

1.5 PLAYER MOVEMENT POLICY

A. PLAYER MOVEMENT – GENERAL

- i. Each Club Association is responsible for forming a *Player Movement Committee* to review **any** underage or overage Player Movement Requests, except for players in the U10, FUNdamentals¹ and FUNdamentals² divisions. This Committee must include three (3) or more persons from the Club Association's Board of Directors, and one (1) or more persons from outside of the Executive that have significant sport experience as a player, coach or administrator.
- ii. The purpose of the Committee is to make an informed recommendation to the Club Association's Board of Directors, subject to this Player Movement Policy.
- iii. All player movement requests will require an evaluation to support the request by a League or Club Association to retreat a player to a lower age division, or to place them in a higher age division.
- iv. Player Movement decisions can be appealed to Ringette BC and are subject to the Ringette BC appeals process as outlined in the Ringette BC Governance Policy – *Section 3.8 - Appeals Policy*.
- v. Players in U10, Fun1 and Fun2 may move up or down a division as per the evaluation parameters in the existing U10, Fun1 and Fun2 guidelines. Head Coaches are permitted to make a decision on player movement from Fun1 to Fun2, and this does not require a recommendation or review by the Player Movement Committee.
- vi. Head Coaches and Club Association Division Coordinators (if any) can decide on player movement from Fun2 to U10. This does not require a recommendation from or any review by the Player Movement Committee.
- vii. Club associations will submit their Player Movement requests to their League.
 1. If the request meets policy, and is approved by the League, the athlete can be moved to the requested team
 2. If the request does not meet policy, but is supported by both the Club and the League, the request will be submitted to Ringette BC for review. See section D for further details.
- viii. Associations should submit a report of their approved Player Movement requests (including completed forms and accompanying relevant information) to their League and Ringette BC by October 1st.
 1. The League and Ringette BC will review the reports to ensure that all Approved Player Movement requests do indeed align with this policy
 2. Should it be deemed that an approved movement did not meet policy, the League and/or Ringette BC may move the athlete back to their original division.

- ix. Once a player has been approved to play in a specific division, the player will be permitted to participate in all division related activities or events. Players who have been approved to play in a division above their birth year division will no longer be eligible to participate in league/tournament play in their birth year division (e.g., a U14 aged athlete has been approved to play with a U16 team can no longer be picked up to play with U14 teams). This does NOT preclude them from participating in speciality programs permitted by birth year (e.g. a player has been approved to move to U19 club but wishes to participate in BC Games, a player has been approved to play U14 club and wants to participate in U12 CI). Specialty programs (e.g. BC Games) or events will specify age parameters.
- x. Players must submit a formal, written request to their Club Association Board of Directors to move up a division. Associations must submit their requests to their Leagues prior to October 1, after their associations have voted to carry forward the requests. Requests not supported by the association will not carry forward to the league.
- xi. Prior to making a recommendation, the Club Association's Player Movement Committee is responsible for considering what is best for the athlete in question. This includes consideration of the maturity level of the underage player compared to players in the requested division, and whether the player is physiologically, emotionally, and mentally capable of handling a move.
- xii. Players that submit a formal, written request to their Club Association are required to attend practice/evaluations in their own age division as well as the division they are requesting to be considered for until a Player Movement Request is approved, regardless of the status of their Player Movement Request application. If this procedure is not followed, the request will be denied. This automatic denial will not be grounds for Appeal. Underage players who tryout and are named to a zone team (e.g. a U12 aged athlete makes the U14 zone team) are not required to attend club evaluations or practices, if they occur after confirmation of zone team selection.
- xiii. The BC Ringette Player Movement Committee may require a Risk Assessment be completed at the expense of the home Club Association, if additional evidence is needed to support the player's movement.

B. PLAYER MOVEMENT – UNDERAGE PLAYERS

- i. Players requesting to move up an age division should only be one year removed from the requested playing division; two years removed (e.g. a first year U14 requesting to play with U16s) would be considered for critical team formation, or in the case where there is not another reasonable option for the player to join another association's team of their age division.
- ii. Underage players must be at least as strong or stronger in their skills and ability to the majority of players in the requested playing division as demonstrated by their player ordinal. Players who are requesting a move due to critical team formation or no team available for them to join must, at minimum, demonstrate that they will be able to play safely in the new division.

- iii. Movement of players from U10 to U12 may be recommended:
 - 1. when there is unanimous consent from all appointed Head Coaches in both divisions and the relevant Division Coordinator (if any);
 - 2. If the player movement is needed to support team formation
 - 3. if players in the receiving division are not disadvantaged for resources or ice time due to resulting team size; AND
 - 4. subject to the principles listed elsewhere in this Player Movement Policy.
- iv. Movement of players from U12 to U14 may be recommended:
 - 1. for players that have demonstrated more proficient skills as evidenced by their player ordinal, and that have already demonstrated skill mastery in a League-based, formal U12 Competitive Introduction Development Program.
 - 2. if players in the receiving division are not disadvantaged for resources or ice time due to resulting team size; and
 - 3. subject to the principles listed elsewhere in this Player Movement Policy.
- v. Movement from U14 to U16 and U16 to U19 may only be recommended for players whose ordinal is at, or near, the top 35% of most skill assessment categories on the Ringette BC player evaluations scorecards for their age-based division. Movement within these divisions should be infrequent and only considered for exceptional, elite players, except where otherwise indicated within this policy.
- vi. All underage Player Movement Requests in the U12 to U19 divisions require the approval of the Club Association Player Movement Committee and the League before the underage player may be rostered to the receiving team. The approval should only be considered in the following circumstances:
 - 1. the above criteria is met; AND
 - 2. the request has already been endorsed at the Club Association level following recommendation by the Player Movement Committee; OR
 - 3. the request is needed to support critical team formation

C. PLAYER MOVEMENT – OVERAGE

- i. Club Associations may not roster overage players in any division.
- ii. Ringette BC may provide exceptions upon request from a Club Association if:
 - 1. an overage player has a cognitive or physical disability such that the overage player's ordinal places that player in the bottom 25% of the requested division;
 - 2. an overage player is new to ringette, and their player ordinal places them in the bottom 25% of the requested division; OR
 - 3. for critical team formation in *remote* geographies and developing zones.

D. REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTION

- ii. Any request to Ringette BC for exception must:
 - 1. be supported by the Club Association and the League;
 - 2. have an evaluation and/or other relevant information to support the request; AND
 - 3. be vetted and supported by a Club Association Player Movement Committee.
- iii. Requests for exemption may include

1. Overage Player Movement Requests
2. Player movement of athletes more than one-year removed from their requested division
3. Other requests that don't align with this policy