

GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS

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1. RO COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE

1.1 COMPETITIVE LEVELS

1.1.1 In Ontario, Ringette™ is played at different competitive levels: Recreation, Regional C, Regional B, U12 Regional, U12 Provincial, Provincial A, and Provincial AA. In order for teams to participate in sanctioned tournaments and at Regional/Provincial Events, they must register at one of the stipulated competitive levels by completing a Team Registration Form as directed for registration in the Membership Services Section of the Operating Manual.

NOTE: One additional level, Provincial AAA played at the High-Performance level is made up of Regional All-Star Teams. Refer to the High-Performance Section of the Operating Manual.

1.1.2 The Regional B, C and U12 Regional levels are the responsibility of the Regional Committee along with the Regional Games and Tournaments Coordinator. They shall be responsible for the sanctioning of regional level tournaments and Regional Championships. These events shall adhere to the current RO Sanction Rules.

- There must be a mandatory coaches' meeting prior to the beginning of all regional championships.
- The 18+ B, BB, C, CC, Development and 35+ B, C, and Development levels are the responsibility of the Adult Development Program. The Adult Development Program shall be responsible for the sanctioning of Adult Regional and Recreation level tournaments and championships.
- Community Recreation Level is the responsibility of the Local Association.
- The Team Composite Number must be included beside the Team Name on the Team Registration Form for the teams registered in the U8, U9, U10, U12 Regional and U12 Provincial Age Divisions.

1.1.3 All Provincial levels shall fall under the mandate of the Provincial Games and Tournaments Committee. The Provincial Committee shall be responsible for sanctioning Provincial level tournaments as well as organizing the Provincial Events. These events shall adhere to current RO Sanction Rules.

1.2 SEEDING OF TEAMS

1.2.1 Seeding of Regional B, C and U12 Regional teams is the responsibility of the respective Region. The Provincial G&T Committee will give advice and recommendations to assist the Region in the seeding of teams.

- Each team and/or Local Association will seed the team at the beginning of the playing season. The Region will accumulate statistics and evaluate on an ongoing basis the teams' performance for seeding adjustments for Championship play. Adjustments to seeding are based on on-ice performance and are ongoing on a Regional Level. The G&T Coordinator and their Regional

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Committee will meet mid-season to evaluate and finalize the seeding of teams for Regional Championship play in accordance with Regional processes.

1.2.2 Initial seeding of Provincial A & AA teams is the responsibility of the respective region. The Provincial G & T Committee will give advice.

1.2.3 Seeding of Provincial A and AA teams U14 to 18+ teams for Provincial Events is the responsibility of the Provincial G&T Committee.

- G&T will be responsible for ranking and seeding of 18+ A/AA teams for Provincials for penalty tracking and for assisting in determining divisions at tournaments. G&T will be responsible for 18+ A/AA substitutions and composite teams at all sanctioned events. G&T in conjunction with Adult Development will be responsible for 18+ A/AA and 35+ B/BB, C/CC substitutions and affiliates when involving 18+ BB and 35+ B or lower registered players or third year U19 players.
- Adult will be responsible for administration, including registration, substitutions, affiliates and composite teams for all 18+ and 35+ Regional level teams.
- Associations must receive approval from their Region through the Regional G&T Coordinator and with input from the Provincial G&T Committee, in regard to the Provincial level teams, to register two (2) teams in the same age division at the same playing level.
- Each team and/or local association will seed the team at the beginning of the playing season. The Regional G&T Coordinator will give advice and recommendations to assist them and/or local association in the seeding of teams. The Provincial G&T Committee will accumulate statistics and evaluate on an ongoing basis the teams' performance for seeding adjustments for championship play. Adjustments to seeding are based on on-ice performance at the Provincial Level. The Provincial G&T Committee will meet mid-season to evaluate and finalize the seeding of teams for Provincial Championship play.
- Any games in the original division played in a tournament against a team that gets reseeded up or down will not count for rankings. Attendance at the tournament does count.

1.2.4 Process for Reseeding Teams Mid Season

- All U14A – 18+A teams must participate in a minimum of one tournament by the end of the first weekend in December in the current playing season.
- As of the beginning of the season, all teams will be under review for reseeding. All sources of data could be considered.
- From the ranking chart, a winning percentage of eighty percent (80%) or higher will be seriously considered for reseeding. Teams below eighty percent (80%) can also be considered.
- The G&T Provincial Committee will hold a conference call during the first full week of December to determine which teams need to be reseeded.

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- Teams will be informed in writing by the end of the second weekend in December of the current playing season, by the Chair of the Provincial G&T Committee if they are being reseeded. This communication will be copied to: The RO Technical Director, the Provincial G&T Committee, the Regional Director, the Regional Coaching Coordinator and the Regional Elite Coordinator. Included will be a detailed written explanation as to how the decision was reached.
- If a team is reseeded to AA mid-season, every effort will be made to accommodate ranking games. If there are 2 tiers, the team will place no higher than the McCarthy division.
- As of January 1, of the current playing season, a team that has been reseeded may only participate in AA divisions in RO sanctioned events, contingent on Provincial G&T review.

UPON BEING RESEDED

- The team must resubmit their Intent to Proceed to Provincials and any difference in the registration fees.
- Bench staff members must comply with the required bench staff qualifications.
- Regional G&T Coordinators must inform all AA tournament hosts in their Region that the team has been reseeded to AA so that schedules can be revised accordingly to allow the team exposure to AA competition.
- The Regional G&T Coordinators must notify the League in which the team plays that the team has been reseeded and recommend that the League reflect the change in the game schedule.

1.2.5 Ranking U12 Provincial Teams

- Committee of U12 Coaches: Identify one coach per region who will closely follow the teams and provide input one week prior to the G&T March Conference Call where the final pools are set. This committee will be identified during the September Conference Call when the tournaments for this division are discussed to allow the committee members an opportunity to be following the teams from the beginning of the year. It would be the responsibility of each Region to appoint someone who they know has proved themselves to be able to put the good of all ahead of the good for a few.
- League Play: Currently the differences between rules for League play and Tournament play vary across the Province. League play is not monitored on site by Provincial G&T Coordinators or Officiating Supervisors, so this cannot be used as a primary source for setting pools. Leagues should be encouraged to follow the Provincial rules more closely for this division. These results could be used as a secondary source of data to be used in difficult to assess situations.
- Date for Determining of Pools: During the week immediately following the last tournament to host a U12 Provincial Division, G&T sets the pools, then sends them to the committee of coaches for their input. Regional Coordinators are encouraged to seek input from their coaches prior to the conference call. Data

from the last tournament won't be available until close to the date for the conference call, so coaches should be approached for their input as to which teams they feel they are competitive with ahead of time and then given the opportunity to modify their suggestions should there be a huge upset at the final tournament.

- Consideration Given to Who Plays Who in Tournaments for Determining Pools: Input is required from the U12 Coaches Committee as they are actually involved in the play, have a better opportunity to watch more of the games at the division and can offer valuable comments regarding the actual "level" of play as opposed to the "outcome" of the game. The final decisions regarding pools in tournaments will be the responsibility of the Provincial G&T Committee.

2. TEAM REGISTRATION

2.1 DESCRIPTION

Refer to Membership Services for details on how to Register with Ringette Ontario. Information about participation in sanctioned events by individuals and teams is detailed in the Sanctioned Event Rules that follow.

Teams including all players and bench staff must be registered with the RO office before participating in any Sanctioned Event.

