



**LORL**  
LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

# LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

**POLICIES AND  
PROCEDURES**





## CONTENTS

### **RULES AND PROCEDURES**

|                                                                    |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <a href="#"><u>LORL Objectives</u></a> .....                       | 3  |
| <a href="#"><u>RO Policies</u></a> .....                           | 4  |
| <a href="#"><u>League Rules</u></a> .....                          | 5  |
| <a href="#"><u>Team Viability</u></a> .....                        | 5  |
| <a href="#"><u>Over Age Policy</u></a> .....                       | 6  |
| <a href="#"><u>FUN 2 (Children's Ringette)</u></a> .....           | 6  |
| <a href="#"><u>FUN 3 - U12 (Mixed Teams)</u></a> .....             | 7  |
| <a href="#"><u>U14-U19 Female only and Mixed leagues</u></a> ..... | 8  |
| <a href="#"><u>Adult 18+</u></a> .....                             | 10 |
| <a href="#"><u>Game Sheets</u></a> .....                           | 11 |
| <a href="#"><u>Fair Play Rules</u></a> .....                       | 11 |
| <a href="#"><u>Sportsmanlike Play</u></a> .....                    | 13 |
| <a href="#"><u>Rescheduling of Games</u></a> .....                 | 15 |
| <a href="#"><u>Reporting Games</u></a> .....                       | 16 |
| <a href="#"><u>Home Team Responsibilities</u></a> .....            | 16 |
| <a href="#"><u>Substitutions</u></a> .....                         | 17 |
| <a href="#"><u>Two Team Player Agreements</u></a> .....            | 18 |
| <a href="#"><u>Match and Misconduct Penalties</u></a> .....        | 19 |
| <a href="#"><u>Officials and Minor Officials</u></a> .....         | 21 |
| <a href="#"><u>Complaints</u></a> .....                            | 23 |
| <a href="#"><u>Year End Tournament Rules</u></a> .....             | 23 |
| <a href="#"><u>Appendix A (Tribunal Process)</u></a> .....         | 25 |
| <a href="#"><u>Appendix B (Discipline Process)</u></a> .....       | 32 |
| <a href="#"><u>Appendix C (U12 Team Formation)</u></a> .....       | 37 |



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

### **GOAL:**

The primary goal of the Lower Ontario Ringette League is to work cooperatively to create as many viable teams at each competition and age level within the Region as possible, and thereby ensuring that qualified players have a place to play.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To promote, govern and improve the sport of Ringette in and around South, Central and Western Ontario.
2. To encourage fun, sportsmanship, team play and a healthy competition in games.
3. To support affiliated clubs of LORL to create as many teams as possible at each age level and at each level of ability.
4. To strive for conditions conducive to the safety of all participants.
5. To stress respect for officials by participants, spectators and coaches.
6. To ensure mass participation and the opportunity for everyone to play in an atmosphere of fun.
7. To work cooperatively with all member clubs, and out-of-area clubs.

### **LORL AFFILIATION:**

LORL will be affiliated with Ringette Ontario (RO) and Ringette Canada (RC).

### **LEAGUE JURISDICTION:**

LORL will have jurisdiction over all players, coaches, officials and participants in the FUN programs, U12 A/B/C, U14-U19 B/C and 18+ level of play.

The term U12 in the remainder of this document shall imply all levels A/B/C.

The terms U14-U19 or terms U14, U16 or U19 in the remainder of this document shall imply all levels B/C.

The terms 18+ in the remainder of this document should imply all levels B/C.

### **ANNUAL FEES:**

LORL shall set the annual member fee for each season at the first meeting in September.

Any club not paying their team member fees and any outstanding fines by November



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

1st shall be suspended from play until these are paid in full.

A club bond of \$500 will be required for entry into LORL. This will be a one-time payment. If the bond amount is used to cover unpaid fines, the club must top up the bond to the \$500 level to remain in good standing in the league.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT:**

LORL requires all members follow and adhere to the Ringette Ontario code of conduct for all participants. Any violations will be considered a major infraction and the league will take appropriate disciplinary actions.

### **POLICIES:**

LORL will act in accordance with all Ringette Ontario policies, rules and guidelines, including by not limited to the following:

Confidentiality Policy

[Ringette Ontario Confidentiality Policy](#)

Conflict of Interest Policy

[RINGETTE ONTARIO CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY](#)

Team Staff Qualification Policy

[RINGETTE ONTARIO TEAM STAFF QUALIFICATION POLICY](#)

Code of Conduct Policies:

[ATHLETES CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS](#)

[COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS](#)

[CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ON-ICE OFFICIALS DESCRIPTION](#)

[Ringette Ontario Parent' Code of Conduct](#)

[RO Spectator Code of Conduct - BC ATHLETICS](#)

Rule of Two Policy

[Ringette Ontario Rule of Two Guidelines](#)

Safe Sport Policy

[RINGETTE ONTARIO SAFE SPORT POLICY](#)



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

### Social Media Policy

<https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/ringetteontariogames/files/Policies/Social-Media-Policy-NEW.pdf>

### Concussion Policy

[RINGETTE ONTARIO CONCUSSION POLICY](#)

### Return to Play Policy

[RETURN TO PLAY POLICY](#)

All policies are reviewed on an annual basis.

### LEAGUE RULES:

Ringette Canada (RC) and Ringette Ontario (RO) rules shall apply unless otherwise stated below.

LORL offers recreational Ringette in the following age groups/categories on a calendar year basis at the beginning of each playing season:

- FUN2 - Under 8 years of age (Mixed)
- FUN3 - Under 10 years of age (Mixed)
- U12 - Under 12 years of age (Mixed)
- U14 - Under 14 years of age (Female only and Mixed)
- U16 - Under 16 years of age (Female only and Mixed)
- U19 - Under 19 years of age (Female only and Mixed)
- 18+ - 18 years of age and older.

### TEAM VIABILITY

In order for teams to qualify for league play for FUN3 - U19, they must have a roster of a minimum of 11 players. ***Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis.***

All players (including players on a 2-team agreement) must be present for 50% of LORL league games (tournaments DO NOT count) in order to be eligible for the LORL year end championship. ***Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis and will only be considered in extenuating circumstances such as injury etc.***



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

### LORL Overaged Player Policy

To ensure fair play and uphold the integrity of competition within the Lake Ontario Ringette League (LORL), the following policy governs the approval and participation of overaged players:

#### 1. Request Process

- All requests for overaged players **must be submitted directly to LORL** using the official Overaged Player Request Form, available on the LORL website.
- **No player may participate as overaged without prior approval** from LORL.
- Once reviewed and approved by LORL, the request will be forwarded to **Ringette Ontario** for final approval.

#### 2. Eligibility Criteria

- A **maximum of four (4) overaged player requests per team** will be considered per season.
- **Overaged male players will not be approved** under any circumstances. Male players must participate in their designated age group or higher.
- **There are no automatic approvals**, even if the request involves two (2) or fewer players.
- All requests are subject to **individual review** and may be **denied at the discretion of LORL and/or Ringette Ontario**.

#### 3. Additional Notes

- Coaches and team managers are encouraged to submit requests **well in advance** of the season start to allow sufficient time for review.
- Incomplete or late submissions may result in automatic denial.
- Decisions made by LORL and Ringette Ontario are **final**.

