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## **1.0 ELITE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (E.D.P) OVERVIEW**

**1.1 Description** The Elite Development Program will provide those athletes with exceptional skill, the opportunity to participate at a level of play that will further enhance their ringette™ abilities. The Elite Development Program is the responsibility of the Elite Development Committee. The Elite Development Program was initiated in 1988 to co-ordinate ORA's activities in preparing for, and competing in, the Canada Winter Games. Its mandate has since been expanded to include participation in all elite play events, such as the Canada Winter Games (C.W.G.), Ontario Winter Games (O.W.G.), and the World Championships. At that time Ringette™'s involvement in the C.W.G. shall be evaluated according to its success. Its continued participation will be determined at that time. In order to produce as many elite athletes as possible and also to build a strong base of highly skilled athletes the Elite Development Program will provide the opportunity for elite competition as detailed below:

- 1.1.1 The Elite Development Program will run in four (4) year cycles culminating in the year of the Canada Winter Games (C.W.G.) event.
- 1.1.2 Each four (4) year cycle will be broken down into two, two-year segments. The first two (2) year segment will be a preparatory phase to organize and select the representatives for Team Ontario to compete in the C.W.G. event. The second two-year segment will be a competitive phase during which Team Ontario will train, prepare and compete in exhibition games and tournaments. It will culminate with the Canada Winter Games in the final year.
- 1.1.3 The Elite Development Committee is responsible for ensuring elite Provincial All-Star Teams (Team Ontario) are organized, trained, and maintained to participate in National level competitions such as the Canada Games and other elite competitions such as the: "Ontario Cup", other Province's Provincial Teams' Invitational Tournaments, and/or other competitions as developed and approved by O.R.A. In addition, the Elite Development Committee is responsible for ensuring elite athletes are organized, trained and made ready to participate either as a team or as individuals in the World Championships or any qualifier Ringette Canada organizes for that event.
- 1.1.4 To assist in the selection of Team Ontario, the Ontario Winter Games competition will be used as a vehicle to evaluate players. To this end, each two year segment will consist of a one year Preparatory phase and a one year Competitive phase for Regional teams competing in the Ontario Winter Games. Each two-year segment is completed when the Regional Teams participate in the O.W.G. (March 2010, March 2012, etc.).
- 1.1.5 Each of the six (6) geographical regions is responsible for organizing, training and maintaining an elite "squad" of athletes to participate on Regional All-Star

Team (R.A.T.) in elite competition such as the Ontario Winter Games and Regional Challenge Cup Tournaments.

- 1.1.6 The age group of Elite Teams, both Provincial and Regional, will be determined by the age requirement of the Elite Event to be attended such as the O.W.G., C.W.G., and International Competitions like the World Championships.

## **2.0 ONTARIO WINTER GAMES**

**2.1 Description** Ringette™ has traditionally been selected as a participating sport in the bi-annual Ontario Winter Games (O.W.G.). The Elite Development Committee has the mandate to select the age division and gender of athletes to participate, taking into consideration: date, place, O.W.G. technical policies, competitive level and whether or not the O.W.G. will be used as a vehicle to develop and select athletes for Team Ontario for the C.W.G.

2.1.1 The criteria for Ringette athletes at the Canada Winter Games is U20 Females, therefore the age and gender for the Ontario Winter Games event will be U19 Females.

2.1.2 The O.W.G. will be a six (6) team full round robin. All games will consist of two (2) twenty (20) minute periods of regulation time. Round robin games may end in a tie.

2.1.3 Shot clocks will be used in all O.W.G. games.

2.1.4 After round robin play, the teams will be ranked in order of finish according to points. If more than three (3) teams are ranked in the top three (3) positions due to ties, the O.R.A. tie-breaking formula will be applied to resolve the order of finish.

2.1.5 A team that finished among the top three (3) positions after the round robin will not be eliminated from medal play by application of the tie-breaking formula. Mini-games will be used to determine final qualification for medal play, following the format normally applied by O.R.A. at AA Provincials.

2.1.6 The team finishing first will advance to the championship game and will be the Home team.

2.1.7 The teams finishing second and third after the round robin will advance to the semi-final. The second place finisher will be the Home team. The winner of the semi-final game will advance to the championship game. The loser will be awarded the bronze medal.

### **3.0 REGIONAL ALL-STAR TEAMS (AAA)**

**3.1 Description** Regional All-Star Teams will be selected in Years 1 and 3 of the four (4) year cycle, to compete in AAA Challenge Cups and the O.W.G.

