



**NCRRL Playing Rules – 2017/2018**



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## **SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO NCRRL RULES AND PROCEDURES**

The National Capital Region Ringette League (NCRRL) has streamlined and simplified the implementation of the rules required for the league. The rules are aligned with the ORA Games and Tournament rules for the following reasons:

- Enables a more harmonious experience for both the players, coaches and officials;
- Reduces the administrative overhead trying to continually align league rules with provincial/tournament rules; and
- Makes it very easy for both coaches and league officials to understand who can be approved for call up requirements etc.

The above rules are currently implemented since September 2015. We have heard the numerous complaints from coaches, parents and league officials that previous rules created inconsistencies for teams that were playing in tournaments with one set of rules and then (potentially) different rules for League play. Therefore in order to resolve this, the NCRRL has aligned their rules (as much as possible) against the ORA Games & Tournament rules.

### **NCRRL Rules**

We are not simply copying the ORA rules into this document; as they can change. Hence, the link provided below is to be used so that everyone is using the most up to date rules that ORA is using.

The ORA rules are under section 5 of the Games and Tournaments operating manual.

**Note:**

Penalties will now be served in the penalty box closest to the team's bench for all games including tournaments; as per ORA rules. For U8 and U9, it is suggested that a member of the bench staff be in the box to make sure the players are comfortable with the situation and know what they are to do upon completing their penalty.

## Sportsmanship

The following section is mandatory for all coaches and officials to be aware of.

### **Mercy Rule re: Goal Spread (Applicable to All Levels)**

A seven (7) goal spread will invoke the NCRRL Mercy Rule. The Mercy rule will be defined as such:

When (at any point during the game) a 7 goal spread is realized, the following actions will be taken:

- Referee will still go to the Timekeeper's Bench and report the goal as before, the goal will be recorded on the game sheet but the scoreboard will not be updated to reflect the goal.
- Play will start as normal with a free pass at centre ice.
- If the team behind in the score does score to close the gap, **ONLY** goals scored **AFTER THAT** by the leading team will be reflected on the scoreboard, again until a 7 goal spread is reached (and the above rule starts over).
- When a greater than 7 goal spread is reached running time of the clock will only be invoked during the second half of the game.
- The referee will note in the comments on the Game Sheet that the Mercy Rule was applied at **SOME** point in the game.
- On submission of the Game Score Report it will be noted that the Mercy Rule was applied at **SOME** point in the game and a check box will be filled in on the Online Game Report.

It is hoped that if a coach recognizes that they will probably invoke the mercy rule at any point in the game, that alternative strategies for not allowing the score to be run up would be used.

In the interest of ensuring that ice allocations are not wasted, either coach can request to the referee that running time ***not*** be invoked so as to ensure that full ice time is used for the entire 50 minute allocation. This is a noted deviation from the ORA rules and is to be applied specifically for the NCRRL only.

### **Sportsmanship Rule for U9, U10 and all B and C teams, U12 to U19**

Game points are normally awarded as one point for a tie and two points for a win. However, in the interest of good sportsmanship, if there is a goal spread of eight (8) or more on the Game Sheet, only one point will be awarded to the winning team. In other words, a team that wins by more than 7 goals will lose a point for the win. As is always the case, the losing team will not be awarded any points. Note that should the losing team score against themselves; the above sanctions will not apply. In situations where the team trailing by 7 goals deliberately lets the ring cross the goal line or scores on themselves to increase the goal spread beyond 7 goals the referee will have full discretion in determining if the team deliberately scored on themselves or allowed the goal in an attempt to penalize the opposing team. If the referee

determines that this was the case it will be noted on the game sheet and it will not result in the loss of a point for the team that was leading.

Any coach whose team has the sportsmanship rule applied against them (aka their team was leading at some point by a 7 goal differential), should expect an inquiry from the league to explain the game result and corrective measures they will take to ensure this doesn't occur again.