### FUN2 (CHILDREN'S RINGETTE)

#### Ice Submission

- Games are 1 period of 30 minute maximum run-time - requires 1 hour of ice time (stoppage of play every 2 minutes for line changes)
- All games are played on half ice surfaces (See Childrens' Ringette policy and rules)
- LORL will strive for a 16 game season - 8 first half and 8 second half



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

- The club must be able to provide a minimum of 12 ice times/team as 1-hour blocks between November 1st and March 30th.
- Clubs may add FUN2 teams in the second half if they choose. If so, the club must be able to provide 8 ice times/team.
- FUN2 games may only be scheduled on weekends with start times between the hours of 10am and 6pm.
- Any rescheduled games would be at the discretion of the two teams and do not necessarily have to follow prescribed times.

### FUN2 Game Play

- LORL will follow the Ringette Canada guideline to Children's Ringette [Children's Ringette Guidelines](#).
- For game play at the FUN2 level, ice will be set-up as described in the Ringette Canada Guide to FUN Jamborees. This will allow for consistency during league play and at tournaments. [Ringette Canada Jamboree Guide](#)
- No score will be kept.
- Clubs may assign an official or coaches can act as officials during game play.
- Any club not following the ½ ice mandate style of play will be fined \$250. Subsequent violations will result in the removal from LORL.

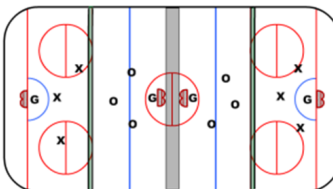
The following diagram outlines how the ice will be set-up for games during league play. This will be followed by all clubs with FUN2 teams in LORL.

## Half-Ice Games

Half-ice games were intended to be a progression up from Cross-ice games. These games begin to add game concepts, rules and positions.

### Game Logistics:

1. Games are played 4 on 4 (or 4 on 5, or 5 on 5, depending on the numbers of participants and circumstances of each team.)
2. Games are played running time to a max of 30 minutes of game time.
3. The nets are set with one in the usual crease and one in half of the centre circle.
4. It is optimal for each group to have a full line change on the bench so that players can change lines, get a water break and experience cheering on their team mates.
5. There is no score kept and there are no team standings.



### Official Game Rules:

1. Goalies are introduced at this stage and are to be rotated every shift.
2. There are no Forward, Defense or Centre in this first format.
3. Line changes take place every 2-3 minutes via a whistle.
4. The Goalies Crease is taught and reasonably enforced.
5. It is encouraged that coaches either colour a passing line approximately half way between the creases, or players are instructed to pass to a team mate over the ringette line.—This is to teach and encourage the **concept** of passing to a team mate to advance down the ice.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

### TEAM FORMATION:

The following procedures are based on the guidelines provided by Ringette Ontario.

<https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/ringetteontariogames/files/Ringette-Ontario-Team-Formation-Guidelines-23-24.pdf>

### FUN3 - U12 (MIXED TEAMS)

#### Ice Submission

- Games are 2 periods of 15 minutes each requiring 1 hour of ice. Ten home games are required to be scheduled per team.
- The club must be able to provide a minimum of 15 ice times/team as 1-hour blocks between the 2nd week of October and March 30th.
- Submitted ice times must allow teams to play games within the following time frames:
  - Weekdays 6pm - 9pm
  - Weekends 10am - 9pm
  - No ice during Christmas break (Weekends at either end of the break can be used)
- FUN3 - cannot be scheduled to start later than 7pm
- U12 no later start than 7pm on weekdays and 8pm on weekends

#### ***Blackout Dates***

- Blackout dates are for tournaments only, other events at your home arena or association wide events. Blackout dates will not be accepted for either end of March break or Family day weekend. This is what substitution requests are for.

#### ***FUN3 Team Formation and Loops***

- All FUN 3 teams will be categorized as mixed.
- It is recommended that teams at the FUN3 level should have rosters less than 15 when possible.
- If a club is hosting two or more FUN3 programs, the teams **must be balanced**. If it is discovered that teams are not balanced, players can be moved between the teams to get a better balance.
- Loops will be created based on geography first, then standings, with geography being given the top priority.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

- If, based on standings in the second half, teams would require more travel, the team(s) in question would have to agree to the travel.

### ***U12 Team Formation and loops***

- All U12 teams will be categorized as mixed.
- Ringette Ontario encourages smaller roster sizes for U12 Club teams to facilitate increased ring touches, player engagement and overall enjoyment of the game.
- All U12 teams will have the opportunity to play in the RO U12 year end event if they choose to do so.
- For further information on U12 team formation please refer to ***Appendix C in this document.***
- Loops will be created based on level (A/B/C) when possible
- Geography (1st half priority 1, 2nd half priority 2)
- Standings (2nd half priority 1)

### **U14-U19 FEMALE ONLY AND MIXED LEAGUE**

#### **Female Only and Mixed Leagues**

In accordance with the policies of Ringette Canada and Ringette Ontario, LORL will offer Female Only and Mixed Team Divisions at the U14, U16 and U19 divisions. Each year LORL will evaluate what leagues we will be able to offer.

#### **2025/2026 - LORL will be mixed for U14-U19.**

***Female divisions*** will include teams categorized as female, meaning all players on the team either identify as female or as non-binary athletes.

***Mixed divisions*** will include teams categorized as mixed, meaning the athletes on the team are composed of a combination of male, female, and/or non-binary athletes.

In accordance with Human Rights Law and the direction provided by Ringette Canada and Ringette Ontario, female players at the U14-U19 age group have the right to choose to play on a female only team or a mixed team. Female only teams must have the choice to play against mixed teams.

If a club is choosing to offer a mixed team from U14-U19, they must ensure all females on the team want to play on a mixed team. If any female does not want to play on a



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

mixed team, she must be released to the closest female only team. If there are not enough females willing to play on a mixed team, then the club must release the male player(s) to the next closest mixed team.

### ***U14-U19 Ice Submission***

- Games are 2 periods of 15 minutes each requiring 1 hour of ice. Ten home games are required to be scheduled per team.
- LORL will strive to have 12 games in the first half and 8 games in the second half to account for more tournaments in the second half causing reduced team and official availability.
- The club must be able to provide a minimum of 15 ice times/team as 1-hour blocks between the 1st week of October and March 16th.
- Blackout dates are for tournaments only, other events at your home arena or association wide events. Blackout dates will not be accepted for either end of March break or Family day weekend. This is what substitution requests are for.
- Submitted ice times must allow teams to play games within the following time frames:
  - Weekdays 6pm - 9pm
  - Weekends 10am - 9pm
  - No ice during Christmas break (Weekends at either end of the break can be used)
- U14, U16 and U19 can be scheduled at any time between the required submitted times.
- Any rescheduled games would be at the discretion of the 2 teams and do not necessarily have to follow prescribed times.
- The club should have access to schedule at least two officials with Level 2 credentials or above if hosting U19 as per the Ringette Ontario guideline:  
<https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/ringetteontariogames/files/Officials/Certification-and-Evaluation-Officials-Chart-V2.2.pdf>
- Clubs that are unable to meet the requirements outlined have three options:
  - Consider reducing the number of teams in the club or creating tournament teams only
  - Have a reduced game schedule
  - Have more “away” games - however the team would still be considered home and have to pay for the ice time, officials and minor officials at the rate of the hosting club.
- Home association is responsible for ensuring officials are scheduled.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