2.1.1 The cut-off date for adjustments to the Team Registration Form (T.R.F.) is JANUARY 8th of each season. This must be done through your Association Registrar using the Information Change Form.

2.1.2 Two Team Players (applies to minors only). Cut-off date for submitting Two Team Player additions is NOVEMBER 15th.

Refer to Membership Services "Two Team Player" procedures.

2.1.3 Players' affiliation (applies to Adults) cut-off date for submitting player affiliation additions is December 1st. Refer to Adult Development Program "Player Affiliation" procedures.

3. **RO SANCTIONED EVENTS**

3.1 CLARIFICATION OF TERMS

3.1.1 Tournament: this term refers to an event where game results will be used to determine standings, rankings or qualifications for a championship, including semi-finals and finals. All tournaments must be sanctioned.

3.1.2 Funfest: this term refers to an event that is non-profit, is limited to one day per division, is limited to two (2) games per team for U12 and below and to three (3) games per team for U14 and above. There will be no semis, finals or awards. This event will not be used to determine standings, rankings or qualifications or championship including semi-finals or finals. This event will not count towards the maximum number of tournaments a team can attend. All Funfests must be sanctioned.

3.1.3 Exhibition Game: this term refers to a maximum of two (2) games played between the same two teams on a single day. Participation is by invitation. There is no registration fee; however, there can be an agreement between the two teams to share the cost of the ice and the officials.

3.2 CODE OF CONDUCT

3.2.1 Any person who interferes with the game or verbally abuses an official, player, or bench staff will be asked to leave the playing area and not to return. The Head Coach will be notified by an on-ice official to remove the person. If the person refuses to leave the arena playing area after a reasonable period of time, the game will be called and the team that the person is associated with will forfeit the game.

Please review the [Code of Conduct for Spectators](#).

3.3 RULES

3.3.1 Coaching Staff and/or volunteers who are participating on-ice, practice, game or team building event, must wear a CSA approved helmet.

3.3.2 Random stick checks will be made throughout the season by officials to determine the legality/state of safety of players' sticks.

3.3.3 RO defines Sanctioned Events as:

- Invitational Tournaments
- Exhibition Games
- League Games
- Funfest
- Regional Championships
- Provincial Events
- 3 on 3 Tournaments

3.3.4 For RO disciplinary purposes, any game between two (2) Registered RO teams or between any other Province's teams with a RO registered team.

3.4 TOURNAMENT LISTINGS

All tournaments *applied for and approved by the deadline*, (Deadline: Application must be in the RO Office by June 15th), shall appear on the tournament list. The list indicates date, division, level of play and a contact person. As there may be changes to this list, it is recommended that you contact your Regional G&T Coordinator to confirm tournament particulars. (The list will be updated and available on the website).

3.5 INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

3.5.1 The "RO Sanctioned Event Package" is available as a resource for hosting Invitational Tournaments. The package can be found at the following link: <http://ontario-ringette.com/games-and-tournaments/tournament-hosts/>.

3.5.2 Format:

Tournament format is determined by the Host, according to specified Sanction Rules.

- The home team in the final is the team seeded highest in the round robin portion.

3.5.3 Tournament hosts shall be permitted to fill vacancies with teams of the same age division, one calibre lower and/or with teams of one age division lower, one calibre higher (to complete the pool[s]).

Examples: U14AA may play U16A

U12 Regional may play U12 Provincial

NOTE: All participating teams must be informed, and given the option to withdraw with full refund, if either of these options are exercised. If a team is going to be placed in a different division or level of play, all participating teams must be notified and given the option to withdraw, with full refund. This does not apply to teams that have been reseeded. ADP rules will apply to teams that fall under their jurisdiction.

3.5.4 Rules:

- All invitational tournaments are to be RO Sanctioned Events and are to adhere to the current sanction rules.
- All changes to the RO Sanctioned Rules must be approved prior to the event by the Regional G&T Coordinator, G&T Committee Chair and the RO Technical Director prior to being circulated.
- All U16AA, U19AA and 18+ AA divisions at tournaments will have twenty (20) minute periods.
- All tournaments for U12 level teams and higher are required to use shot clocks. The use of shot clocks at U10 age divisions and lower is not permitted.
- At the U12 Division, teams cannot participate in more than two (2) games per day including Round Robin, Split Round Robin, Semi-Final and Final games at any invitational tournament.
- The maximum average number of games per day over the duration of a tournament is two (2). One (1) day tournaments are exempt.

3.5.5 Any deficiencies flagged by the tournament checker and recommended by the Provincial G&T Committee must be addressed prior to schedule approval. These deficiencies include, but are not limited to:

- 12 hours between schedule start of a team's last game on one day and scheduled start of the team's first game the next day.
- 4 hours between scheduled start of a team's first game of the day and scheduled start of the next.
- Early starts – possibility of more than 2 per tournament.
- Long gap – over 9 hours between scheduled start of a team's first game of the day and scheduled start of the next one.
- Maximum number of games per day.
- Recommendations to maximize team exposure.

3.5.6 Entry Fee:

Tournament entry fees are determined by the Host.

3.5.7 Team Registration:

- Each team applying to participate in an Invitational Tournament must provide the Host with a copy of their properly completed T.R.F. and **any Information Change Forms (M-F-10)** that they have submitted to the RO office. TRF's for teams in the U8, U9 and U10 divisions must include the Team Composite Number in order for the team to participate in a tournament. When applying to the tournament, it will be the team's responsibility to ensure that the host has the correct information. A letter/form to substantiate out of age player approval must accompany any T.R.F. being submitted to the Tournament Host.
- Each team shall be required to complete a T.R.F. Adjustment Form ([G&T-F-07](#)) and/or Bench Staff Substitution form ([C-F-02](#)) indicating those player(s)/Bench Staff who are listed on the T.R.F. who shall not be

participating at the tournament if they are being substituted for, and those player(s)/Bench Staff the team shall be using as substitute(s).

- Teams must list all players including those on playing agreements, on all game sheets and cross off those who are not in attendance.
- Teams cannot play in more than one (1) sanctioned event on the same weekend. A team registration form (TRF) cannot be divided with the exception of U7 and U8 teams.
- If the game sheet is pre-printed, labels may not be used.
- Invitational withdrawal dates do not apply to Provincial level teams that have been assigned to tournaments as per the selections they submit. Upon assignment to tournaments, teams are to complete the registration process for each tournament that they have been assigned to. Once a team has been assigned to a tournament, they cannot be denied acceptance into the tournament and they cannot withdraw from the tournament without approval by the Provincial G&T Committee in the case of extenuating circumstances.

3.5.8 Player Substitutes for Invitational Tournaments

NOTE: The substitution procedure is designed to assist association 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 calibre but to maintain a minimum team's roster size, and to avoid any last-minute cancellations that result in expenses to the Host Association.

- For the purpose of substitutions, the playing seasons extends from October 15th to April 15th.
- There will be no lateral substitutions for AA ranking games (no substitutions of same age player at same playing level).
- Substitutions for AA ranking games will follow the substitution rules and be approved by Regional G&T Coordinator.
- 18+AA teams will be permitted to draw substitutions from RO registered U19AA players who are eighteen (18) years old by DECEMBER 31st of the current playing season.
- 18+A/AA teams can draw substitutions from RO registered U19A players who are eighteen (18) years old by DECEMBER 31st of the current playing season.
- Eligible players for all divisions up to and including U19 are as follows:

Shall be registered with your association and be a RO registered player. When your association has no appropriate age division or calibre teams, you must contact your Regional G&T Coordinator for possible solutions.