Any coach whose team was losing and deliberately attempted to increase the goal spread beyond 7 goals to penalize the other team should expect an inquiry from the league.

### Special U8, U9, U10 Rules

In accordance with former NCRRL Playing Rules 1.17 and 1.18 as well as Compliance requirements issued by the ORA Sport Development Committee in September 2011, the U8, U9 and U10 divisions will play with the following special rules:

#### U8

- One coach per team is to be on the ice during play for instructional purposes all season.
- The two minute buzzer will be used all season to introduce line changes. Clock will run continuously for the full 2 minute duration.
- Periods will be allocated as follows: 16 minutes for the first half and 14 minutes for the second to accommodate the 2 minute interval requirement.
- All players must rotate through all positions, including goaltender.
- Basic Ringette rules will be observed. During the **first half of the NCRRL playing season**, when a penalty is assessed, possession of the ring will be awarded to the non-penalized team in the normal fashion; however, no penalty time will be served.
- During the **second half of the NCRRL playing season** when a penalty is assessed, possession of the ring will be awarded to the non-penalized team and no penalty time will be served; however, the "penalized" player will be asked to go to their team's bench and a new player sent onto the ice for the duration of the remaining 2 minute allocation.
- No scores will be posted on the scoreboard; however, game sheets will be kept.

#### U9

- One member of the coaching staff is permitted on the ice during play for instructional purposes as required during **the first half of the NCRRL playing season.**
- All players must rotate through all positions, including goaltender.
- During the **first half of the NCRRL playing season**, when a penalty is assessed, possession of the ring will be awarded to the non-penalized team in the normal fashion; however, no penalty time will be served.

- During the **second half of the NCRRL playing season**, penalties will be assessed in the normal fashion; however, penalty time to be served will be one (1) minute.

### U10

- Official Rules apply; however, no shot clock will be used.
- All players must rotate through all positions, including goaltender.

## Call Up Rules

### Player Eligibility and Call Up Rules

**(For Regular Season Only – see following section for call up rules for Play Offs)**

To be eligible to play, a player must register in her home Association and must be registered with the ORA or FSRQ.

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 three (3) times during the season. Players may be called up from a lower age and/or skill level (i.e. from a lower skill level at the same age, or from the same or lower skill level at a lower age).

For example, U19 A can call up a player from U19 B, U16 A or U16 B. U16 B can call up a player from U14 B or U14 C.

### Substitutions

The NCRRL has aligned their call up matrix with the ORA substitution chart. The ORA substitution chart may be found in the ORA Operating Manual Games & Tournaments section at the following link:

For the purposes of interpreting the chart for the NCRRL:

- Where the ORA substitution chart indicates “Regional G&T” for the NCRRL this is the appropriate NCRRL age group convener.
- Where the ORA substitution chart indicates “Provincial G&T” for the NCRRL this is the NCRRL Executive. Contact the appropriate NCRRL age group convener and they will seek Executive approval.

Note:

Lateral call ups are permitted but all teams should first look for call ups from within lower divisions (that follow the call up matrix) before seeking other girls for laterals.

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. If the number of registered players is less than 10 skaters and a goalie, teams are permitted to call up to 10 skaters and a goalie.

Note that these rules apply to league games only. See the ORA Operating Manual, Games & Tournaments Section, for call up rules for tournaments.

The use of an ineligible player will result in the game being defaulted.

### **Exceptions to Call up Rules for Goalies**

Goalies are exempt from the 3 time limitation. As well, a team that has no goalie on its roster may call up a goalie in accordance with the call up rules with the addition that in this case the roster may exceed its number of registered players by one. In every game involving a call up of a goalie using this exemption, an email must be submitted to the League Age Group Convener specifying the team, the name of the call up and what team she is registered with, along with the game number, date, time and division of the game. Complete details of the call up **MUST** be written on the comments of the Game Sheet before the game commences. Details must include all of the information above.