### U14-U19 Female only League

- Teams will be asked to declare as a female only team and will also be asked if they are willing to play against mixed teams, if necessary, before September 8th.
- In cases where clubs will be hosting more than one team at an age group, the club may choose to balance the teams (two B teams or two C teams) or tier the teams (one B and one C team). In either scenario, players must be evaluated by experienced and non-biased evaluators. Please see the Ringette Ontario Guidelines for further explanations and examples.
- It will be the goal of LORL for teams to see as many opponents as possible to ensure meaningful and competitive play at the year-end tournament.
- Based on level (B/C)
- Standings (2nd half only)
- Geography (only considered if there are 16 or more teams in any grouping)

### U14-U19 Mixed League

- Teams will be asked to declare as a mixed team before September 8th, 2024
- In cases where clubs will be hosting more than one team at an age group, the club may choose to balance the teams (two B teams or two C teams) or tier the teams (one B and one C team). In either scenario, players must be evaluated by experienced and non-biased evaluators. Please see the Ringette Ontario Guidelines for further explanations and examples.
- It will be the goal of LORL for teams to see as many opponents as possible to ensure meaningful and competitive play at the year-end championship.
- Based on level (B/C)
- Standings (2nd half only)
- Geography (only considered if there are 12 or more teams in any grouping)
- 51% of skaters on the ice must identify as female or X gender, while goalies will be excluded from this calculation. Under this model, the maximum number of male skaters permitted during 5 v 5 play would be two and when playing short-handed it will be one.
- A minimum of two mixed teams at any age group are needed for participation at the year end tournament unless female-only teams agree to play against mixed teams



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

### ADULT 18+

- The adult standing committee, in consultation with the 18+ teams, will recommend loops

### GAMESHEETS

All LORL games FUN3 and above will be recorded using RAMP Gamesheets. It is the responsibility of each team and club to ensure the scorekeeper at each game is trained on the app. Below are gamesheet resource materials created by Ringette Ontario.

<https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/ringetteontariogames/files/Ringette-Ontario-Provincial-RAMP-GameSheet-App-Guide.pdf>

<https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/ringetteontariogames/files/Electronic-gamesheets-For-Timekeepers.pdf>

<https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/ringetteontariogames/files/RAMP-GAMESHEETS-Questions-and-Answers.pdf>

Scores displayed on the scoreboard at any given game will only show a maximum of a 7-point spread.

### FAIR PLAY RULES

1. LORL supports the Ringette Ontario guidelines on fair play found here: [RO Fair Play Guidelines](#). Following the spirit of the guideline, LORL has added rules outlined below with possible consequences for the following reasons:
2. **Sportsmanship:** Fairplay rules promote good sportsmanship, encouraging players to compete fairly and respect their opponents, officials and the game itself.
3. **Game Integrity:** Fairplay rules help maintain the integrity of the game, ensuring the outcome is determined by skill and strategy rather than unfair tactics.
4. **Player Development:** Fairplay rules contribute to positive development of players, teaching them important skills such as teamwork, respect and resilience.
5. **Spectator Experience:** Fairplay rules enhance the spectator experience by ensuring that the game is exciting and fair for all involved.

Overall, fairplay rules are essential for creating a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for everyone participating in or watching a Ringette game.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

|                                             | FUN 3 & Under | U12      | U14      | U16      | U19      |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Game Type                                   | Regional      | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional |
| League Development Games (before Dec. 31st) | E             | E        | E        | E        | E        |
| League Competition (after Jan. 1st)         | E             | E        | D2       | D2       | D2       |
| Regionals                                   | E             | D1       | D2       | D3       | D3       |

### **EQUAL (E)**

Is defined as equal ice-time every game to the best of the coach, allowing for the uncertainty in the frequency in stoppages of play. Exceptions will be made where lines are not balanced:

Example: 4 defence, 2 centres, 5 forwards. The expectation is that those playing in the positions receive equal ice time - no “shortening the bench.”

### **DISCRETION 1 (D1)**

Is defined as equal ice time every game, however, there is the ability for a coach to use select players in the last two (2) minutes of regulation time and overtime.

### **DISCRETION 2 (D2)**

Is defined as equal ice time every game, however, there is the ability for a coach to use select players in the last two (2) minutes of regulation time, overtime and any situation that does not require five (5) skaters vs. five (5) skaters.

### **DISCRETION 3 (D3)**

Is defined as equal ice time every game, however, there is the ability for a coach to use select players in the last two (2) minutes of regulation time, overtime and any situation that does not require five (5) skaters vs. five (5) skaters. Further, coaches have the ability to use players anytime during post round robin play as they decide.

### **GOALTENDERS**

Goaltenders have the option of changing at half-time of each game or playing full games as long as they have equal game time throughout a season and/or tournament. Goaltenders are restricted to a one game differential throughout the season and during tournaments. Further, coaches have the ability to use goaltenders anytime during the post round robin play as they decide. There is an expectation that throughout the season, each player will have accumulated approximately the same amount of ice time,



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

to the best abilities of the coach.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

Ensuring fair play **IS NOT** the responsibility of officials. This is impossible to police during game play by officials. No coach will make a complaint to officials during game play.

The process will be as follows:

**STEP ONE:** The Head coach will inform his/her club's president in writing who will then forward to the LORL Complaints and Discipline Committee.

**STEP TWO:** The LORL C&D Committee will forward the complaint to the offending coach's club president.

**STEP THREE:** The offending club will investigate, discipline the coach appropriately and inform the LORL C&D Committee of the actions taken. LORL reserves the right to impose a stricter form of discipline.

Subsequent complaints will lead to consequences levied by LORL at which time LORL will follow the Discipline Process as outlined in Appendix B.

***If a team or coach feels the process has not been fair, they may request a tribunal to investigate. [See Appendix A](#)***

### **SPORTSMANLIKE PLAY**

Ringette is a mass participation team sport that encourages the physical, mental, social, and moral development of individual participants within the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, personal excellence and enjoyment.

It is the head coach's responsibility to ensure that bench staff, players and spectators treat opponents and officials with respect in victory and defeat and encourage athletes to act accordingly. They are to actively encourage athletes to uphold the rules of Ringette and the spirit of such rules.

The following are traditions and conventions of Ringette - it is a coach's responsibility to instil the following with his/her players:

***Fair Play:*** Play with honour and integrity. Respect your opponents and the officials. Don't break the rules on purpose because you can "get away with it".

***Cheering:*** Recognize great effort, plays or moves on both teams especially goaltenders.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

Appreciate the effort of all the participants – build confidence and self-esteem.

- Be aware of excessive cheering if there is a large goal differential.
- Teams should not cheer when a penalty is assessed.

***Prevention of injury:*** Do not play with reckless abandon. Play at the intensity level your physical skills permit. Aggressive play without skill is reckless.

### ***Player Injury:***

- If the play is stopped for a player injury, immediately retreat to your team's bench.
- When the player stands or is assisted from the ice surface, it is tradition to tap your stick in applause to show concern and support for the injured player.
- This is NOT THE TIME to strategize with your team - this is not a timeout!

### ***Accidents Happen:***

- If you commit an error, for example take a minor penalty that may have hurt someone, apologize at the stop of play and ask if they are okay.
- If you are injured, gracefully accept the apology knowing it was not done in a mean-spirited way.