Can choose either/or:

- same age division or one lower, same calibre or less.

Example 1) A U16AA team could choose:
a U16AA/A/B/ C team player

Example 2) A U16A team could choose:

a U16A/B/C team player; or

a U14A/B/C team player

- one calibre higher only, one age division lower.

Example: a U16A team could also choose:

a U14 AA player

- Eligible players for 18+ are referred to the Regional Adult Development Coordinator. 18+A are referred to the Regional G&T Coordinator.

NOTE: Players may substitute in their age division regardless of what division they are registered, only upon receipt of written approval of their Regional G&T Coordinator. A U19 player, who has decided to play 18+ by registering on an 18+ TRF, is not eligible to substitute for a U19 Team (except where a Two Team Player Agreement exists).

- Effective the beginning of the 2018/19 season teams may carry up to four (4) substitute players in total per tournament. The maximum number of lateral players permitted as part of the four (4) substitutes will be two (2). They must actually replace a player who is unable to attend part or all of that tournament. If the player they are replacing returns to play, the substitute may NOT continue to play, although they could then replace another player who was injured or called away. The Roster can NEVER increase in size as a result of a substitute and **cannot exceed twelve (12) skaters with substitutions.**
- Players registered as U19 or under may play as a substitute for ONE (1) invitational tournament in a season. Players registered as 18+ may play as a substitute for TWO (2) invitational tournaments in a season. Any player that appears on a T.R.F. Adjustment Form more than allowed by their age group constitutes violation of Sanction Rules, unless written Games and Tournaments approval is received.
- Requests for substitutions must be made at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the official beginning of the tournament. Requests made with less than forty-eight (48) hours or during the tournament will only be granted for medical or extenuating circumstances.
- Players (including goalies) cannot play in more than one (1) sanctioned event on more than one (1) team on the same weekend or in the same sanctioned event.
- All substitutes must be listed on the T.R.F. Adjustment Form ([G&T-F-07](#)) and be submitted to the Invitational Tournament Host Chair within their specific deadlines and/or at the Event Registration, and/or before a game to substitute for a player who had to leave the tournament.

3.5.9 Substitute Bench Staff for Invitational Tournaments

Any RO registered bench staff with the appropriate qualifications, that have been obtained prior to November 1st of the current season, may fill in a Bench Staff Substitution Form ([C-F-02](#)) and become a valid member of a Bench Staff (as long as overall bench requirements are met) with approval of the RO Technical Director prior to invitational tournament or G&T Coordinator/Designate at invitational tournament. Proof of qualification is required.

NOTE: The above rule does not allow a Bench Staff Member, who is not properly qualified for their registered position, to assume a new position within the team in question, after November 1st of the current season.

3.5.10 Substitutes for Regional Championships

Determined by individual Regions. Contact your Regional G&T Coordinator for details.

3.5.11 Substitutes for Provincial Championships

Substitution rules for Provincial Championships are found in section 4.3 Rules.

4. **PROVINCIAL EVENTS**

4.1 FORMAT

4.1.1 Provincial Events shall be held each year for females. Other Championships may be held depending upon registration. Communities may apply to host them by submitting form [G&T-F-10](#).

- The Provincial Championship Host Guide is available online at <https://ontario-ringette.com/resources/>.
The Host must submit a \$200.00 Good Faith cheque with their application to host the Provincial Event. Upon approval of the Host Application, the Ringette Ontario office will prepare the Event Contract for signatures of the Host and Ringette Ontario.
- G&T Committee members who have to travel more than 500km one (1) way to a provincial event be provided accommodations on Sunday as required, either in the host city or on route.

4.1.2 Provincial Event schedules will be prepared by the Ringette Ontario Technical Director following criteria determined by the Provincial Games and Tournaments Committee and with input from the Officiating Development Committee. These criteria will be set annually by **SEPTEMBER 1ST**.

Note: Effective for the 2019 Provincial Championships, the first event will host U16AA, U19AA, 18+A, 18+AA and University Divisions. The second event will host U14AA, U14A, U16A and U19A Divisions.

4.1.3 Format for Provincial “A” Level Teams attending Provincials:

- One (1) team representing their Region per division.
- One (1) team entry per division from Hosting Association.
- All other entries are selected by Provincial G&T through the Wild Card process
- The winner of the 18+ A Jacks tier at the will automatically be registered in the 18+AA Division for the next season.
- Any team that has played in the 18+AA Division the previous season must have G&T approval to re-seed to 18+A.
- If there are twelve (12) or more teams in the division, the division will be split into two (2) tiers based on ranking.
- The two (2) tiers will be independent of each other and there will be no crossover games between them.
- In a division with less than eight (8) teams, the top three (3) teams will advance to the medal round which will consist of a bronze and gold medal game.
- There will not be any overtime in the Round Robin games.
- There is an option to add one (1) more team to the lowest tier of any division if there is only one (1) team being excluded from participating.
- The U14A Division will be all inclusive. All U14A teams will be invited and placed in tiers according to Provincial Rankings.
- If a team that is ranked in the top fourteen (14) is to be prevented from attending the event by a host or Regional Representative, then that team will be invited to attend Provincials – expanding the specific “A” Division.

4.1.4 Format for Provincial “AA” Level Teams attending Provincials:

- All teams will attend.
- Where a division is split into two (2) tiers, the two (2) tiers will be independent of each other and there will be no crossover games between them.
- There will not be any overtime in the Round Robin games.
- If there are twelve (12) teams or less, they will play together in an unbalanced format.

- If there are thirteen (13) teams, the division will be split into two (2) tiers based on rankings with seven (7) teams in the top tier and six (6) teams in the lower tier.
- If there are fourteen (14) teams, the division will be split into two (2) tiers based on rankings with seven (7) teams in each tier.
- If there are fifteen (15) teams or more, the division will be split into two (2) tiers based on ranking. Both tiers will have a minimum of seven (7) teams.
- The 18+AA division at the Provincial Championships be capped at a maximum of twelve (12) teams. The “A” Provincials Selection of Wild Card Entries, Section 4.8, will be implemented to determine the top 12 qualifiers.

4.1.5 Format at “U12” Provincial Event:

- All teams will attend.
- Teams will be separated into pools to be played as a full round robin.
- The number of pools will be determined by the number of teams attending the provincial event.
- Preferred format to include one (1) game on Thursday followed by opening ceremonies and then the off-ice event, two (2) games on Friday and two (2) games on Saturday. Depending on the number of teams per pool, some teams may have to play two (2) games on Thursday.
- The order of the names for the division at the U12 Provincial Event will be changed each year.
- There will not be any overtime in the Round Robin games.
- Up to twelve (12) Regional teams will be included.
- In a division with less than eight (8) teams the top three (3) teams will advance to the medal round which will consist of a bronze and a gold medal game.
- Dignitaries who have a division named after them are to be invited with expenses paid following RO guidelines.

4.1.6 Format at U12 Provincial Event – Regional Division:

- One (1) game Thursday, two (2) games Friday, one (1) game Saturday.
- Medal games on Saturday.

4.1.7 Shot Clocks will be used in all games at the Provincial Events.

4.1.8 Mini Games:

At Provincial Events, any tie in the standings which will result in a team not being able to participate in a medal game, will require mini-games to be played to determine who will participate in the medal game.