3.1.1 Each of the six (6) geographical regions is responsible for organizing, training and maintaining its Regional All-Star Team (“AAA”).

3.1.2 If a region is unable to form a Regional All-Star Team of competitive calibre, the Elite Development Committee may declare the formation of a Composite Team to be the sixth team. The Composite Team will be called “United AAA”.

3.1.3 Each region is responsible for selecting the bench staff for its Regional All-Star Team by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the season preceding the year in which the team will operate.

3.1.4 The Head Coach of U19 AAA Teams must be fully qualified for their position prior to being appointed to the team. The remaining Bench Staff of an U19AAA team must be fully qualified for their position and have documentation in the ORA office by October 31<sup>st</sup>, or the first Challenge Cup, whichever comes first, to be eligible to stay on the bench.

3.1.5 The head coach of the Composite Team will be selected by a committee consisting of the chair of the Elite Development committee, the chair of the Coaching committee, or their designates, and one other member of the O.R.A. Executive. This selection will be completed by February 28<sup>th</sup> of the season preceding the year in which the team will operate.

3.1.6 Each region is responsible for selecting players to its Regional All-Star Team from among eligible players in its region. Athletes with outstanding skills and with the potential to develop as elite players should be encouraged to try out.

#### **3.2 Player Eligibility**

3.2.1 Player eligibility for a Regional All-Star team is based on residency. Players must try-out for the region in which their permanent residence is located. Players living in another province but playing in Ontario are not eligible to play on Regional All-Star teams.

3.2.2. In addition to meeting the age and gender requirements, to be eligible for a Regional All-Star team, a player must be registered as a player on another ORA-recognized team. For greater clarity, players on an 18+ team and **restricted affiliate player (RAP) or development affiliate player (DAP)** of a National Ringette League team are eligible to play for a Regional All-Star team, provided they satisfy the other eligibility criteria.

### **3.3 Rosters**

3.3.1. Regions must name their rosters by May 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the team will operate.

3.3.2. The Composite Team bench staff is responsible for selecting players to the Composite Team from among players who tried out for their home region team and were not selected to that team or players from a region that does not have a Regional All-Star Team. The Composite Team must name its roster by July 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the team will operate.

3.3.3. Each region is free to determine the roster size of its Regional All-Star team, provided a team at O.W.G. may have no more than eighteen (18) players, one (1) head coach, two (2) assistant coaches, one (1) trainer and one (1) manager.

3.3.4 All Regional All-Star Teams must be registered with O.R.A. by October 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the team will operate. All players participating in the O.W.G. must be on the October 31<sup>st</sup> Team Registration Form.

### **3.4 Sweaters**

3.4.1 Each Regional All-Star Team must have two (2) sets of jerseys, one (1) predominately dark and (1) predominately white. Each player must have the same number for both sets of jerseys, and each player must keep the same number throughout the season.

## **4.0 CHALLENGE CUP RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **Registration Fee**      AAA teams participating in Challenge Cup events held within tournaments should be required to pay the same fees as U16 AA or U19 AA teams participating
- **Notification of Event**      Sent by host timing as any tournament
- **Notification of Attendance**      Sent by team to host, c/c Elite Development
- **Ice**                      Obtained by host, Elite Development to advise how much is needed
- **Schedule**              Done ORA office. Sent to host, Elite Development and teams three (3) weeks prior to event
- **Medals**                Provided by Host, Gold and Silver; include cost in breakeven budget
- **Challenge Cup Trophy**      Provided by ORA
- **Arena Convening**      Host Committee – two (2) people per arena
- **Publicity**              Host locally; Elite Development provincially
- **Officials**              ORA provide through Chair, Officiating (cost included in Officiating budget)
- **Minor Officials**      Host Committee – Scorekeepers, shot clock operators and timekeepers
- **Equipment**          Host – (rings, shot clocks, etc.)
- **First Aid**              Host to provide adequate first aid (St. John’s Ambulance)
- **Hotels**                Individual teams (Host may recommend who to contact)
- **Fundraising**          With the approval of the Host, Elite Development should fundraise during the events
- **Facilities**              Host to obtain – Showcase our sport
  - Fun, friendly
  - Correct Ringette™ markings
- **Wall Charts**          Host to provide and maintain
- **Internet**              Host and Elite Development work together to utilize the Internet