***Discrimination (Gender, Racial, Sexual Orientation, etc.):*** Is not permissible under any circumstances.

### ***Emotional Stability/Development:***

- Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and need to support their emotional development.
- Coaches should be aware of their team's emotional stability and intervene as required to stabilize the group.
- Frustrated or angry players need to sit out until they are calm enough to play.
- Angry outbursts have no place in the sport of ringette.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

If a team is not following the traditions and conventions of Ringette, a complaint may be filed following the same process under [Fair Play Rules](#).



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

### SPECTATOR AND ADULT CONDUCT POLICY

The Lower Ontario Ringette League (LORL) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all participants. While many league complaints involve player conduct, an increasing number of concerns relate to the behaviour of adults, including spectators, bench staff, and other team representatives. This trend is consistent across amateur sport and is not unique to ringette.

LORL expects all adults attending or participating in league activities to demonstrate respectful and sportsmanlike behaviour at all times. Abuse, harassment, intimidation, or inappropriate conduct directed toward officials, players, coaches, volunteers, or other spectators, as well as behaviour occurring in the presence of players that is deemed inappropriate by the League, will not be tolerated.

Because LORL volunteers cannot be present at all games, the League relies on Member Associations to support and enforce standards of conduct. In addition to any penalties assessed by game officials under applicable rules, the following progressive discipline process will apply to incidents involving adult misconduct:

#### First Offence

- The matter will be referred to the individual's Association for investigation and disciplinary action in accordance with the Association's policies and procedures.
- This is in addition to any sanctions imposed by game officials at the time of the incident.

#### Second Offence

- A fine of **\$1,000** will be assessed to the team associated with the offending individual.
- The team will be ineligible to participate in any LORL-sanctioned games or activities until the fine has been paid in full.

#### Third Offence

- The team will be prohibited from attending or participating in the LORL Year-End Event.
- If the offending individual is a member of the bench staff, that individual will be prohibited from appearing on any Team Registration Form (TRF) in any capacity within LORL for a period of **three (3) years**.

LORL reserves the right to impose additional disciplinary measures, including immediate suspensions or other sanctions, where the severity of the conduct warrants a stronger response.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

This policy is intended to promote a culture of respect, accountability, and sportsmanship throughout the League.

### RESCHEDULING OF GAMES:

All teams are expected to adhere to the provided LORL schedule. If games need to be rescheduled due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., inclement weather or lack of officials), this must be communicated between head coaches and a game change form submitted on the LORL website by the home club.

Inclement weather - when it comes to inclement weather, it is better to err on the side of player safety. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach of the team cancelling the game to contact the other team Head Coach as soon as possible to confirm the decision to cancel due to inclement weather. The teams involved must NOT assume that the other team knows of the inclement weather. If the home team is not advised appropriately and in a timely manner, a fine may be levied. ***Be sure to also inform the scheduled officials and minor officials.***

The club of a team that forfeits a scheduled LORL game will automatically be fined \$500 and a score of 4-0 will be recorded. The club must pay this fine within 30 days. An Association may appeal the fine to the LORL Executive for a refundable fee of \$100 (see Appeals Policy).

A club may present its case to the LORL Complaints Committee, chaired by the LORL Vice President. If the appeal is approved, and the fine is cancelled, the fee will be refunded. If the fine is not cancelled, the club must pay the \$500 fine immediately (in addition to the \$100 appeal fee). If the fine is not paid, LORL may take appropriate disciplinary action, including expulsion of the team/Association.

Of the \$500 fine, \$250 will be paid to the club of the other team involved in the cancelled or forfeited game to compensate for ice costs and officials if it is a home game.

When a cancellation has been agreed upon, the home club must offer three alternative ice times, and the visitor club must respond within 48 hours or forfeit the game. This includes games cancelled due to inclement weather or lack of officials.

A team that fails to play a scheduled league game, after being given three alternative dates to replay the game, will be subject to a fine of \$250 (first occurrence), \$350 (second occurrence) and \$500 (third and subsequent occurrences), payable to LORL by



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

the offending club and further disciplinary action may accompany the fine where deemed necessary.

Timeline: the resolution (game being rescheduled) must be made within 2 weeks of the originally scheduled game where possible. If not resolved, then the appropriate Executive member(s) will be called to take action.

If by the end of the season all games to be rescheduled are not played and reasonable efforts were tried to reschedule the game, the team initially cancelling the game is declared to have forfeit the game in question.

### REPORTING OF RESULTS

- The home club is responsible for ensuring game results are reported on the LORL RAMP game portal (<https://admin.rampcms.com/login>) within 24 hours of the scheduled start time of the game. The reported score **should not** show goals greater than a 7-goal differential.
- A warning will be issued if a score is not reported within 24 hours. If more than 3 late scores are accumulated, a \$100 fine will be levied to the home club. If an error is made in a score, it is the home team's responsibility to make the change. In forfeited games, the score shall be recorded as a 4-0 game with the winning team awarded two points in the standings.

### THE HOME TEAM

- The home team shall be the team listed first in the league schedule and identified as the "Home Team".
- The home team shall be responsible for the game officials, scorekeepers, timekeepers, and shot clock operators (U12 and up) during LORL league play regularly scheduled games.
- The team rosters are the responsibility of the coaching staff on each team. Last name followed by first initial (first name is preferred) is mandatory.
- All substitute players must be indicated by selecting "associated player" in the RAMP Game Sheet app.
- The home team shall have the choice of uniforms in the event of a colour conflict. A team that does not comply will be levied a fine of \$100.

### AWARDING OF POINTS

- Two points shall be awarded to the winning team following completion of a LORL game and 0 points to the losing team.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

- There shall be no overtime played for tie games during the regular season. Each team will receive one point.
- In the event of a tie in points for standings at the end of the season, Ringette Ontario tie breaking procedures will be used.
- For a game that is at risk of a curfew, the home team must make the visiting team aware prior to the start of the game.

### SUBSTITUTIONS

LORL will follow Ringette Ontario substitution rules found here: [RO Substitution Rules](#) regarding player eligibility.

A team may call up enough players to bring its roster up to twelve (12) skaters maximum, but not to exceed its number of registered players shown on their TRF.

A team may call up a player within the same Association or from another Association as a substitute for a missing player but may only call up the same player a maximum of five (5) times during the season.

In LORL, any player can be a substitute player eight (8) times per season for multiple teams, but may only sub for the same team five (5) times.

***\*Note: The five (5) game limit does not apply to goaltenders - they are unlimited***

To align with Ringette Ontario rules, players may be called up from the same age division or one lower, same calibre or less; or one calibre higher only, one age division lower.

For example, U16B can call up a player from U16B or U16C, U14A or U14B/C. U14C can call up a player from U14C, U12B or C.

If substitutes cannot be found from the above guidelines, coaches may choose players from 2 or more age/level

When replacement players for a game are required, you must notify LORL's Competitions Director ([competitions@lorl.ca](mailto:competitions@lorl.ca)) to ensure they are aware of the player being requested.

The email must specify the team, the name of the call up and what team they are registered with, along with the game number, date, time, and division of the game. Note that these procedures apply to league games only.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

Coaches should only be calling up players (following call up rules) who will not make a competitive difference for their team.

Teams requiring multiple substitutes may only have a maximum of two (2) lateral players (Example: for U16B this would include U16B and U14A, for U14B this would include U14B and U12A etc.)

If a team cannot find adequate substitutes by following the above guidelines, coaches may ask a player two age groups/levels below. This will be at the coach's and club's discretion.

