



RINGETTE ONTARIO

ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

What is the Athlete Advisory Committee?

The Athlete Advisory Committee acts as an informed advisor to the Ringette Ontario Office in the implementation of policies and the Ringette Ontario Strategic Plan as it pertains to Athletes. The Committee is an advisory committee of the Ringette Ontario Office and is governed by the Ringette Ontario Bylaws. The Committee reports to the Ringette Ontario Office, with the Chair reporting to the Board and does not have independent decision-making authority. Members of the Committee should bring perspective from all areas of Ringette in Ontario including youth, adult, recreational, competitive, and pursuit of excellence programs. The Ringette Ontario Office provides support through administration, marketing and deliverables as requested by the Committee.

What does the Athlete Advisory Committee do?

The Athlete Advisory Committee will:

- Bring Ringette Athletes' concerns to the attention of the Office and Board
- Advise Athletes on policy changes put forward by the Board
- Ask Ringette Athletes what their concerns/opinions are on topics such as inclusion, playing boundaries, safety, competition structure and any other topic Athletes may have concerns with
- Present an annual report to the Members at the Ringette Ontario Annual General Meeting

Committee members serve two-year terms. Nomination and appointing of members will be staggered by appointing half of the members each year in order to ensure continuity of the Athlete Advisory Committee. In the first year, half of members will be offered one-year terms and half of members will be offered two-year terms. In subsequent years, all members will be offered two-year terms.

The first meeting of the Committee will be scheduled for October 2019.

Meetings are to be held every 2 months with the option to schedule meetings in between as required. The meeting schedule will be determined at the first meeting in October.

In order to be nominated individuals must:

- Be a registered player with Ringette Ontario at the time of their nomination
- Be in good standing with their local association
- Complete the Athlete Advisory Committee Application Form

A minimum of 7 members, and maximum of 9, will be appointed to the Committee.

The form will be open until September 5, 2019.

Questions or comments regarding the Athlete Advisory Committee can be directed to Ringette Ontario's Athlete Director, **Christianne Varty** at athletedirector@ringetteontario.com.

Our Purpose

The Athlete Advisory Committee will operate as a Program Committee of Ringette Ontario.

Purpose: To act as an informed advisor to the Ringette Ontario Office and Board in the implementation of policies and the Ringette Ontario Strategic Plan as it pertains to Athletes. The Athlete Advisory Committee may conduct a formal review of Ringette Ontario's programs, make recommendations regarding those programs, advise on policy brought forward by the Board, bring concerns to the attention of the Office and Board and act as an advisory resource to Ringette Ontario Office on operational matters.

Reporting: The Athlete Advisory Committee is a Program Committee as per Ringette Ontario Bylaws and the Committees Policy. The Committee's formation, modification, and termination is at the discretion of the Ringette Ontario Office. The Committee reports to the Ringette Ontario Office and Board and does not have independent decision-making authority.

The Athlete Director, as a member of the Board of Directors, will be the liaison to the Board for this Committee and will present their concerns, suggestions and the annual report to the board.

The Athlete Advisory Committee will:

- Provide a report to the Board for each Board Meeting.
- Advise Athletes on policy changes put forward by the Board
- Bring forward Ringette Athlete's concerns to the attention of the Office and Board
- Present an Annual Report to the Members at the Ringette Ontario Annual General Meeting.

Membership: The Athlete Advisory Committee will consist of no less than 7 and no more than 9 members plus the Athlete Director as Chair. Members must:

- Be a registered player with Ringette Ontario at the time of their appointment;
- Existing Committee members remain eligible to serve on the Committee for up to one year after they cease registering as a player - for example, a Committee member may be appointed and serve one year while they are a registered player. If they do not wish to play in the following year, they are still eligible to serve on the Committee until the end of their term;
- Be in good standing with a Group Member (local ringette association) of Ringette Ontario;
- Meet the minimum age requirement of 16 years old;
- Be able to attend the initial meeting of the Committee (TBD)

Members of the Committee should bring perspective from the following general areas of Ringette:

- Regional/Recreational Youth
- Regional/Recreational Adult
- Competitive Youth
- Competitive Adult
- Pursuit of Excellence and High Performance

To ensure that perspective, the members of the Committee shall include:

- No less than one (1) athlete from a Youth Regional Team (U16/U19 B/C)
- No less than one (1) athlete from an Adult Regional Team (18+ B/C)
- No less than one (1) athlete from a Competitive Youth Team (U16/U19 A/AA)
- No less than one (1) athlete from a Competitive Adult Team (18+ A/AA)
- No less than one (1) athlete from a University Team

- No less than two (2) athletes from Pursuit of Excellence and High Performance (e.g., AAA, CWG, NRL, JNT or SNT)

Membership Nomination and Appointment: Prospective Athlete Advisory Committee nominees will self-identify using the Athlete Advisory Application Form.

Nominations will be reviewed by the Ringette Ontario Athlete Director, Executive Director and Technical Director, who may appoint all, some, or none of the nominees. In the case of vacancies, the registered Athletes of Ringette Ontario will be asked to advance additional nominees for consideration.

After the first year of operation, Ringette Athletes across the province will have the opportunity to vote for or bring forth nominees in a manner prescribed by the Ringette Ontario Board.

Committee members will serve two-year terms (provided they remain eligible during that time). Half of the members are to be nominated/appointed in even years, the other half in odd years to ensure continuity of the Committee. Elections will coincide with the election of Ringette Ontario Directors at the Annual General Meeting.

Chair:

The Chairperson of the Athletes Advisory Committee will be the Athlete Director. The Chairperson will:

- Call meetings of the Committee;
- Deliver Athlete Reports to the Board;
- Designate a Co-chair to the committee should the Chairperson be absent;
- Attend the Ringette Ontario Annual General Meeting;
- Serve a two-year term at which point they may be re-elected. The Chair may serve a maximum of 4 years.

Meeting Arrangements: The first meeting of the Athlete Advisory Committee will be conducted via conference call or an online platform. Subsequent meetings will be conducted either via conference call or an online platform, or at a predetermined location. The Committee will meet a minimum of 2 times per fiscal year, but members should expect online meetings every two months and to be available via email. Committee members are expected to maintain communications lines with the Ringette Ontario Office and each other throughout the year.

Review: These Terms of Reference and the mandate of the Athlete Advisory Committee will be reviewed no less than once every two years by the Ringette Ontario Office.