

1.9 PLAYER RELEASES

Policy Section	Change	Date Approved
F.	Added criteria surrounding releases that do and do not require re-application in subsequent seasons	July 26, 2026

RINGETTE BC administers all player releases between its members (18+ age players are exempt from the release process), as well as Team Formation requests and other roster policy exemptions. The following release policy and related procedures are provided for Club-Association and Zone participants only.

In developing these player release procedures, Ringette BC has aligned its policies and procedures to be consistent with the organization's guiding principles to ensure that all registered players have a team to play on. Club Associations must use their best efforts to accommodate every person wishing to play. It is incumbent on the Club Associations to manage and provide player release applications to Ringette BC according to the following policies:

A. RELEASE POLICY:

- i. Ringette BC's player release policies are designed to support the needs of the individual player. Any person representing a Club Association found to be soliciting players to be released shall be suspended immediately from ringette under the Ringette BC Discipline & Complaints Policy.
- ii. Any Coach and/or Club Association, that allows a non-released player to participate in any on-ice activities with their team in contravention to Ringette BC's player release policy, shall be immediately suspended from all Ringette BC sanctioned events for a duration equal to the non-released player's involvement prior to approval, at the discretion of Ringette BC.
- iii. Club Associations found to be deliberately violating this policy and permitting a non-released player to participate may be fined.

B. RELEASE PROCEDURES (GENERAL):

- i. A player must initially register with the Club Association whose boundaries are where they currently reside the majority of the time. If they wish to be released to a Club Association outside their residential boundary (See: Section 1.1 Registration Process) they must notify their Home Club Association in writing.
- ii. At no time shall the registration of a player from outside a Club Association's geographical jurisdiction replace (or displace) a player previously registered with the

Club Association in the Community divisions.

- iii. Athletes provided with a release in the Zone divisions for participation outside of their League are to be evaluated the same as athletes who reside in the geographic jurisdiction, pending they meet the evaluation requirements
- iv. Within 72 hours of receiving a player release request, the Home Club Association is required to complete the Ringette BC Player Release form, and notify the Receiving Club Association of the request by the player to be released. (Notification must include a copy of the completed player release form)
- v. The Home and Receiving Club Associations are to determine the best course of action for the release taking into consideration team formation, registration numbers, needs of the individual player and any other relevant information. The request is to be forwarded to Ringette BC no later than five calendar days from receipt of the Player release form with a joint recommendation with relevant background information to Ringette BC. Should a joint recommendation not be possible, both Club Associations are to provide their position to support or deny the release application. See below for Release Dispute Procedures.
- vi. All release requests must be sent to Ringette BC no later than October 1st or prior to the commencement of league scheduled tiering games (whichever comes first) of the current playing season.
- vii. Ringette BC will only consider releases after October 1st in special circumstances.
- viii. The Home Club Association is responsible for filing all player release applications (uncontested & contested) with Ringette BC. If possible, Club Associations should file their seasonal release applications as a group, rather than one at a time.
- ix. Ringette BC shall notify the affected Club Associations and their League of final decisions on release applications within 15 working days of completed applications including recommendations and relevant background.
- x. Notwithstanding any other policy contained in this manual, appeals of final release decisions by Ringette BC can be made. Such an appeal is subject the Ringette BC's appeals policy.

C. RELEASE PROCEDURES COMMUNITY DIVISIONS: (Children's Ringette FUNDamentals; U10; U12;, Club U14, U16, U19)

- i. In the Community divisions if there is no age division suitable for the player at the time of the application, the Home Club Association may defer their consideration of the release to September 15th in order to allow time for additional player registrations. The Home Club Association must immediately advise the Receiving Club Association and the player of its intent to defer. During this time, the player is permitted to participate with the Receiving Club Association.

D. RELEASE PROCEDURES ZONE DIVISIONS (Zone U14, U16 U19):

- i. In the tiered divisions if there is no age division or caliber level suitable for the player at the time of the application, the Home Club Association may defer their consideration of the release to September 15th or the date of player evaluations, whichever is later.
- ii. Associations, and/or Leagues, must notify Ringette BC by July 1st if they have athletes to release, as they have confirmed, or suspect, that they may not be able to form a team in the athlete's given division. These are interim estimates, and may continue to change in the lead up to tryouts.
- iii. Ringette BC will notify the Home Club Association and/or League of where the athlete(s) should be released to, given team declaration across the other leagues. Approved athlete(s) will be given permission to tryout in the designated Zone as directed by Ringette BC, with their release pending the results of evaluations.
- iv. The Home Club Association must immediately advise the Receiving Club Association and the player of its intent to defer. During this time, the player is permitted to participate in evaluations with both the Home and Receiving Club Association.
- v. Should the athlete be successful in being rostered to the team in the Receiving Association, they will be released to this association.
- vi. Should the athlete not be successful in being selected to the roster, or is selected as an affiliate, they will remain a member of the Home Club Association.

E. RELEASE DISPUTE PROCEDURES

- i. The Home and Receiving Club Associations are to determine the best course of action for the release taking into consideration team formation, registration numbers, and the needs of the individual player and any other relevant information. The request is to be forwarded with a joint recommendation with relevant background information to Ringette BC, such as player ordinal, average ordinal, and current registration information, etc.
- ii. Should a joint recommendation not be possible, both Club Associations are to provide their position to support or deny the release application as well as relevant background information to Ringette BC for review and consideration no longer than five calendar days from receipt of the Player Release Form. During this time, the player is required to participate in evaluations with Both Club Associations.
- iii. Failure to notify Ringette BC of a release dispute may also result in disciplinary action against either the Home or Receiving Club Association or both. Disciplinary action may include but is not limited to fines and suspensions under the Ringette BC Fines and Fees Policy Section D – Violation of Participant Rules.

- iv. Ringette BC will consider the release application and render its final decision as soon possible after the receipt of Release Dispute information from BOTH Club Associations. Ringette BC will place an emphasis on the best interests of the individual player and its consideration of contested release applications may include but is not limited to:
- The Home Club Association has no team in the appropriate age level;
 - The Home Club Association has no team at the appropriate skill level of the player;
 - Previous registration with the Receiving Club Association (See Re-Application Section below)
 - Siblings who are registered with the Receiving Club Association;
 - The player's residence being closer to Receiving Club Association facilities;
 - The player attending school within the Receiving Club Association's geographical boundaries;
 - The player having additional family support within the Receiving Club Association's geographical boundaries.
- v. Club Associations should make every attempt to avoid Release Disputes.

F. RE-APPLICATION

- i. When a release is approved due to a lack of team availability in an athlete's Home Club Association, the athlete must re-apply for a release, if desired, in the following year
- ii. When a release is approved at the request of an athlete/family, the said player's Receiving Association shall be deemed the said player's Home Association for all of that player's future Ringette activities (player, bench staff, Official, volunteer). No re-application will be necessary.
- Should the athlete wish to return to their original (geographic) Home Association, they may do so without a release. Any subsequent changes must be submitted for approval.

*Updated July 2026