All substitute players must be indicated by selecting "Associated Player (AP)" in the RAMP Game Sheet app.

For tournament substitution rules, refer to the Ringette Ontario Operating Resources/Player Substitutions for Invitational Tournaments document.

*The use of an ineligible player will result in the game being defaulted and could result in fines.*

### **Fines for improper use of substitutes will be as follows:**

- More than five (5) games substituted by 1 player - \$500 fine to violating team and suspension of player for one (1) league game.
- Violation of any substitution rules will result in a forfeit of the game. Important: It is the responsibility of the receiving club President or designated replacement, the receiving Team Head Coach, or designated replacement (this is the club/team that the player being called up to substitute will be playing a game for) to ensure that the called-up substitute player has not exceeded playing more than five (5) games for any team during LORL play.

### **TWO TEAM PLAYER AGREEMENTS**

Two team player agreements can only apply to agreements between a regional team and a provincial team. Two team player agreements **cannot** exist between two regional teams. As per RO rules, a two team player is considered a full time player on both teams and will participate fully with both teams.

[RO Two Team Agreement Policy](#)



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

All two team player agreements must be submitted to the LORL Competition Director and Division Director no later than Nov. 15. All paperwork must be submitted for the agreement to be valid.

### [RO Two Team Agreement Form](#)

#### MISCONDUCT AND MATCH PENALTIES (as defined by Ringette Ontario)

Following any game (league or tournament) in which an expulsion penalty is assessed (“Misconduct” or “Match”) to a participant on either team, both head coaches must report the occurrence on the LORL website which will be shared with the Competitions Director.

These reports must be made within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident occurring, or prior to the team’s next game, whichever is earlier. Coaches should also note that the requirement to contact the Competitions Director applies to any game (including exhibition games), not just LORL league games.

**Misconduct Penalties:** A misconduct penalty results in a next game suspension regardless of when the player or coaching staff received it and is subject to review by the Home club of the offending player(s) and/or coaching staff and may be subject to further sanctions by the LORL Complaints & Discipline Committee. Recurrence in the same season by the same player or same coaching staff shall result in an automatic three (3) game suspension and be subject to a League Judicial Hearing which could result in expulsion of the offender for the remainder of the season.

***Per Ringette Ontario Competition Playing Rules article 4.8:*** 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 they will be suspended for the next regularly scheduled game in league or tournament. Bench staff cannot attend any team functions, practices or exhibition games until the suspension is served. For further information access the link on page 23.

#### **Match Penalties: Players**

Match Penalties will result in:

- A. Automatic two (2) game suspension if received during the game.
- B. Automatic three (3) game suspension if received after the game or after the player in question has been asked to leave the ice and return to the dressing room.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

Re-occurrence by the same player (A) results in an automatic four (4) game suspension and of (B) results in an automatic six (6) game suspension and is subject to a League Judicial Hearing.

All hearings are to be convened within ten (10) days of the penalty being assessed.

### **Match Penalties: Bench Staff**

Match Penalties will result in:

- A. Automatic three (3) game suspension if received during the game.
- B. Automatic five (5) game suspension if received after the game or after the coach in question has been asked to leave the playing surface.

Re-occurrence by the same coaching staff of (A) results in an automatic five (5) game suspension and of (B) results in an automatic ten (10) game suspension and is subject to a League Judicial Hearing.

All hearings are to be convened within ten (10) days of the penalty being assessed.

All game suspensions are to be served in the next one (1), two (2), three (3), or more consecutive number of games in both league and tournament play (not including any Exhibition Games) depending upon the number of suspended games.

Please note that if there is a tournament that the player's team is registered in, which occurs during the period of the suspension, the player will have to serve the suspension during the tournament until the suspension is complete.

This is monitored between the League and Ringette Ontario.

***If any club gives additional penalties to bench staff or players they are to notify LORL's Competition Director.***

### **Excessive Penalties:**

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.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

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 on the LORL website within twenty-four (24) hours by both teams, or prior to the next scheduled game – whichever is sooner.

If a club does not report or comply with the above, it will be subject to suspension by the League for the rest of the season.

Altercations occurring off-ice, e.g., on the way to the dressing room, shall be subject to review by the League Judicial Committee regardless of whether a match or misconduct penalty is imposed. These altercations occurring off-ice must be reported to the game official immediately.

In the event a match, misconduct penalty or altercation results in a League Judicial Review of the actions of any player or any member of the coaching staff, the Head Coach is also personally subject to review and discipline.

### **Notes:**

- A. Players or bench staff receiving their second or third match or misconduct penalties in the same season are subject to greater suspensions.
- B. It is the responsibility of the home club of the players or people involved to ensure all suspensions are fully served.

For all other Competition Playing Rules please refer to:

[COMPETITION RINGETTE ONTARIO PLAYING RULES](#)

### **ON-ICE OFFICIALS AND MINOR OFFICIALS**

All games FUN3 and up are to be officiated by two officials certified and in good standing as a member of Ringette Ontario. It is recommended that at least one ice official shall be of the level determined by the game.

Home clubs are responsible for supplying shot clock operators - it is the recommendation of LORL that these be paid individuals (\$15/game) to ensure properly trained minor officials are used.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

In order to ensure consistency throughout LORL, officials will be paid the following per game:

FUN2 - \$25 per game (if using an official)

FUN3 - \$25 per game per official

U12-U14 - \$30 per game per official

U16-U19 - \$35 per game per official

If clubs choose to pay their officials a higher rate than listed above, they may choose to do so.

For travel costs, clubs may choose to pay a flat travel rate for outside officials or a rate based on KM. Clubs can then apply to LORL for reimbursement for these costs at the end of the year so that smaller, distant clubs are not at a disadvantage.

### ***Abuse of Officials***

LORL very seriously takes any complaints regarding abuse of officials by coaches, players, and parents. Any incident involving officials falls under the jurisdiction of LORL.

The following procedure shall be followed:

- A. Clubs are to notify their Referee-In-Chief immediately in cases of incidents involving an official, who will in turn notify the League Officiating Director
- B. Once a complaint has been launched, the person who is implicated in the complaint shall not be allowed on the bench until the issue is resolved at the League
- C. The complaint must be found to be non-frivolous – supported by other bench staff, minor official, head coach or a member of any Executive, League or Club

As with other disciplinary matters, investigation and potential tribunal will happen as soon as is reasonably possible.

Details on the discipline committee and procedures can be found in Appendix A of this document.

## **CLUBS**



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

Any fines levied on LORL by Ringette Ontario as a result of actions or omissions of a member club shall be paid for by the club that was the cause of the fine.

All Team or club fines must be paid before the team or teams in question are allowed to remain in good standing.

### **COMPLAINTS**

Teams must address all complaints, except those regarding on-ice officials (see next section), through their appropriate club League Representative. Their representative will then contact the League Convener.

No parents or coaches are allowed to call any member of the LORL Executive. All complaints etc. must go through their club Representative first, who will report it via ["complaints@lorl.ca"](mailto:complaints@lorl.ca)

All league complaints will follow the complaints process outlined in Appendix B.

### ***Complaints Regarding On-Ice Officials***

The Officiating Director shall consider all matters relating to discipline of officials. Complaints regarding officiating in a particular club must be filed with the team's local club first, then submitted by the club's representative to the LORL Officiating Director and/or the LORL Chair who will investigate or monitor the situation with the local Referee-in-Chief.