4.1.9 All medal games will be played until a winner is declared.

4.2 REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Format to determine Regional representatives for the “A” Level Divisions at Provincial Championships is the responsibility of each Region. A team may not be formed purely to participate in Provincial Championships, Northwest teams exempt. Contact your Regional G&T Coordinator or Regional Chair for further information.

The Provincial Team Fees for the Provincial Events are sent to the Technical Director at the RO office no later than **DECEMBER 1st** of the current season.

Regional Representatives must be declared four (4) weeks prior to start of that Provincial event.

4.3 RULES

All Provincial Events are Ringette Ontario sanctioned. The present sanction rules shall be adhered to with, the following exceptions and additions:

- 4.3.1 RO Provincial Events, from U12 to U19, are Age Class Events. NO OVERAGE players are permitted.
- 4.3.2 Provincial Events may be offered in any of three (3) Ringette Canada classifications: male, female or co-ed. A minimum of four (4) teams is needed to be registered in those classifications. Beginning in 2018 a University Division will be held at the “AA” Provincials.

Any 18+A University team intending to proceed to a Provincial Event must participate in the University Division providing there are a minimum of five (5).
- 4.3.3 No player substitutions will be allowed unless documented proof showing a team is unable to compete without said substitution(s) (below twelve (12) skaters, goaltender(s) excluded) and approved by Provincial G&T Committee.
- 4.3.4 A maximum of four (4) player substitutions in total for the Provincial Event following the same substitution rules as for Invitational Tournaments (3.5.8).
- 4.3.5 Provincial AA teams can substitute a player from an “A” team not attending a Provincial Championship to fill a roster if the team roster falls below the minimum player rule. Substitution must be approved by Provincial G&T Committee.
- 4.3.6 A player may only participate in one Provincial Event per season.
- 4.3.7 Goalies from “A”, “B” or “C” teams that are not attending a Provincial Championship are allowed to be added as an additional goalie for a Provincial Championship to give the team a maximum of two (2) goalies. This will permit an increase in the roster by one (1). The player, team and association must be in good standing for the goalie to attend the Provincial Championships. Provincial G&T Committee approval is required. All other Provincial participation rules apply.

- 4.3.8 To be eligible to attend a Provincial Championship, U14AA through 18+AA teams must have attended four (4) RO sanctioned events, a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the first day of the Provincial Championships in which they are intending to participate.
- 4.3.9 To be eligible to attend a Provincial event, U14A, U16A and U19A must have attend four (4) (18+A teams three (3)) RO sanctioned Tournaments at the appropriate level, a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the first day of the Provincial event in which they are intending to participate. Northwest teams exempt with Provincial G&T Committee approval (due diligence must be proven).
- 4.3.10 To be eligible to attend the Provincial event, U12 Provincial teams must have attended a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) tournaments at the appropriate level a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the provincial event. Northwest teams exempt with Provincial G&T Committee approval. Due diligence must be proven.
- 4.3.11 The absence of participating in out of region tournaments will not prevent any team from participating in Provincial Championships and events if assigned by G&T.
- 4.3.12 If a team attends more than the maximum number of tournaments as per the compliance rules without written authorization from Sports Development at U10 and below consequences will be determined by the region or from G&T at U12, the team will not be allowed to participate in Provincial Events.
- 4.3.13 At all Provincial Events, skaters are required to wear Ringette pants.

4.4 SUBSTITUTE BENCH STAFF FOR PROVINCIAL EVENTS

Any Ringette Ontario registered bench staff with the appropriate qualifications, that have been obtained prior to **November 1st** of the current season, may become a valid member of a Bench Staff (as long as the overall bench requirements are met) upon presenting proof of qualification and registration to the Provincial Coaching Chair/Designate or in their absence the Provincial G&T Committee.

NOTE: The above rule does not allow a Bench Staff, who is not properly qualified for their registered position, to assume a new position within the team in question, after **November 1st** of the current season.

4.5 ENTRY FEES

- 4.5.1 All Provincial Event Entry Fees are to be submitted to the Regional G&T Coordinators by the region deadline, which will be no later than December 31st.

These fees will be payable to the Ringette Ontario and are part of the Intent to Proceed to Provincials Process.

Teams make the team entry cheques out to the Ontario Ringette Association and dated January 1st.

The cheque will clearly indicate which team, level of play and which event the cheque is for.

The Regional G&T Coordinators will submit them directly to the RO office.

As teams are confirmed by G&T, the team's cheque will be deposited. Teams that do not qualify will have their cheque returned directly to them from the office based on the name and address printed on the cheque.

- 4.5.2 Any team being re-seeded at a Provincial level of play must submit their Intent to Proceed to Provincials and fees immediately upon notification of Re-seeding.

NOTE: Associations withdrawing from the Provincial Events after the withdrawal deadline: **DECEMBER 15th** of the current season shall be fined \$1,000.00 in addition to the Administrative and Team Entry Fees, which are non-refundable.

If the entry fees have not been received by the RO office at the time of withdrawal, the association shall be invoiced the full amount.

4.6 REGISTRATION

The filing of the Intent to Proceed Forms with the required fee constitutes registration for the event. All other rules and policies apply for qualification.

Note: Where RO has indicated that there is an approved accommodation booking agent, teams renting, or leasing accommodations must use this service for Provincial Events or be subject to a fine of \$1,000.00. Teams are defined as players, parents, guardians and bench staff members attending the event.

4.7 PROVINCIAL A LEVEL TEAM WILD CARDS

- 4.7.1 If a Region or Host fails to enter a team in any division, the Provincial G&T Committee shall select a team to participate in its place. This team is to be called a "Wild Card Entry".
- 4.7.2 In the case that a Region forfeits its entry, the entry shall be filled by the Provincial G&T Committee, where possible, with the next highest ranked team available in that age division (but not from a higher level of play).

4.8 PROVINCIAL A LEVEL TEAM SELECTION OF WILD CARD ENTRIES

- 4.8.1 Filing of false information or failing to file pertinent information will result in the team being disqualified from this process.
- 4.8.2 Team records shall be taken from RO sanctioned events held prior to the Regional Representative Submission deadline, three (3) weeks prior to the start of the Provincial event.
- 4.8.3 Teams must participate in whatever regional process determines their regional representative before being eligible for wild card consideration.
- 4.8.4 The criteria for selection of a Wild Card entry shall be determined on the following basis, by the Provincial Games and Tournaments Committee:
- Games between RO teams only will be used in head to head competition during RO Sanctioned events, could be in a different division or level in a tournament.
 - For the Provincial Ranking System, games outside Ontario between Ontario teams in the same division are included in the ranking data but do not count in tournament total or in the tournament total outside of region.
 - Only round robin games against teams within their division and level will be recorded with two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) for a loss.
- 4.8.5 If an appeal is required for the Wild Card selection process, follow the process listed in Sports Administration: Policy section 22.0 Expedited Appeal Process.
- 4.8.6 The criteria for selection of a Wild Card entry shall be determined on the following basis, by the Provincial Games and Tournaments Committee:
- Games between RO teams only will be used in head to head competition during RO Sanctioned events, could be in a different division or level in a tournament.
 - For the Provincial Ranking System, games outside Ontario between Ontario teams in the same division are included in the ranking data but do not count in tournament total or in the tournament total outside of region.
 - Only round robin games against teams within their division and level will be recorded with two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) for a loss.
- 4.8.7 If an appeal is required for the Wild Card selection process, follow the process listed in Sports Administration: Policy section 22.0 Expedited Appeal Process.

