

PLAYING RULES DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that the playing rules of ringette are reviewed regularly, distributed nationally and is used to help foster the development of ringette and of its participants.

Application of this Policy

2. This policy applies to the playing rules of Ringette Canada. This policy does not apply to the playing rules of the International Ringette Federation. This policy does not apply to policies or policy development and does not modify the technical packages for any Ringette Canada events.

Definitions

3. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - “*Equipment Rules*” – Rules pertaining to the specifications of the equipments used by participants on the ice in ringette competition;
 - “*Official Rules and Case Book*” – The Official Rules, published by Ringette Canada in accordance with this Policy, for the playing of the sport of Ringette, in combination with interpretations of rules based on cases, including rule interpretation scenarios;
 - “*National Rule Change Package*” – The information prepared by the Rules Change Task Force and circulated in advance to the Annual General Meeting; and
 - “*Rule Book*” – The Official Playing Rules, published by Ringette Canada in accordance with this policy.

Publication of Rules

4. The Official Rules and Case Book of Ringette Canada shall be published in its entirety every two (2) years. The two (2) year publication cycle will start September 1st 2011.
5. Published rules shall come into effect September 1st of the year of their publication and remain in force until the following cycle rule changes are approved for implementation.
6. The Official Rules and Case Book, when published, shall identify the years to which the rules apply and the effective date of implementation.

Approval of Rule Changes

7. In order to come into effect a rule change must be approved at the Ringette Canada Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with the procedure outlined below:
 - 7.1 Changes to the Official Rules and Case Book must be approved by the Rules Change Task Force; and
 - 7.2 Rule changes deemed editorial by the Rules Change Task Force shall be submitted to the AGM as an information item.

Submission of Rule Change Suggestions

8. Any stakeholder in Ringette Canada may submit a rules change suggestion for review.
9. The following stakeholders will be actively solicited for rules change suggestion feedback:
 - 9.1 Ringette Canada Members;
 - 9.2 Ringette Canada Program Committees;
 - 9.3 International Ringette Federation;
 - 9.4 International Ringette Federation Member Nations; and
 - 9.5 Ringette Industry stakeholders.

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Provincial Ringette Association Review of Rule Change Suggestions

10. “Playing rule” submissions shall be circulated by the Ringette Canada office to all provincial/territorial associations by September 15; a copy of all submissions shall be forwarded to the Rules Task Force by the same date.
11. Provincial/territorial associations shall review proposed playing rule changes and respond (in favour, opposed or abstaining) to Ringette Canada in writing, postmarked no later than December 1. If a province/territory would be in favour of a proposed playing rule change with an amendment to the change that has been proposed they should indicate so in the comments section for that rule change in their response.
12. Any submission(s) receiving support of less than half the votes cast shall be defeated; any submission(s) receiving support of at least two-thirds of the votes cast shall be incorporated into the National Rule Change Package.

Timeline for Rules Changes

13. Ringette Canada and its members shall adhere to the following timelines for the inclusion of rules changes (the years are for the first year of the cycle, subsequent rule change cycles would occur starting in May of odd numbered years following example below):
 - 13.1 May 1st, 2011
 - a. Beginning of rule change solicitation period. Includes a method to submit rule change suggestions to Ringette Canada’s website.
 - 13.2 September 1st, 2011
 - a. Deadline for submissions to be received by the Ringette Canada Office.
 - 13.3 September 15th, 2011
 - a. Rule change submissions sent to provincial Ringette associations for feedback and voting.
 - 13.4 December 1st, 2011
 - a. Deadline for provincial Ringette associations to submit feedback and votes on rules change submissions.
 - 13.5 End of January, 2012
 - a. Deadline for Rules Change Task Force to meet to discuss rules change suggestions.
 - 13.6 March 15th, 2012
 - a. National Rule Change Package, including rules wording sent to provincial Ringette associations for information.
 - 13.7 AGM Weekend, 2012
 - a. Rules Change Task Force makes presentation to annual conference outlining rules change concepts and recommendations.
 - 13.8 AGM, 2010
 - a. General Assembly votes on the rules change suggestions.
 - 13.9 September 1st, 2013
 - a. New rules are in effect.

Rules Change Task Force

14. The Board of Directors shall appoint a rules change task force to execute specific elements of the rules change process.
15. The Rules Change Task Force shall be appointed at the beginning of each rules change cycle (starting May 2011) and shall disband upon the completion of a final report, 6 weeks after the rules of that particular cycle come into effect.

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16. The Board may allocate funds to the functions of the Rules Change Task force as needed.
17. Composition
 - 17.1 The Board shall appoint the following members to the task force:
 - a. Appointee suggested by the Officials Development Committee;
 - b. Appointee suggested by the Coaching Development Committee;
 - c. Appointee suggested by the NRL Committee;
 - d. Appointee suggested by the High Performance Committee; and
 - e. Appointee adjudged to provide the perspective of the Fundamentals, and Learning to Train developmental levels.
18. Duties
 - 18.1 The Rules Change Task Force will be assigned the following specific duties:
 - a. In accordance with 8a of this policy, develop a package of rule change suggestions, with suggestions provided by full members and stakeholders converted into consistent language;
 - b. In accordance with 8a of this policy develop rule change suggestions to complement or supplement the rule change suggestions received from members and stakeholders; and
 - c. In accordance with 8a of this policy, based on feedback received from membership, develop rules change suggestions to include specific rules wording.
 - 18.2 The Rules Change Task Force will be assigned the following general duties:
 - a. Act as a resource to members to clarify questions or comments regarding rules change suggestions;
 - b. Make a presentation to the Annual General Meeting concerning the rules change proposals;
 - c. Select a chair from among their members; and
 - d. Make presentation(s) to other meetings as needed to solicit feedback or provide information.

Official Rules and Case Book Editor

19. For each rules change cycle, an editor will be retained to provide writing and editorial support to the rules change process.
20. The editor shall report to the Executive Director.
21. The Board may provide funds for an honorarium or other support of this position.

Designated Position

22. None of the positions outlined in this policy are considered “Designated Positions” for the purpose of the Screening Policy.

Reporting Forms

23. Ringette Canada shall produce reporting forms for:
 - 23.1 Rule change submissions;
 - 23.2 Rule change feedback from Members;
 - 23.3 Rule change package; and
 - 23.4 Rule change voting package for the Annual General Meeting.

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Submission to the General Assembly

24. The Rules Change Task Force will submit, by March 15th of the rule change year a rules change package for the use of voting delegates at the Annual General Meeting.

25. Rules included in that submission will include the following notations:
 - a. Name of person(s)/stakeholder(s) submitting the rules change proposal;
 - b. Name of the Members submitting or endorsing the rules change proposal;
 - c. The safety implications of the suggested rule (if any);
 - d. Suggested development level(s) for application of the rule;
 - e. Impact of the potential rule change on existing rules in the book;
 - f. Potential or real contradictions with other suggested rules in the same package;
 - g. Potential or real redundancies with other suggested rules in the same package;
 - h. Recommendation to the assembly to approve or disapprove the rule suggestion;
 - i. Rationale for 25.8 above, including connections to the Long Term Athlete Development Model for ringette; and
 - j. List of feedback notes assembled from stakeholders.

Process Review

26. The Board will review the rules change process each rules change cycle.

This Policy is subject to review at least once every three years

Date of last review: July 2011

The publication of Ringette Canada policies will be in the English and French languages. In the case of conflicting interpretations, the English version will prevail.