### **Call Up Rules for Playoffs**

**ALL call ups and player substitutions, including goalies, for playoff games must be approved by the League Age Group Convener.** Conveners are only authorized to approve call ups that follow the League call up rules and comply with the Player Call UP Chart on the NCRRL website. Requests for call ups outside of these parameters must be sent in writing to the Convener and the Convener must consult the League Executive for approval. Requests must be made a minimum of 24 hours before the game – last minute requests for exemptions to the call up rules will not be approved.

### **Designation of Call UP Players on Game Sheet**

Call up players shall be designated as such on the game sheet, including age and skill level. The rules for call up players shall apply equally to skaters and goalies, except for the two exceptions noted above.

### **Game Sheets and Reporting Game Scores**

Teams must report all games within 24 hours by submitting the Online Report Form found on the NCRRL website. They must then submit the Original (white) copy of the game sheet to their Community Statistician in accordance with their community procedures. The Community Statistician will mail the white copies of the game sheets to the League Statistician at “NCRRL Statistician, 18 Perrin Ave, Nepean ON, K2J 2Y4” noting any changes or errors that may have been made in the electronic reporting.

Reporting game scores and submission of game sheets must be done in a timely fashion or teams will be fined.

If you have any questions please send an e-mail to: [ncrrl\\_statistician@ncrrl.on.ca](mailto:ncrrl_statistician@ncrrl.on.ca).

## **Discipline - Misconduct and Match Penalties**

### **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 Association of the offending player(s) and/or coaching staff and may be subject to a League Judicial Hearing. Recurrence in the same season by the same player or same coaching staff shall result in an automatic two (2) game suspension and be subject to a League Judicial Hearing.

### **Match Penalties**

- Automatic three (3) game suspension if received during the game.
- Automatic five (5) 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.

The occurrence of a match penalty will automatically be subject to a League Judicial Hearing. Re-occurrence by the same player or same coaching staff of (a) results in automatic five (5) game suspension and of (b) results in automatic ten (10) game suspension, and also 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 (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 her suspension, the player will have to serve her suspension during the Tournament until whatever the length of games her suspension is for is complete. This is monitored between the League and ERRRA.

### **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.

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

regularly scheduled game.

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

Any game suspension, whether for misconduct penalty, excessive penalties or excessive penalties must be reported to the ERRRA G&T Coordinator Sean Burrows at by the coaches of both teams within 24 hours or before the next scheduled game – whichever is sooner.

When a misconduct or match penalty or an excessive penalty call has been assessed, the coaches of both teams must also phone the League Age Group Convener within twenty-four (24) hours. The Home Association of the offending player(s) and/or coaching staff must report back to the League Executive before the next scheduled game.

If coaches do not comply with the above rule, they will be suspended, with the suspension being the same as the player(s) or coaching staff involved.

If an Association 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 if a match or misconduct penalty is imposed. These altercations occurring off-ice must be reported to the game referee 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.

## **Complaints**

Teams must address all complaints, except those regarding on-ice officials (see next section), through their appropriate Association League Representative. Their representative will then contact the League Convener. *No parents or coaches are allowed to call any member of the NCRRL Executive. All complaints etc. must go through their Association Representative first.*

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

The Officiating Committee shall consider all matters relating to discipline of referees. Complaints regarding officiating in a particular association must be filed with the team's local association first, then submitted by the Association's NCRRL representative to the NCRRL Referee Committee and/or the NCRRL President, which will investigate or monitor the situation with the local Referee-in-Chief.

## Equipment

Mouth guards are recommended for all levels of play within the NCRRL.