4.9 PROVINCIAL A LEVEL RANKING FORMULA

4.9.1 Team Performance

- A maximum of 2 (two) points can be achieved between 2 (two) Provincial “A” opponents regardless of the number of times they play each other.
 - One (1) win each: teams get one (1) point each, two (2) wins and one (1) loss equates to 1.33 and 0.67 points.
- Winning percent is based upon the total number of opponents.
- Only round robin games will count towards ranking.

4.9.2 All “A” teams and 18+U must submit their tournament selections by July 10th, and all U12P teams must submit their tournament selections by SEPTEMBER 18th. Each team must include tournaments from at least four (4) different regions and a minimum of two (2) tournaments must be prior to December 1st. The top four (4) tournament selections must include two (2) options from out of region.

4.9.3 If a team submits tournament selection to travel a total of two thousand (2000) Km, to attend three (3) tournaments, one (1) of which must be of region (and they do attend all three (3)) they will be considered to have filled their obligation for number of tournaments attended. Verification will be by Provincial G&T Committee using City to City by Google Maps.

4.9.4 The top four (4) tournament selections submitted by the coaches must include two (2) options from out of region.

4.9.5 A team withdrawing from a tournament will receive four (4) losses in addition to any other sanctions already in place.

4.10 PROVINCIAL AA LEVEL TEAM RANKING

4.10.1 All AA teams 18+ and below to be ranked using the following format:

All “AA” Teams must submit by July 10th a list of 6 tournaments that they would like to attend in order of preference to their Regional G&T Coordinator. Teams are required to attend a minimum of four (4) RO Sanctioned Tournaments. At the August SCM, the Committee will go through the list of preferred tournaments and assign teams to four (4) tournaments accordingly. The ranking games will be assigned at this meeting. Failure to provide this information will result being assigned to tournaments as fits the requirements of the Provincial G&T Committee.

4.10.2 The winning percentage for the AA ranking will be based on the number of scheduled ranking games played. If a team withdraws from a ranking game, then that team will receive zero (0) points for the game and the opposing team will receive two (2) points and a score of one (1) – zero (0).

4.11 TIMELINE

4.11.1 Timeline for posting final rankings, tiers and wildcards.

- At least twenty-four (24) Days Prior to Provincial Event: Scores from the last tournament to count towards ranking for wild card or for rankings for Provincial Events must be posted on the RO website as early as possible on the Monday immediately following the tournament.
- At least twenty-three (23) Days Prior to Provincial Event: The Provincial G&T Committee will hold a conference call on Tuesday immediately following the tournament to determine tiers and wild cards.
- At least twenty-two (22) Days Prior to Provincial Event: The results of this will be posted on Wednesday.

5. **PLAYING RULES**

The “current” Ringette Canada Official Rule Book shall be the Official playing rules of all RO Sanctioned Events, with the following additions and exceptions:

5.1 TEAM RULES

5.1.1 Teams must be ready to go on the ice ten (10) minutes before game time. Regional G&T Committee approval is required for changes by host tournaments. In the event a team does not start their game within seven (7) minutes of the scheduled or adjusted starting time, (including warm up) the on-ice officials shall declare a forfeit unless the Provincial G&T Committee (or Host Committee in the case of Invitational Tournaments) has made a decision to reschedule or not, based on the following circumstances only:

- proof of transportation breakdown.
- team vehicle accident.
- Cancellation or delay of transport due to weather conditions.
- Schedule change/error not communicated to the team by the tournament organizers.

5.1.2 There shall be no more than five (5) persons (i.e. coaches, managers, trainers, and/or assistants) allowed on the bench at any one time. One person must be female, 18 years or over, who is not a player on the team (18+ and 35+ Divisions exempt).

NOTE: Any game where a team fails to start or finish that game (except under the above) a forfeit shall be declared.

5.1.3 Bench staff must be listed as Bench Staff on the T.R.F. or on an Information Change Form through their Association Registrar; or they must fill in a Bench Staff Substitution form – [C-F-02](#) before going on the bench for a game.

- 5.1.4 No game shall start without valid Bench Staff.
- 5.1.5 Team Bench Staff qualifications must be strictly adhered to: See Coaching Development – Bench Staff Qualifications Section 3.
- 5.1.6 Game Sheets must be printed and signed or initialled by each Bench Staff participating behind the bench.
- 5.1.7 The Home team shall be the 2nd team listed in the tournament schedule. The Home team shall have the choice of sweater colour in case of conflict. In semi-final or final games, the Home team shall be the team that finished higher in the standings, unless pool play has determined otherwise.

NOTE: Sweaters must conform to the Ringette Canada Rule Book. At Provincial Events, each team must bring two (2) sets of sweaters with different predominant colours, one a light colour and one a dark colour. Pinnies are an approved alternative.

- 5.1.8 Players' boxes must be labeled Home and Visitor. The Home team is to have choice of ends at the start of the game. The Visiting team shall be awarded the first free pass.

5.2 U8 EVENTS

- 5.2.1 All associations hosting a U8 division must use the following rules:

- Fifty (50) minutes of game time consisting of two (2) periods. The first will be sixteen (16) minutes in length and the second will be fourteen (14) minutes in length or can be adjusted according to time left. There will be two (2) minutes of running time, the clock stops, five (5) different players can go on the ice and when the players are set up, the clock recommences.
- Goalies should be dressed in full gear.
- All players must rotate through the goalie position at least once.
- Teams are encouraged to dress two (2) goalies per game.
- A maximum of one (1) coach per team on the ice.
- No touching of the opposition players by the coaches.
- No double shifting unless the number of players available during that game warrant, and all players are to be used equally in double shifting.
- Own players should not be physically moved into position by a coach during playing time.
- Coaches may not impede the on-ice officials(s).
- For the U8 events it is mandated that they have no score posted and all players will receive the same participation awards. Finals or Championship games are not permitted.

- 5.2.2 Any U8 on-ice coach who is in violation of the rules will be asked to leave the ice surface for the remainder of the game and no substitution will be allowed. The

removal will be noted on the game sheet for follow through by G&T, Officiating and Coaching Committees.

5.3 PENALTIES

5.3.1 For disciplinary purposes, a curfewed game will be considered a complete game and all disciplinary actions will be taken in the manner warranted within the current RO Operating Manual policies as well as those within the Ringette Canada Rule Book.

5.3.2 Any penalties assessed to a participant after they have been ejected from the game (including penalty accumulation ejection) shall be deemed to have been committed after the game.

5.3.3 Any four (4) minute fully served penalty that cannot be served during the remaining clock time of the game results in a one (1) game suspension. This includes any such fully served penalty assessed after the end of the game.

NOTE: While serving a suspension, a player/bench staff member cannot participate in any activities including, but not limited to games, practices and off ice activities. They cannot officiate or perform minor official duties. A player may attend a game as a spectator in the stands. A bench staff member must not be in the enclosed playing or seating area of the rinks so as not to have any influence on the progress of the game. Refusal to do so will result in forfeiture of the game by that team. The offender may also be subject to further suspensions by the league or governing body.

While serving a suspension that carries over from one season to the next, a player/bench staff member can participate in the tryout process. When the team is formed, the suspension comes back into effect until fully served in the first regularly scheduled game or games of the season.

5.3.4. If a suspension penalty is assessed against a player who participates on more than one (1) team, then the secondary position will never be more severely punished than the position held when the penalty was assessed.

The suspended player must sit out the number of suspended games in the next regularly scheduled games with whichever team has regularly scheduled games first.