### **YEAR END TOURNAMENT RULES:**

#### ***Tournament Hosts:***

Any association wishing to host the LORL year end tournament must fill out the host package. These are due June 1st. [LORL 2025-2026 Year End Event Package](#)

#### ***Eligibility: Teams from LORL***

All players (including players on a 2-team agreement) must be present for 50% of LORL league games (tournaments DO NOT count) in order to be eligible for the LORL year end tournament. ***Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis and will only be considered in extenuating circumstances such as injury etc.***

#### ***Eligibility: Teams from outside LORL***



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

Any team can join if they pay tournament fees and have paid appropriate RO fees and are a registered team with RO or an association – this includes, but is not limited to, FUN2 teams that have not played in league, tournament teams at any age group that have played in at least 2 tournaments, or teams formed from “house league”. These teams will be seeded in the appropriate groupings at the year-end tournament based on available statistics, or evaluation by LORL members and home associations. All players on these teams must have played in 50% of the games the teams participated in (except FUN 2 where no games have been played).

### ***Call Up Rules for the LORL Year End Tournament***

The LORL Year End Tournament is a Ringette Ontario Sanctioned Event. As such, all call-ups and player substitutions, including goalies, for this event must follow the same rules, process, and approvals as those for a tournament.

Call-ups cannot be from another team that is also participating in the LORL Year End Tournament.

All substitutions must be approved by LORL and sent to the RO contact. A TRF adjustment form must also be submitted. Further details will be provided to all coaches before the start of the tournament.

**Call-ups may be allowed** but only to a total of ten (10) skaters on the game sheet. For example, if you have twelve (12) skaters on your team's TRF and are missing three (3) skaters, you may only call up one (1) skater for a total of ten (10).

No team shall have more than one (1) Provincial level player as a call up. This Provincial level player must have the most comparable skill level to the team for which they will play.

Substitute goalies may only be used to substitute for the designated goalie on the team.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

### APPENDIX A

#### TRIBUNAL PROCESS

If at any time a player, coach or club has a grievance with LORL, they may opt for a tribunal. The tribunal will be conducted by the Complaints Committee and chaired by the LORL Vice Chair or designate.

LORL will follow the process outlined by Ringette Ontario, but within the league as outlined below.

Tribunals require a fee to be paid by the complainant in the amount of \$250. This fee will be refundable if the final result is in favour of the complainant. For more information click here: [RO Appeal Policy](#)

#### Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:

- a) **“Appellant”** – The Party appealing a decision
- b) **“Respondent”** – The body whose decision is being appealed
- c) **“Parties”** – The Appellant, Respondent, and any other Individuals affected by the appeal
- d) **“Days”** – Days including weekends and holidays
- e) **“Individuals”** – All categories of member defined in LORL’s Bylaws, as well as all individuals engaged in activities with LORL including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, convenors, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, Directors, and Officers of LORL, spectators at events, and parents/guardians of athletes
- f) **“Case Manager”** – An individual appointed by LORL who may be an executive member, committee member, volunteer, director, or an independent third party, to oversee the application of this Appeal Policy to a particular case. The Case Manager will have responsibilities that include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Ensuring procedural fairness;
  - ii. Respecting the applicable timelines; and



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

- iii. Using decision making authority empowered by this Policy.

### **Purpose**

2. LORL is committed to providing an environment in which all Individuals involved with the organization are treated with respect and fairness. LORL provides Individuals with this Policy to enable fair, affordable, and expedient resolution of disputes and appeals of certain decisions made by LORL officials.

### **Alternate Dispute Resolution**

3. LORL encourages all Individuals to communicate openly, collaborate, and use problem-solving and negotiation techniques to resolve their differences. Negotiated resolutions to disputes with and among Individuals are strongly encouraged.

### **Scope and Application of this Policy**

4. This Policy applies to all Individuals. Any Individual who is directly affected by a decision by LORL shall have the right to appeal that decision provided there are sufficient grounds for the appeal under the 'Grounds for Appeal' section of this Policy.

5. This Policy will apply to disputes and decisions relating to:

- a) Conflict of Interest
- b) Discipline & Complaints
- c) Membership
- d) Player Transfer/Release
- e) LORL Fines, particularly as related to any of the above

6. This Policy will not apply to decisions relating to:

- a) The rules of Ringette and other policies or procedures over which LORL has no control
- b) Selection criteria, quotas, policies, and procedures established by entities other than LORL, including without limitation, substance, content and establishment of team selection criteria and volunteer/coach appointments and the withdrawal or termination of those appointments, which are handled at the club level
- c) Decisions or discipline arising within the business, activities, or events organized by entities other than LORL (appeals of these decisions shall be dealt



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

with pursuant to the policies of those other entities unless requested and accepted by LORL at its sole discretion)

- d) LORL's operational structure and committee appointments
- e) Commercial matters for which another appeals process exists under a contract or applicable law
- f) Decisions made under this Policy

### **Timing of Appeal**

7. Individuals who wish to appeal a decision have fourteen (14) days from the date on which they received notice of the decision being appealed to submit, in writing to "complaints@lorl.ca", the following:

- a) Notice of the intention to appeal
- b) Contact information and status (i.e., parent, player, coach, club) of the appellant
- c) Name of the respondent and any affected parties, when known to the Appellant
- d) Date the appellant was advised of the decision being appealed
- e) A copy of the decision being appealed, if available
- f) Detailed reasons for the appeal
- g) Any evidence that supports these grounds
- h) Requested remedy or remedies

8. An Individual who wishes to initiate an appeal beyond the fourteen (14) day period must provide a written request stating the reasons for an exemption. The decision to allow, or not allow an appeal outside of the fourteen (14) day period will be at the sole discretion of the Appeal Board and may not be appealed.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

### Grounds for Appeal

9. A decision cannot be appealed on its merits alone. An appeal may only be heard if there are sufficient grounds for appeal. Sufficient grounds include that the Respondent:

- a) Exceeding Jurisdiction: Made a decision that it did not have the authority or jurisdiction (as set out in the Respondent's governing documents) to make
- b) Failure of Due Process: Failed to follow its own procedures (as set out in the Respondent's governing documents)
- c) Bias: Made a decision that was influenced by bias (where bias is defined as a lack of neutrality to such an extent that the decision-maker appears not to have considered other views)
- d) Misapprehension of Fact: Failed to consider relevant information or took into account irrelevant information in making the decision
- e) Made a decision that was grossly unreasonable

10. In order to be successful in an Appeal, the Appellant must demonstrate, on a balance of probabilities, that the Respondent has conducted themselves in a way that provides a 'Ground for Appeal' as noted above.

### Screening of Appeal

11. Upon receiving the notice of the appeal, the fee, and all other information (outlined in the 'Timing of Appeal' section of this Policy), LORL will appoint an independent Case Manager (who must not be in a conflict of interest) who has the following responsibilities:

- a) Determine if the appeal was submitted in a timely manner
- b) Decide whether there are sufficient grounds for the appeal

12. If the appeal is denied on the basis of insufficient grounds or because it was not submitted in a timely manner, the Appellant will be notified, in writing, of the reasons for this decision. This decision may not be appealed.

13. If the Case Manager is satisfied there are sufficient grounds for an appeal, the Case Manager will appoint an Appeals Panel of three persons to hear the appeal. The three-person Appeal Panel will be formed from members of the LORL board who are



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

not in conflict or independent parties that are familiar with Ringette or a combination of the two.

