundaries;
  - The player having additional family support within the (receiving) association's geographical boundaries.
- vi. Associations should make every attempt to avoid contested releases.

#### G. THIRD YEAR CLAUSE

- i. Following a release that has affected the same player and same Home and Receiving Associations in three consecutive years; the said player's Receiving Association shall be deemed the said player's Home Association for all of that player's Ringette activities (player, bench staff, Official, volunteer).