After sitting the number of suspended games, the player may participate in all ringette activities. The player must also sit the number of suspended games with whichever team the penalty was assessed during their next regularly scheduled game(s) but may participate in ringette activities with this team as soon as the suspension has been served with any team. The player serving a suspension is ineligible to substitute for another team until they have properly served their suspension and are thus cleared to participate in all ringette activities.

Example: a player on a AAA team receives a 4 minute fully served penalty in the last 2 minutes of the final game at a Challenge Cup. If player has a regularly scheduled League game the following week with their club team. The player must sit that one game and is then cleared to participate in all ringette activities for either team and may substitute for any team following the substitution rules. At the next Challenge Cup, the player must sit the first game as the penalty must be served with the team where the suspension was assessed.

5.4 EXCESSIVE PENALTIES

5.4.1 A Head Coach whose team receives thirty (30) minutes in accumulated penalty time in regulation play (overtime is exempt) shall be suspended from the next regularly scheduled game. Should that person be the coach on more than one team, the one game suspension must be served with the team that received the excessive penalties.

5.4.2 A player who receives ten (10) minutes in accumulated penalty time, overtime included, shall be ejected from the remainder of the game. The player shall be suspended from the next regularly scheduled game.

All excessive penalties (Ten (10) minutes in a game for a player or thirty (30) minutes in a game for a coach) must be reported to the team's Regional Games & Tournaments coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours by both teams or prior to the next schedule game – whichever is sooner.

NOTE: Delayed Penalties wiped out as a result of a goal being scored must be recorded on the game sheet and count toward accumulated penalty time.

5.5 MATCH AND MISCONDUCT PENALTIES

All match and misconduct penalties must be reported to the team's Regional G&T Coordinator and Adult Coordinator (if applicable) within twenty-four (24) hours by both teams or before the next scheduled game – whichever is sooner.

5.5.1 Game Definition:

Regularly scheduled games shall be defined as any game during RO sanctioned play, Interprovincial play, organized league, and pre-scheduled exhibition play. A game consists of two (2) fifteen (15) or two (2) twenty (20) minute periods of regulation time. Games are not to be scheduled in order to speed up suspensions.

A mini-game will not count as a game served as part of a suspension.

NOTE: Suspensions assessed by RO member associations for Match or Misconduct Penalties will be honoured in sanctioned events so long as proper notification is provided by the player's/coach's Home Association and the Tournament Committee in sufficient time to affect such action.

5.5.2 All match and misconduct penalties will be subject to an automatic review.

- If a misconduct or a match penalty is assessed against a bench staff member, then that person shall not participate on any other team in a bench staff capacity until the suspension has been fully served.
- If a misconduct or a match penalty is assessed against a player who is participating on a two (2) team player agreement, then the secondary position will never be more severely punished than the position held when the penalty was assessed.
- If a misconduct or match penalty is assessed against a person who participates in ringette as both a bench staff and a player when they are performing the role of a bench staff, then that person shall not participate on any other team in a bench staff capacity until the suspension has been fully served. If the penalty is assessed when they are participating as a player, then the secondary position will never be more severely punished than the position held when the penalty was assessed.
- If a misconduct penalty is assessed against a player or a member of the bench staff during play, the player or a member of the bench staff shall receive an automatic one (1) game suspension to be served in the next regularly scheduled game.

5.5.3 Coaching Suspensions for Misconduct penalties should be: first offense = one (1) game, second offense = three (3) games, third offense = five (5) games, fourth offense = ten (10) games, fifth offense = lifetime suspension. Clock will be reset after two (2) years of zero (0) offenses. No reset for lifetime offenses.

5.5.4 If a match penalty is assessed against a player or Bench Staff in RO sanctioned play, the player/bench staff shall receive an automatic two (2) game suspension for a match penalty assessed during play, to be served in the next two (2) regularly scheduled games, and an automatic three (3) game suspension for a match penalty assessed after the game, to be served in the next three (3) regularly scheduled games. The player/bench staff shall be suspended from any team until the full suspension is served with the team he/she was a member of when the penalty occurred.

NOTE: Ringette Canada's one game suspension is included in the number of games to be missed. (i.e. if a player receives a match after the game, they must sit out one (1) game, Ringette Canada's suspension, and two (2) games, RO's suspension).

5.5.5 If there is a second match penalty of the season assessed against the same player or Bench Staff in RO sanctioned play, that player/bench staff shall receive an automatic five (5) game suspension for a match penalty assessed during play, to be served in the next five (5) regularly scheduled games, and an automatic six (6) game suspension for a match penalty assessed after the game to be served in the next six (6) regularly scheduled games.

The player/bench staff shall be suspended from any team until the full suspension is served with the team he/she was a member of when the penalty occurred.

- 5.5.6 If a third match penalty of the season is assessed against the same player/bench staff during RO sanctioned play, that player/bench staff shall serve a ten (10) game suspension or the remainder of the season, whichever is greater. If the match penalty is assessed after the RO sanctioned play, that player/bench staff shall serve a twelve (12) game suspension or the remainder of the season, whichever is greater. Suspension shall be served in regularly scheduled games. The player/bench staff shall be suspended from any team until the full suspension is served with team he/she was a member when the penalty occurred.
- 5.5.7 When a bench staff is asked to leave a game and no penalty is recorded on the game sheet, they are considered to have been assessed a misconduct penalty and he/she will be suspended for the next regularly scheduled game.
- 5.5.8 It shall be the responsibility of the home association of the individuals involved to ensure that ALL game suspensions are served.
- 5.5.9 Persons participating in regularly scheduled games while under RO suspension shall be subject to penalties stipulated in section eight (8). [Violation of Sanction Rules/ in the G&T Section]. Note: Exhibition games are not considered regularly scheduled games unless they were previously scheduled before the suspension took place. PROOF OF SCHEDULING IS REQUIRED.
- 5.5.10 Suspensions stemming from match or misconduct penalty assessment shall carry over across seasons (within RO) and across governing bodies (RO - Ringette Canada) Provincials/Nationals, and vice versa.
- 5.5.11 Where a player or bench staff receives a suspension and is unable to fulfill the suspension with that team the Provincial G&T Chair and appropriate Coordinator will rule on terms of the suspension.

5.6 GAMES

- 5.6.1 The Host Committee may decide that, if time is not available, the games will remain tied at the end of regulation time and each team awarded one (1) point. (This must be consistently used throughout the tournament). Shootouts are never to be used in RO sanctioned events, 3 on 3 events exempted.
- 5.6.2 If the score of a game is tied at the end of regulation time, there will be one (1) overtime stop time period. (i.e.: if two (2) fifteen (15) minute periods were used during regulation time, then the overtime period is fifteen (15) minutes), which will be sudden victory. (i.e. the first team to score in that overtime period will be declared the winner).

- 5.6.3 If neither team scores during the first stop time overtime period, there will be successive stop time sudden victory overtime periods until a goal is scored to break the tie.
- 5.6.4 Possession of the free pass to start the first overtime period is decided by the tossing of a coin by the referee. The team winning the toss will get the free pass. The other team will get the choice of ends.
- 5.6.5 If additional overtime periods are required, possession of the ring for the opening free pass will alternate between teams. The teams will also exchange ends for each overtime period.
- 5.6.6 All goals scored will be entered on the score-sheet, but the maximum difference of goals to be shown on the scoreboard and tournament charts will be seven (7) goals more than the lower scoring team's total. (i.e.: if the score is 12-1, show 8-1. If the lower team scores, change the scoreboard to show 9-2).
- 5.6.7 Running time can only be used in the second period and will commence at any time during that period when there is a seven (7) goal differential. If the goal differential goes below seven (7), then the game will go back to stop time. If a penalty is called during running time, then the clock stops and restarts when play commences. The clock will stop for injuries or if a time out is called and restarts when play commences during running time.