### **Procedure for Appeal Hearing**

14. The Case Manager shall notify the Parties that the appeal will be heard. The Case Manager shall then decide the format under which the appeal will be heard. This decision is at the sole discretion of the Case Manager and may not be appealed.

15. If a Party chooses not to participate in the hearing, the hearing will proceed in any event.

16. The format of the hearing may involve an oral in-person hearing, an oral hearing by telephone or other electronic means, a hearing based on a review of documentary evidence submitted in advance of the hearing, or a combination of these methods. The hearing will be governed by the procedures that the Case Manager and the Panel deem appropriate in the circumstances, provided that:

- a) The hearing will be held within a timeline determined by the Case Manager acting reasonably in the circumstances
- b) The Parties will be given reasonable notice of the day, time, and place of the hearing
- c) Copies of any written documents which the parties wish to have the Panel consider will be provided to all Parties in advance of the hearing
- d) The Parties may be accompanied by a representative, advisor, or legal counsel at their own expense
- e) The Panel may request that any other individual participate and give evidence at the hearing
- f) The Panel may allow as evidence at the hearing any oral evidence and document or thing relevant to the subject matter of the appeal, but may exclude such evidence that is unduly repetitious and shall place such weight on the evidence as it deems appropriate
- g) If a decision in the appeal may affect another party to the extent that the other party would have recourse to an appeal in their own right under this Policy, that



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

party will become a party to the appeal in question and will be bound by its outcome

h) The decision to uphold or reject the appeal will be by a majority vote of Panel members

17. In fulfilling its duties, the Panel may obtain independent advice.

### **Appeal Decision**

18. The Panel shall issue its decision, in writing and with reasons, within fourteen (14) days after the hearing's conclusion. In making its decision, the Panel will have no greater authority than that of the original decision-maker. The Panel may decide to:

- a) Reject the appeal and confirm the decision being appealed
- b) Uphold the appeal and refer the matter back to the initial decision-maker for a new decision
- c) Uphold the appeal and vary the decision

19. The Panel's written decision, with reasons, will be distributed to all Parties, the Case Manager, and LORL. In extraordinary circumstances, the Panel may first issue a verbal or summary decision soon after the hearing's conclusion, with the full written decision to be issued thereafter. The decision will be considered a matter of public record unless decided otherwise by the Panel.

### **Timelines**

20. If the circumstances of the appeal are such that adhering to the timelines outlined by this Policy will not allow a timely resolution to the appeal, the Case Manager and/or Panel may direct that these timelines be revised.

### **Confidentiality**

21. The appeals process is confidential and involves only the Parties, the Case Manager, the Panel, and any independent advisors to the Panel. Once initiated and until a decision is released, none of the Parties will disclose confidential information to any person not involved in the proceedings.

### **Final and Binding**



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

22. No action or legal proceeding will be commenced against LORL or Individuals in respect of a dispute, unless LORL has refused or failed to provide or abide by the appeal process as set out in LORL's governing documents



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

### APPENDIX B

#### DISCIPLINE PROCESS

LORL is committed to providing an environment in which all Individuals involved with LORL are treated with respect. Membership in LORL, as well as participation in its activities, brings many benefits and privileges. At the same time, individuals and participants are expected to fulfil certain responsibilities and obligations including, but not limited to, complying with LORL's policies, bylaws, rules and regulations, and RO's [Code of Conduct and Ethics](#). Noncompliance by individuals can result in severe damage to the integrity of LORL and the sport of Ringette and may be subject to sanctions pursuant to this Policy. Since discipline may be applied, LORL provides Individuals with the mechanism outlined in this Policy so that complaints are handled fairly, expeditiously, and affordably. *See Appendix A: Appeals Process.*

#### DEFINITIONS

The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:

- **Days** - Days irrespective of weekend and holidays
- **Investigation** - An official inquiry into the validity of a complaint
- **Sanction** - Penalties imposed by LORL
- **Delegate** – A person in a responsible volunteer position or staff position within LORL
- **Individuals** – All categories of membership defined in LORL's Bylaws, as well as all individuals engaged in activities with LORL including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, conveners, officials, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, directors and officers of LORL, spectators at events, and parents/guardians of athletes.

#### APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY

1. This Policy applies to all Individuals.
2. This Policy applies to discipline matters that may arise during the course of LORL's business, activities, and events including, but not limited to, league games, practices and LORL's year end event.
3. **This Policy does not prevent discipline from being applied, during a competition or event, according to the procedures in place for the particular event. Further discipline may be applied according to this Policy.**



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

4. Any infractions or complaints occurring within competition will be dealt with by the procedures specific to the competition, if applicable. In such situations, disciplinary sanctions will be for the duration of the competition, training, activity or event only. Further sanctions may be applied but only after review of the matter in accordance with the procedures set out in this Policy.
5. Discipline matters and complaints arising from tournament play will be dealt with by the tournament organizers or Ringette Ontario.

### REPORTING A COMPLAINT

1. Teams must address all complaints through their appropriate club League Representative, who will report it via "[complaints@lorl.ca](mailto:complaints@lorl.ca)"
2. The league will ONLY investigate complaints submitted through their club Representative.
3. All complaints must be filed within fourteen (14) days of the alleged incident.
4. Upon receiving a complaint, LORL will provide it to LORL's Executive Chair or designate if the Executive Chair is not available or not able to act in this capacity due to a conflict of interest.
5. At LORL's discretion, LORL may act as the complainant and initiate the complaint process under the terms of this Policy. In such cases, LORL will identify an individual to represent LORL.
6. The Executive Chair or designate, will determine whether the complaint is frivolous or vexatious within ten (10) days of receiving it. If the Executive Chair or designate determines the complaint is frivolous or vexatious, the complaint will be dismissed immediately.
7. A complainant wishing to file a complaint beyond the fourteen (14) days must provide a written statement giving reasons for an exemption to this limitation. The decision to accept, or not accept, the notice of complaint outside the fourteen (14) day period will be at the sole discretion of the Executive Chair or designate. This decision may not be appealed.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

8. If a complaint is determined by the Executive Chair or designated to be legitimate, the complaint will be categorized as a minor complaint or a major complaint and dealt with according to the appropriate sections of this Policy. It will be at the sole discretion of the Executive Chair or designate to determine whether a complaint is to be dealt with as a major or minor infraction
9. This Policy does not prevent an appropriate person having authority from taking immediate, informal or corrective action in response to behaviour that constitutes either a minor or major infraction provided the individual being disciplined is told the nature of the infraction. Further sanctions may be applied, but only after review of the matter in accordance with the procedures set out in this Policy for major or minor infractions.

### INVESTIGATION

The Executive Chair or designate may appoint an independent individual to conduct an investigation to determine the validity of a complaint. The Investigator will carry out the investigation in a timely manner and at the conclusion of the investigation will submit a written report to the Executive Director or designate concluding whether or not there is validity related to the complaint and if a hearing is required.