## **5.0 CRITERIA FOR SELECTING COMPOSITE AAA TEAM BENCH STAFF**

- 5.1** In the event that there is a need to form a composite AAA team the responsibility to select a head coach for that team will rest with the Coaching Development and Elite Development Committees according to the following timeline:
- February 15<sup>th</sup> (First year of cycle) – Deadline for submission of applications for Composite Team Head Coach.
  - March 31<sup>st</sup> (First year of cycle) – Head Coach for Composite Team is selected.
- 5.2** All applicants must be CI Certified or Equivalent Level.
- 5.3** Each applicant will submit:
- 10.3.1 A resume of their coaching experience and qualifications
  - 10.3.2 An essay on their philosophy on coaching girls in sport, their expectations and why they should be selected to coach the Composite Team for the Ontario Winter Games in 250 words or less.
- 5.4** Faxed resumes will be accepted.
- 5.5** A Selection Committee will be formed and will consist of a representative from each Elite Development Committee, Coaching Development Committee and Sport Development Committee.
- 5.6** The Head Coach will be selected first and will have input into the selection of the rest of the Bench Staff either by personal choice or from the other applications received.



## **6.0 CANADA WINTER GAMES**

### **6.1 Description**

The Canada Winter Games is a Sports Festival for Provincial Teams of many different winter sports, held every four years. Ringette Canada is responsible for submitting application to participate. The Canada Winter Games Committee has selected ringette™ as a full participant in the C.W.G. since 1991.

6.1.1 Ringette Canada, through consultation with the Canada Winter Games Council, develops the event guidelines and particulars such as event venue, rules, age division, number of teams, level of play, etc.

6.1.2 Each Province is responsible for the development and organization of their Provincial team(s) to participate in the event. For this event, if you refer to the Sport Specific system model you will see the level of play is “AAA”. The elite athletes of our existing competitive structure are selected for Team Ontario as opposed to “Team Units” advancing through a series of championships.

6.1.3 The Elite Development Committee has the mandate and is responsible for ensuring that an elite team called “Team Ontario” is organized, evaluated, selected, trained and maintained to participate in the Canada Games and other elite competitions such as the “Ontario Cup”, a Provincial Teams calibre Tournament.

## **7.0 REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CANADA WINTER GAMES**

- 7.1 Description** Team Ontario for the Canada Winter Games shall be operated according to the basic four-year plan shown below. It may be amended by the Team Ontario Bench Staff to fit the current situation. The detailed version will be forwarded to the Elite Development Committee and all Regions for perusal by Regional Executives, Regional Teams Coaching Staff and Communities.
- 7.1.1 Year 1 - Rest  
Year 2 - Bench Staff Selection, review previous program, plan and organize. Organize current team program and plan.  
Year 3 - Player evaluation. Selection starts near end of year.  
Year 4 - Player selection, training and competition. Evaluate, analyze, report and make recommendation for Provincial Team Program on basic plan
- NOTE:** This will allow the Regional Team coaches to select their squads based upon Regional Team needs and they will not have to select their team based upon Provincial Team needs.
- 7.2 Budget** 7.2.1 Team Ontario must present a budget before funding will be allocated. They must provide monthly feedback regarding funding. Receipts are required for major expenditures (flights, equipment, ice rentals, etc.) Transportation costs will be at the ORA’s km rate and meals on ORA per diem scale.
- 7.3 Evaluation** 7.3.1 Players will be evaluated at Challenge Cups for Regional Teams, the O.W.G., at Invitational Tournaments, Provincial and National Championships. Selected players will be invited to training sessions to be held after April of the Ontario Winter Games.
- Evaluators used in Team Ontario player selection during the cups and training camps must represent at least three (3) different regions and be independent of players involved. Regions to provided a list of available evaluators to the Team Ontario Staff
- 7.4 Financing** 7.4.1 Subject to financing, the Elite Development Committee will make every effort to provide Team Ontario with at least two Provincial calibre events in the final year of participation. One “Ontario Cup” Challenge, inviting teams from other provinces to participate, and one or more out of province event(s). The Team Ontario Bench Staff shall make every effort to organize exhibition games, practices, and to attend Invitational Tournaments on a regular basis through each season.

## **7.5 Players**

- 7.5.1 Team Ontario players be allowed to play with their home association teams as well as with Team Ontario.
- 7.5.2 All players and goaltenders for Team Ontario must be chosen from the six (6) Regional All-Star Teams.