5.7 POINT STRUCTURES

- 5.7.1 Teams receive two (2) points for a win and zero (0) points for a loss; and, in the event that the Host Committee decides to allow ties, one (1) point shall be awarded to each team remaining tied at the end of the game.
- 5.7.2 The team with the most points in each division will be declared the top team in that division.
- 5.7.3 The second-place team is the team having the second highest number of points, etc.
- 5.7.4 In a forfeited game, the score will be 4-0. The team forfeiting shall receive zero (0) points and the other team receives two (2) points. In a cancelled game (due to bad weather, etc.) the score is recorded as 0-0 with both teams receiving one (1) point.
- 5.7.5 If a decision by the Protest and Grievance Committee results in a team being disqualified and all other teams were scheduled to play that disqualified team then all games against that team will be eliminated. When not all teams play the disqualified team, the teams scheduled to play the disqualified team will be awarded two (2) points and a score of 0-0 is recorded.

5.8 RANKING OF TIED TEAMS

When two (2) or more teams have an equal number of points after completion of the round robin games, the G&T designate is responsible to determine the rankings. When two (2) or more teams have an equal number of points after completion of the two (2) ranking tournaments, the G&T Coordinator/designate is responsible to determine the rankings. It is preferred to decide all rankings that will eliminate a team from medal play using the mini game procedures. Where mini games are not possible, use these ranking procedures to resolve all ties in standings.

NOTES:

- The maximum goals for per game are seven (7) more than the goals against.
- If a team(s) has forfeited a game, that team(s) will be ranked the lowest position(s) amongst the tied teams.
- The procedures will declare team(s) in individual rankings. In some cases, there will still be a tie within the rankings. (i.e.: in a four (4) -way tie for first in a round robin, the procedures could place one (1) team clearly first with two (2) teams tied for second/third and one team fourth). In these cases, start at step one (1) and follow the procedures until the tie is broken then stop.
- (Clarification on the process: As soon as a step is completed, and one or more teams are ranked as a result of fully completing that step; go back to the top of the ranking of tied team's process. For example: If four (4) teams are tied, a tie between all four (4) teams could be broken in step nine (9). If the tie is only broken between two (2) teams at the end of step 9, then go back to step one (1).)

The ranking of the tied teams will be determined in the following order:

1. If one of the tied teams has beaten all other tied teams in every game between the tied teams, rank that team highest. In a split Round Robin format, all games count as Round Robin games and Team 'X' is considered an outside team and their results do not count for ranking or tie breaking.
2. If still tied and all tied teams have not played each other equally go directly to Step seven (7).
3. If still tied, rank the teams in order of wins between only the tied teams.
4. If still tied, rank teams in order of the plus/minus (goals for minus goals against) only in games between the tied teams.
5. If still tied, rank teams using the following formula only in games between the tied teams:

$$\frac{\text{Goals For} + \text{Goals Against}}{\text{Goals Against}}$$

(WITH THE HIGHEST VALUE BEING THE HIGHER RANKED TEAM)

6. If still tied, rank teams in order of the most goals for only in games between the tied teams.
7. If still tied, rank the teams in order of wins between all teams.
8. If still tied, rank teams in order of the plus/minus (goals for minus goals against) in games between all teams.
9. If still tied, rank teams using the following formula in games between all teams:

Goals For + Goals Against
Goals Against

(WITH THE HIGHEST VALUE BEING THE HIGHER RANKED TEAM)

10. If still tied, rank teams in order of the most goals for in games between all teams.
11. If still tied, rank teams using the least fully served penalties in games between all teams.
12. If still tied, rank teams using least penalty minutes in games between the tied teams.
13. If still tied, rank teams using least penalty minutes in games between all teams.
14. At this point, if still tied, the following may be considered to break the tie:
 - a) Mini-game
 - b) Coin Toss
 - c) Draw from a hat

5.9 MINI-GAMES FOR PROVINCIAL EVENTS

The purpose of the mini game chart is fairness to all teams. All teams involved in a tie that would eliminate one or more teams shall follow the appropriate mini game format as determined by the mini game table. Mini Game Table and Information can be found here:

[Mini Game Information](#)

5.10 3 ON 3 RULES FORMAT

Rules regarding 3 on 3 tournaments can be found here: [3 on 3 Rules Format](#)

6. **EVENT SANCTION PROCEDURES**

NOTE: Failure to follow these procedures could result in being denied hosting approval in subsequent years.

6.1 Sanctioned Event Application

Sanctioned Event Applications ([G&T-F-01](#)) must be submitted to the RO office with Regional G&T approval by June 15th.

6.2 Hosts

Potential hosts are to complete an application and submit it to the Technical Director at the RO office. A RO member association, which hosts a tournament regularly, on an annual basis, acquires a “traditional” right to that weekend each year, as long as they apply by the deadline and have met the prescribed host requirements outlined in the Sanctioning Package and are in good standing. Sanctioned events cannot advertise specific details (dates, divisions & team registration fees) prior to receiving approval.

6.2.1 Definitions:

- **Tournament:** This term refers to an event where game results will be used to determine standings, rankings or qualification for a championship, including semi-finals and finals.
- **One (1) day tournaments** will be sanctioned with a maximum of three (3) games per team. Regular RO sanction fees and event rules apply. Sport Development rules apply to U12 and below divisions where there is a maximum of two (2) games per day.
- **Funfest:** This term refers to an event that is non-profit, is limited to one day per division, is limited to two (2) games per team for U12 and below and to three (3) games per team for U14 and above. There will be no semis, finals or awards. This event will not be used to determine standings, rankings or qualifications for a championship including semi-finals or finals. This event will not count towards the maximum number of tournaments a team can attend. All Funfests must be sanctioned.
- **Exhibition Game:** This term refers to a maximum of two (2) games played between the same two teams on a single day. Participation is by invitation. There is no registration fee; however, there can be an agreement between the two teams to share the cost of the ice and the officials.

6.3 APPLICATIONS

All applications are processed on a first come, first served basis pending right of first refusal of the previously sanctioned annual event. (Right of first refusal only applies before JUNE 15th of the current season). You can get a head start by contacting your Regional G&T Coordinator and sending him/her a copy of your request. Your Regional G&T Coordinator will have a list of all of the “traditional” and available weekends.