### MINOR INFRACTIONS

1. Minor infractions are single incidents of failing to achieve expected standards of conduct that generally do not result in harm to others, LORL or the sport. Examples of minor infractions can include, but are not limited to, a single incident of:
  - a. A single incident of disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist comments or behaviour;
  - b. Disrespectful conduct such as angry outbursts or argument;
  - c. Conduct contrary to the values of LORL and the sport of Ringette
  - d. Non-compliance with LORL's policies, procedures, rules or regulations
  - e. Minor violations of RO's Code of Conduct and Ethics
2. All disciplinary situations involving minor infractions will be dealt with by the appropriate person who has authority over both the situation and the individual involved. If applicable, discipline specific to the particular event or competition shall be applied. The person in authority can be, but is not restricted to being, staff, officials, coaches, judges, organizers, or LORL's decision-makers.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

3. Provided that the Respondent being disciplined is told the nature of the infraction and has an opportunity to provide information concerning the incident, procedures for dealing with minor infractions will be informal (compared to the procedures for major infractions) and will be determined at the discretion of the person responsible for discipline of such infractions (as noted above).
4. Penalties for minor infractions, which may be applied singularly or in combination, include but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Verbal or written reprimand from LORL to one of the Parties
  - b. Verbal or written apology from one Party to the other Party
  - c. Removal of certain privileges of membership for a designated period of time
  - d. Suspension from the current competition, activity, or event
  - e. Fines
  - f. Any other sanction considered appropriate for the offence
  - g. Discipline specific to the event or competition, if applicable
5. Minor infractions that result in discipline will be recorded and records will be maintained by LORL. Repeat minor infractions may result in further such incidents being considered a major infraction.

### MAJOR INFRACTIONS

1. Major infractions are instances of failing to achieve the expected standards of conduct that result, or have the potential to result, in harm to other persons, to the Organization, or to the sport. Examples of major infractions include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Repeated minor infractions
  - b. Any incident of hazing
  - c. Incidents of physical abuse
  - d. Behaviour that constitutes harassment, sexual harassment, or sexual misconduct
  - e. Pranks, jokes, or other activities that endanger the safety of others
  - f. Conduct that intentionally interferes with a competition or with any athlete's preparation for a competition
  - g. Conduct that intentionally damages LORL's image, credibility, or reputation
  - h. Consistent disregard for the Organization's bylaws, policies, rules, and regulations
  - i. Major or repeated violations of RO's Code of Conduct and Ethics



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

2. Major infractions occurring within competition may be dealt with immediately, if necessary, by a person having authority. In such situations, disciplinary sanctions will be for the duration of the competition, training, activity, or event only. If applicable, discipline specific to the particular event or competition shall be applied. Further sanctions may be applied but only after review of the matter in accordance with the procedures set out in this Policy. This review does not replace the appeal provisions of this Policy.
3. Major infractions will be handled using the procedures set out by RO in the Discipline and Complaints Policy

### **SANCTIONS**

1. The Panel may apply the following disciplinary sanctions singly or in combination, for major infractions:
  - a. Verbal or written reprimand from the Organization to one of the Parties
  - b. Verbal or written apology from one Party to the other Party
  - c. Service or other voluntary contribution to the Organization
  - d. Expulsion from the Organization
  - e. Removal of certain membership privileges
  - f. Suspension from certain teams, events, and/or activities
  - g. Suspension from all the Organization's activities for a designated period of time
  - h. Withholding of prize money or awards
  - i. Payment of the cost of repairs for property damage
  - j. Suspension of funding from the Organization or from other sources
  - k. Any other sanction considered appropriate for the offence
2. Unless LORL decides otherwise, any disciplinary sanction will commence immediately. Failure to comply with a sanction as determined by the Panel will result in automatic suspension of membership in LORL until such time as compliance occurs.



# LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

## APPENDIX C

### U12 Team Formation

#### From Ringette Ontario:

##### U12 TEAM FORMATION OBJECTIVES:

Teams are formed within each Club and participate in a system of competition following the program principles focused on sport for life, long-term athlete development and long-term participant development. All Clubs can support community-based “Club” teams, built around skill development, fun, and age groups.

Ringette Ontario **encourages smaller roster sizes for U12 Club teams** to facilitate increased ring touches, player engagement and overall enjoyment of the game. In addition, smaller rosters assist with the following player development initiatives:

- Increased engagement for all players as they are more active during practices and games
- Increased opportunities to experience playing different positions
- Increased opportunity for skill development
- Increased opportunity for players to experience different game situations; and
- Increased opportunities for coaches to train and develop all the athletes on their team while recognizing individual skill levels of players.

Players in the U12 division will be evaluated for placement on A, B, C tiered teams in a manner which is standardized, fair, transparent and provides meaningful competition using a series of evaluation sessions.

[RO U12 Team Formation Guidelines](#)

[RO U12 Team Formation FAQs](#)

##### LORL PROCEDURES:

Decisions around team formation for the U12 age group will be left up to clubs within LORL. LORL encourages associations to work together to form the best combination of teams for the area.

There are some parameters that must be followed:

1. Evaluations at U12 can occur starting in August of any given year.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

2. If evaluations are completed, they must be completed for all players in the age group, not just for “A” level as has been done in the past.
3. Evaluations need to be completed by qualified evaluators and not the coach alone
4. When evaluations occur, there must be two for every player, coaches/clubs can then add additional evaluations and be “invite only” scenarios.
5. All U12 teams will be categorized as mixed
6. No U12 team can have more than 2 female overagers unless approved by LORL (if only 1 or 2 overagers no approval needed) - no overaged male players shall be permitted
7. All U12 divisions will have the same amount of games per season and at tournaments
8. All U12 teams will have the opportunity to play in the RO U12 year end event if they choose to do so

### WHAT COULD THIS POSSIBLY LOOK LIKE?

1. Clubs could work independently
  - a. Example: Forest tends to be able to host U12A, and a U12B team (sometimes 2). Forest would hold evaluations of all U12 players, rank them and then create their teams. They could have U12A, U12B and U12C or could have U12A, and balanced U12B teams - this would be up to the club
2. Clubs could work together
  - a. London, Dorchester, Tillsonburg, Mitchell, St. Mary's and St. Thomas could choose to work together. They could ask families to indicate which level they believe their child would be best suited at and if they were willing to travel to a different association - similar to the provincial intent form, but would include all levels.
  - b. The six associations could then look at numbers and agree which Clubs would host each level. It may be decided that there are enough players to make three U12A teams and six U12B/C teams. Each association knows they will get a U12B/C team. Three associations will be chosen to host the three U12A teams. The group decides the following associations will be combined: London/St.Thomas, Dorchester/Tillsonburg and Mitchell/St. Mary's. All U12 players will go to the combined evaluations to form the teams. The important piece is that all players are looked at and evaluated - not just those hoping to be on a U12A team - as all teams are now regional.



## LOWER ONTARIO RINGETTE LEAGUE

- c. Another option could be each association evaluates all U12 players for their Club. They create their team first and any excess players would be released to go to other Clubs evaluations
- d. Clubs could get creative to form teams - the idea is to work together, be fair in evaluations of all players, do what is best for the players and the sport of ringette

### OTHER INFORMATION

- These teams are regional, any rules that apply to player movement for provincial level of play do not apply at the U12 age group - in other words there is no “home” vs. “current”. This will start at the U14 age group
- A host needs to be declared for RAMP and TRFs only. Transfer of player will need to happen in RAMP and as a result, release forms will need to be filed
- Players will register in their home clubs and pay the fees. Once teams are formed, the clubs will work together to figure out transfer of payments if needed
- For game play, each team will be asked to submit ice to the ice scheduler of LORL and they just need to identify which rink the ice is for - practices and games could be split evenly between combined associations