

# **HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM POLICY**

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## **Purpose**

1. The Purpose of this Policy is to set Ringette Canada's procedures, guidelines, criteria, standards, and timelines governing the High Performance Program as it fulfills its responsibility to organize, develop, and select ringette players and teams to represent Ringette Canada at National and International events.

## **Application of this Policy**

2. This Policy applies to all parties who may be interested or engaged in any activities related to the High Performance Program as outlined herein.

## **Communication**

3. This Policy and any amendments to this Policy will be published on Ringette Canada's website as soon as practicable.

## **Authority for High Performance Programs and Selection**

4. The Board has delegated the authority for all decision-making under this Policy to the Director of High Performance and Events, and Ringette Canada's Executive Director when executing the duties outlined in this Policy. Reporting to the Board will occur on an as required basis.

## **Goals/Objectives of Team Selection**

5. The selection criteria shall be developed by National Team Coaches and approved by the Director of High Performance and Events, and are designed to select athletes who will create the best possible competitive and cohesive team.

## **Team Size**

6. Team size will be dictated by the competition. When this is not the case, the Director of High Performance and Events, in consultation with Ringette Canada's Executive Director, will have the discretion to name a larger team that will include a greater number of reserve athletes, or to name a smaller team due to resource constraints.

## **Team Announcement**

7. Ringette Canada will announce the selected team within seven (7) days of the final selection camp by posting the team list on Ringette Canada's website and by contacting selected athletes directly.

## **Athlete Eligibility**

8. To be eligible to be considered for selection, an athlete must:
  - a) Be registered and in good standing with Ringette Canada, the provincial/territorial ringette association, and the local ringette association (recommended AA calibre);
  - b) Be a citizen of Canada or have resided in Canada for at least 1 (1) year immediately preceding the event;
  - c) Pay any required fees;
  - d) Attend all selection camps as required; and
  - e) Be eligible to participate as per the rules of the applicable event.

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### **Selection Camps**

9. Ringette Canada will host selection camps for eligible athletes who want to be selected for the National Team.

### **Team Selection Process**

10. The Director of High Performance and Events will:
  - a) Appoint the Head Coach, Assistant Coach(s) and Team Manager;
  - b) Recommend the hiring of paid staff and consultants;
  - c) In conjunction with the Head Coach and Coaching Staff, develop a list of characteristics and physical tests to be completed by each eligible athlete;
  - d) Ensure that in the event that one of the top ranked athletes decides not to join the team, the next highest ranked athlete will be asked as a replacement; and
  - e) Remove herself from any discussions, ranking, and voting if there exists a conflict of interest.

### **Exceptions**

11. A maximum of two (2) athletes may be added to the team by the Director of High Performance and Events and the Ringette Canada Executive Director, upon their sole discretion, if the appointed athletes were unable to participate in mandatory events, competitions or evaluations due to illness, injury, other medical circumstance or personal, educational, or competitive commitments.
12. If unforeseen circumstances arise which do not allow for this selection process or its timelines to be implemented as planned, the Director of High Performance and Events reserves the right to identify an alternate process or alternate timelines. Should this occur, all eligible athletes will be notified of these changes in a timely manner.

### **Athlete Requirements to Remain Selected and Removal**

13. Upon selection and in order to remain on the National Team, an athlete must:
  - a) Sign a Team Member Agreement;
  - b) Provide to Ringette Canada all required documents;
  - c) Participate in all team events, activities, and meetings;
  - d) Ensure proper equipment, clothing, and funds;
  - e) Obey all rules established by Ringette Canada; and
  - f) Assist Ringette Canada in public relations and fundraising initiatives when requested.
14. Once selected to a team, an athlete may withdraw or be withdrawn for the following reasons:
  - a) Failure to satisfy the minimum training standards set out by the Head Coach;
  - b) Failure to adhere to team rules and Ringette Canada's *Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy*, and all other Ringette Canada policies;
  - c) Failure to remain competitive-ready leading up to the event. Athletes who do not remain competitive-ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury or illness may be removed from the team. It is the obligation of the athlete to immediately report any injury, illness or change in training that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level;

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- d) Voluntary withdrawal/retirement; or
- e) Fraudulent misrepresentation.

15. When an athlete is unable to meet training standards, competitive readiness, violates team rules or Ringette Canada policies, or provides fraudulent misrepresentations, the Ringette Canada Executive Director and Director of High Performance and Events will have the discretion to remove the athlete from the team and authorize the replacement of the athlete with another suitable candidate.
16. Ringette Canada will notify the athlete in writing that the athlete has been removed from the team and the rationale for the removal.

### **Funding**

17. Any money required to be contributed by the athlete must be paid to Ringette Canada as requested. Failure to pay such monies may result in the athlete's removal from the team.

### **Appeals**

18. Any appeal against a decision can be made in accordance with Ringette Canada's *Appeal Policy*.

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

**Date of last review: January 2017**

*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.*