## **7.6 Selection Process**

- 7.6.1 The Selection Process for players to attend Team Ontario Tryout Camp will be as follows:  
At the end of each Challenge Cups and at the end of the Ontario Winter Games, the head Coach of each Regional “AAA” Team participating will submit to the Coach of Team Ontario a ranking list of his/her players. This list will consist of the two (2) top centres, the top three (3) forwards and the top three (3) defense players. The ranking will be assigned a point value of 5 for first, 3 for second and 1 for third. At the conclusion of all events, the Regional teams will be asked to send up to five (5) players to the Team Ontario tryout. While the selection does not have to be 1 centre, 2 forwards, and 2 defense players; the players nominated to come must be the highest ranking players for their positions from the tabulated event rankings. (i.e. if a player accumulated the most forward player points on her team after the three (3) events, then this player must be the first forward picked).

In addition to the skaters nominated by the Regional All-Star Teams, the Team Ontario coaching staff and evaluators will invite additional players and goalies to bring the total number up to a maximum of sixty (60) participants.

## **8.0 BENCH STAFF FOR CANADA WINTER GAMES**

### **8.1 Criteria for Selecting Team Ontario Bench Staff**

8.1.1 All O.R.A. Coaches will be invited to apply for any of the Bench Staff positions (Coach and Assistant Coach) with the understanding that if they are selected that they will be expected to become a fully Competition Development Coach and MED Certified by **MAY 1<sup>st</sup>** of the year before the Canada Winter Games at their own expense.

The deadline for submission of applications is January 31<sup>st</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the cycle.

The head coach for Team Ontario will be selected by April 30<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the cycle.

8.1.2 Each applicant will submit:

- A resume of their coaching experience and qualifications.
- An essay on their philosophy on Coaching girls in sports and why they should be selected to coach Team Ontario in 250 words or less.

Faxed resumes will be accepted.

8.1.3 A Selection Committee should be chaired by the President, O.R.A., and have as its members the Vice President Technical, Coaching Chair, one Coaching Coordinator, one Board Member, Elite Development Chair or Designate.

8.1.4 All coaches who apply and have the proper qualification and satisfy the criteria for being selected as Head Coach or Assistant Coach will be invited to an interview at which they would pay their own expenses.

8.1.5 The Head Coach will be selected first and will have input into the selection of the rest of the bench staff from the applications that have been submitted. She/he will be excused from the room during the voting process.

### **8.2 Bench Staff**

8.2.1 All bench staff for Canada Winter Games must provide a Police Record Check to the ORA.

8.2.2 The Bench Staff of Team Ontario may not hold any bench position on any team within the age category of the Team Ontario playing personnel during the Canada Winter Games/Ontario Winter Games playing seasons. If Team Ontario is comprised of U14, U16 and U19 players, the Bench Staff of Team Ontario cannot hold any bench position in these age groups - any level and cannot be added to a roster after the C.W.G. are over. The Bench Staff are eligible to coach at any level not in conflict with Team Ontario ages. (U12, 18+, examples).

8.2.3 The Manager of Team Ontario cannot hold a coaching position, but can hold a Manager position, on a U14, U16, U19 or 18+ team during the CWG/OWG playing season. Also, the Manager is not allowed to be part of the Team Selection process of Team Ontario.

**8.3 Criteria for Selecting the Head and Assistant Coaches for Team Ontario**

8.3.1 The successful candidates for the positions of Head Coach and Assistant Coach must have the following:

- Completed N.C.C.P's Managers Course
- Leadership skills
- Motivational Skills
- Organizational skills
- Communication skills
- A positive philosophy on sport participation and coaching
- A positive reputation both within the sport community and the community at large
- The ability to relate well to both the player participants, other members of the coaching staff and parents
- References from both within the outside the Ringette™ Community
- Knowledge and acceptance of the O.R.A. Harassment Policy.

8.3.2 It would be helpful if the candidates for the position had the following:

- Fundraising skills
- Previous experience in other sports and community activities
- Previous related business experience
- Extra qualifications and/or training in related areas
- Extra qualifications and/or training from N.C.C.P.

8.3.3 It would also be beneficial to know if the candidate has ever earned recognition in the form of awards or honours from previous involvement in Ringette™, other sports and the community.