## Appendix A

### ERRA/NCRRL Discipline Committee Recommendations

#### *History*

In the Spring of 2007, an Ad Hoc committee was formed under the joint umbrella of ERRA/NCRRL to review overly aggressive play in the region. After the initial discussions, three areas were identified as requiring further review and discussion:

- Reporting and tracking of serious or major penalties (i.e.: match and misconducts)
- Tracking individual penalty minute totals and setting acceptable thresholds for age groups
- Tracking team penalty minute totals and setting acceptable thresholds for age groups

In the fall of 2010 the Ontario Ringette Association also issued guidelines to be followed regarding excessive penalties in a single game. New guidelines posted at

#### *Progress*

##### **Reporting and tracking of serious or major penalties**

The ERRA RIC has posted a new form on the ERRA web site that allows referees to report match/misconduct penalties immediately after their games. It is recommended that this report (regardless of whether it is an Open, LERQ, or NCRRL game) be automatically sent to the following people:

ERRA Games & Tournament Chair  
ERRA RIC  
NCRRL RIC  
NCRRL President  
NCRRL Discipline Chair  
All Level Convenors  
Respective Association President of the team assessed the penalty

The process for reviewing these major penalties is outlined below.

### **Regulations**

- Discipline and reviews to be conducted along existing lines of administration: all tournament, Open, or LERQ games are the responsibility of ERRA. NCRRL will be responsible for their league and play-off games
- If a discipline committee hearing is called for, this hearing must be convened within ten days of the penalty being assessed.
- If a discipline committee hearing is required, the player or team official appearing before the hearing panel is not permitted to participate in a sanctioned game until the review process is complete and all assessed penalties and supplementary discipline, if applicable, has been served.
- Should it be determined that a formal hearing is required, the ERRA Discipline Committee or NCRRL Discipline Chair will call upon three to five objective members from a common pool within the region to form the review panel. Also to be included should be the RIC (ERRA or NCRRL) or their designated representative.
- Discipline thresholds, both for a team and an individual, are subject to annual review. Any changes will be posted on the ERRA/NCRRL web sites.
- An automatic review and possible formal hearings will occur, *in all cases*, when the following has occurred:

In the same playing season (including tournaments, play-off or exhibition games), a player or team official is assessed:

- Any match penalty
- Any misconduct penalty. As per ORA rules any misconduct penalty carries over a suspension of the next regularly scheduled game
- In any single game a player accumulates 10 minutes of penalty time. As per ORA rules the player is ejected from the game and serves a suspension of the next regularly scheduled game
- During the season, accumulation of 40 minutes in total penalties, compiled in any manner, during league play only

League convenors will make every reasonable effort to advise team coaches and respective association presidents when they have a player or team official that has reached thirty (30) total penalty minutes.

### **Team Thresholds**

In addition to the individual regulations outlined above, there are also team thresholds. The level convenor will contact any team if **both** of the following two conditions are met:

- ✓ The team in question is averaging more than 10 penalty minutes per game, **and**
- ✓ The team in question is averaging 50% more penalty minutes than the average for the division.

**NOTE: NCRRL Discipline Chair will be responsible for carrying out random spot checks to ensure that level conveners are correctly calculating penalty minute totals and teams are being evaluated as per the guidelines and the schedule set out below.**

### Suggested Procedure

**Step 1:** League level conveners will review team penalty minutes totals on a regular, agreed upon basis (November 1<sup>st</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>) and red flag any team that is exceeding acceptable league guidelines of 10 penalty minutes or more per game and surpassing their division penalty minutes average by more than 50%.

**Step 2: If a team exceeds on both qualifiers,** the level convener will contact the team coach by e-mail and c/c the respective association president. The convener will ask that precautionary action be taken to reduce the number of penalties and avoid any possible discipline from the league. The convener will follow-up as per the prescribed schedule.

**Step 3:** Upon the next review, if the team in question has not dropped down below the acceptable levels, **under both qualifiers,** the respective coach and president will be required to meet with the league discipline committee. Present at this meeting should be the league discipline chair, three members of the discipline pool with no conflict of interest, the level convener, the team coach and association president. At this meeting the league will seek reasons why this team has accumulated so many pim, suggest ways to curb this behavior and outline possible repercussions if it is not done. Minutes of this meeting will be recorded and e-mailed to the respective coach and association president.