6.4 SPECIAL EVENTS

6.4.1 The event must be hosted by Ringette Ontario or a Region.

6.4.2 One Hundred (100) percent of the net proceeds must go to the specified charity.

6.4.3 All RO tournament fees will be waived.

6.4.4 Charity must be identified in promotional material.

6.5 REGIONAL SANCTIONING PROCEDURES

- 6.5.1 Applications for Sanctioning Events must be sent to the RO office with a \$40.00 non-refundable deposit and be signed off by the Regional G&T Coordinator. Applications will not be considered complete until the \$40.00 fee is received at the RO office. Applications submitted after the deadline are subject to a \$100.00 fine and the possibility of their tournament not being approved as applied for. The deadline does not apply for applications to host 3 on 3 or Fun Fests.
- 6.5.2 A payment form will be included in the sanction event package. This form will specify how to calculate the fee owing that is due with the post event requirements.
- 6.5.3 The remittance of this fee after the event **shall be** a cheque made payable to the Region and sent to the Regional G&T Coordinator with the Post Sanctioned Event Package.
- 6.5.4 The Tournament Sanction Fee is \$15.00 per team entered.
- 6.5.5 The Region would then be required to submit \$5.00/ per team due to Ringette Ontario in a timely fashion.
- 6.5.6 The Ringette Ontario Technical Director will forward each host a copy of the Sanctioned Event Hosting Package.
- 6.5.7 Sanction Event Rules provided with the Sanction Package must be prominently posted at each venue.
- 6.5.8 The host will submit all pre-event requirements to the Regional G&T Coordinator four (4) weeks prior to the event. (Schedule will be approved by the Provincial G&T Committee prior to being published).
- 6.5.9 The host will submit all post-event requirements to the Regional G&T Coordinator as per deadlines outlined in the sanctioned event package.
- 6.5.10 Should any host have questions regarding their tournament they are to contact their Regional G&T Coordinator.
- 6.5.11 Tournament Referee-In-Chief Responsibilities:
- Every Invitational Tournament Referee-In-Chief is required to communicate with their respective Regional Officiating Coordinator regarding the selection and scheduling of officials for their tournament. Such communication must take place no later than three (3) weeks prior to the tournament's first game and shall occur solely for the purpose of information interchange. (See Officiating Development – Important Notice to all Local Referees-in-Chief Section 10).

7. PROTESTS AND GRIEVANCES

7.1 TOURNAMENT PROTEST AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

7.1.1 It is recommended that Sanctioned Invitational Tournaments have a Protest and Grievance Committee, as appointed by the Host, consisting of five (5) registered RO participants i.e. referee, coach, etc.

7.1.2 At Provincial Events, a Provincial Protest and Grievance Committee of six (6) people (one (1) Regional Games and Tournaments Coordinator as the Chair, Provincial Event Host Chair/ Designate, Provincial Officiating Chair Designate, Host Regional G&T Coordinator, Provincial Coaching Chair/ Designate and one (1) impartial participant) shall convene should any of the following Sanction Rules be violated by a participating player, Bench Staff or team during the RO Sanctioned Event. In the event the Coaching Chair is in a position of conflict of interest, the Protest and Grievance Committee Chair shall select a replacement, also not in conflict or if not available, in the following order of priority; Host Region Coaching Coordinator, Provincial Coaching Committee, or CI Certified or equivalent Ringette™ Coach in attendance at the tournament.

NOTE: A representative of the Tournament and Grievance Committee may not participate on a protest and/or grievance involving their Home Association.

7.1.3 No Protests and/or Grievances shall be entertained against the official's judgment and/or application of the playing rules on the ice. Questions concerning the rule interpretations shall be directed to the Referee-in-Chief of the Tournament.

7.1.4 The RO office will be copied on all minutes of any Protest and Grievance Committee Meeting. Minutes MUST be taken.

7.2 PROTESTS

7.2.1 At a Sanctioned Event, the only actions that may be protested are:

- Ineligible Players.
- Ineligible Bench Staff.

7.2.2 Ineligible Players:

- A player who is not registered and verified with the RO.
- A player on any team other than the one(s) she/he is registered on, except as allowed as a properly documented substitute.
- A player playing while under RO suspension.

Substantiated violation of the above will result in disqualification of the team from the tournament. The team will also subject to sanction fines levied by the Sport Governing Body.

7.2.3 Ineligible Bench Staff:

- Bench staff who have not registered with the RO.
- Bench staff whom do not have the required qualifications.
- Bench staff participating while under RO suspension.

Substantiated violation of the above will result in disqualification of the team from the tournament. The team will also subject to sanction files levied by the Sport Governing Body.

7.3 GRIEVANCE

7.3.1 At a Sanctioned Event, a RO participant has the opportunity to grieve any action that is not covered under the Protest Section.

7.3.2 The interpretation of a grievance is that it is of such a serious nature that the cash deposit will be \$75.00 non-refundable, payable to the Hosting body.

7.3.3 No grievance will be allowed against the judgement and application of the playing rules on the ice. Questions concerning rule interpretations shall be directed to the Referee-In-Chief of the tournament.

7.3.4 All upheld grievances shall automatically go to the President for potential further disciplinary action.

7.4 PROCEDURES FOR PROTESTS AND/OR GRIEVANCES

7.4.1 Coach will inform the on-ice official at the end of the game of their intention of protesting a violation of the tournament rules or initiating a grievance. The official will record the intended protest on the front of the game sheet.

7.4.2 The coach will submit the protest and/or grievance in writing to the Arena Convener on duty within thirty (30) minutes of the end of the game. A \$75.00 cash deposit must accompany the submission.

7.4.3 The Arena Convener shall contact a representative of the Protest and Grievance Committee immediately.

7.4.4 The Tournament Protest and Grievance Committee shall meet within two (2) hours of notification of a protest and/or grievance and will inform both coaches of the teams involved within one (1) hour of the end of their meeting as to whether the violation is substantiated or otherwise.

8. VIOLATION OF SANCTION RULES

Violations of sanction rules are to be administered by the appropriate Committee Coordinator. i.e.: Coaching Committee or Coordinator administers a coaching violation.

Sanctioned rules and fines are outlined at the following link: [Violations of Sanction Rules](#)

9. INTERPROVINCIAL PLAY

9.1 OUT OF PROVINCE/COUNTRY TEAMS

- 9.1.1 This policy applies to any teams from out of province/country playing in Ontario in tournament and/or exhibition games.
- 9.1.2 Where a league regularly schedules games (including exhibition games) with teams from another province, the schedule must be submitted to the region or the RO office at the start of the season.
- 9.1.3 Teams from Alberta, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island shall be accepted by the host association under the assumption they are in good standing in their own province. They are approved if the team submits a copy of their properly completed Team Registration Form (TRF) and the provision under 9.2 is followed.
- 9.1.4 Teams from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba shall be accepted under the assumption they are in good standing in their own province. They are approved upon providing proof of liability insurance, a copy of their TRF and the provision under section 9.2 is followed.
- 9.1.5 Teams from out of country are approved upon providing a roster, copy of medical and travel insurance for all players and bench staff to the host and the provision under section 9.2 is followed.
- Note: Out of country teams usually do not carry liability insurance.
- 9.1.6 The host association/team must complete the Interprovincial Play Form ([G&T-F-08](#)) thirty (30) days prior to the event or as soon as accepting the team.
- 9.1.7 The RO Tournament Hosts are to inform Ringette Ontario in writing, immediately, of any incidents that occur during their tournament involving an out of province/country team.
- 9.1.8 Ringette Ontario has the right to disqualify any out of province/country team from participating in Ontario.
- 9.1.9 Ringette Ontario Rules must be used in any division of a Sanctioned Event where out of Province/Country teams participate.

9.2 PLAYING OUT OF PROVINCE/COUNTRY

Ringette Ontario teams participating in out-of-province/country tournaments and/or exhibitions must complete Out of Provincial/Country Play Form ([G&T-F-09](#)) thirty (30) days prior to the event or as soon as accepted.

These teams are approved if they complete the form and provide the host with a copy of their properly completed TRF. Any substitute players and/or bench staff must be pre-approved.

9.3 INSURANCE

Ringette Ontario teams traveling out of country only are provided with Liability Insurance.

It is strongly advised that the team secure medical and travel insurance for all players and bench staff.

The event must be sanctioned by a recognized sports governing body for the liability insurance to be in effect.