**8.4 Criteria for Selecting the Manager for Team Ontario**

8.4.1 The successful candidate for the position of Manager of Team Ontario must have the following:

- Completed N.C.C.P.'s Managers Course
- Not be in conflict with criteria listed in Elite Development, Page 6, Section 5 - Bench Staff
- Previous Ringette™ experience
- Leadership skills
- Motivational skills
- Organization skills
- Communication skills
- A positive philosophy on sport participation and coaching

- A positive reputation both within the sports community and the community at large
- Positive sport involvement both in terms of winning and losing and developing participants to their full potential
- The ability to relate well to the player participants, other members of the coaching staff and parents
- References from both within and outside the Ringette™ Community
- Knowledge and acceptance of the O.R.A. Harassment Policy

8.4.2 It would be helpful if the candidate for the position had the following:

- Fundraising skills
- Previous experience in other sports and community activities
- Previous related business experience
- Extra qualifications and/or training from N.C.C.P.
- Extra qualifications and/or training in related areas

8.4.3 It would also be beneficial to know if the candidate has ever earned recognition in the form of awards or honours from previous involvement in Ringette™, other sports and the community.

## **9.0 EASTERN CANADIAN RINGETTE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **9.1**

9.1.1 The Gold Medal team in the U14 and 18+ divisions of the Provincial AA Championships in that year should represent Ontario at the Eastern Canadian Championship.

- Ontario will be permitted to send a second team from the U14 division of the Provincial AA Championships to the Eastern Canadian Championships.

9.1.2 The Gold medal team in the U16 and U19 divisions of the Provincial A Championships in that year should represent Ontario at the Eastern Canadian Championships.

9.1.3 The guidelines that apply to the National Championships will apply with the following exception:

- No pickups will be allowed unless the team has less than thirteen (13) skaters or only one (1) goalie. All pickups must be from the same association.

## **10.0 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**10.1 Responsibility** Elite Development takes over responsibility of the Provincial Teams going to the Nationals once the Champion has been declared. This would include, but not be limited to, player pickups, accommodations, travel and team communication.

10.1.1 The host and dates of the National Championships can be found in the Sanctioned Tournament Listing in the Events and Activities section.

10.1.2 A maximum of three (3) teams will be selected at “AA” Provincials from each of the U16 and U19 Divisions to attend the National Championships. The Gold Medal teams in the U16 and U19 Divisions will represent Ontario.

10.1.3 The Ontario Ringette Association provides partial funding for the representatives to the National Championships.

10.1.4 All Intent to proceed forms for the Canadian Ringette and Eastern Canadian Championships shall include documentation detailing all possible disciplines and fines for failure to comply.

10.1.5 Any team withdrawing their intent to proceed to the Canadian Ringette Championships or Eastern Canadian Championships will be responsible for the registration fee as well as a fine to the ORA that is equal to that of the original registration fee.

10.1.6 In accordance with Ringette Canada guidelines, at the National Championships, alterations to the team roster after the roster deadline shall be made only in the case of injury.

10.1.7 A player may play on only one team at the Canadian Ringette Championships

10.1.8 Champions: Ontario Ringette shall book hotel accommodations for all provincial teams attending Nationals, **which must be used.** Each team is responsible for payment of the arrangements.

10.1.9 O.R.A. will provide these teams with on-ice sweaters and pants: these must be returned upon completion of the National Championships. The teams representing Ontario have the right to purchase their sweaters and pants, after the National Championships, **at replacement cost.**

10.1.10 The team must book its flights through the official travel sponsor (if applicable) and is responsible for all costs incurred.

10.1.11 Ceremonial uniforms provided by the O.R.A. for the teams representing Ontario at the Canadian Ringette Championships and the Eastern Canadian Championships will prominently display the wording “Team Ontario”. Provisions should be made so all team members and up to five (5) Bench Staff are included.



## **11.0 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **11.1 Timing**

Every three (3) years the World Championships is offered to all countries to apply to host. The International Ringette Federation (I.R.F.), along with the hosting country, are responsible for the event guidelines and particulars such as event venue, rules, age division(s), number of teams per country, level of play, etc.

11.1.1 Ringette Canada is responsible for picking the method of selecting team(s) to represent Canada at the World Championships.

11.1.2 Each province is responsible for selecting the participants and/or team(s) to represent itself in whatever qualifying event Ringette Canada chooses as its method of selecting Canada's representative(s). The Elite Development Committee has the mandate to carry out this responsibility for the Ontario Ringette Association.

### **11.2 Representatives to World Champions and/or Qualifiers:**

11.2.1 The Elite Development Committee has the mandate and is responsible for ensuring that athletes are organized, evaluated, selected, trained and made ready to participate in the World Championships and/or any qualifier that Ringette Canada organizes for that event.

11.2.2 Subject to financing, the Elite Development Committee shall select the method and site to host a selection camp to ensure elite athletes are organized, trained and made ready to participate either as a team or as individuals in the World Championships or any qualifier Ringette Canada organizes for that event.