



## **WFRA HOUSE LEAGUE POLICY**

Reviewed and updated 6 April 2021

### **House League Director:**

1. It shall be the duty of the House League Director to:
  - a. Coordinate the operation of the House League program with the coaching staff;
  - b. Review player evaluations prior to team selections;
  - c. Assist in the yearly team draft; and
  - d. Ensure the balanced running of the various house league divisions.

### **Coaches:**

2. Coaches for house league are selected in accordance with the Coaching and Selection Process Policy.
3. Each team must have a female, eighteen years of age or over, available at each team function and on the bench at each game or practice.
4. Head coaches will be decided for the division teams. Bench staff for the teams may be chosen by the Head Coach after the team has been drafted but those chosen must be approved by the Coaching Selection and Appointment Committee.
5. Coaches and bench staff will be subject to evaluations at season end in accordance with the Coaching Selection and Appointment Policy.
6. All bench staff under the age of eighteen must wear a Ringette Ontario (RO) approved helmet while on the bench and the ice.
7. All bench staff must wear an RO approved helmet while on the ice. The helmet must be worn correctly and properly fastened.

8. All bench staff for House League and Rep teams must have police records checks completed. If any charges are discovered that impact the staff member's ability to work with young people, then the application to volunteer as a staff member will be denied. If there is some question as to what is acceptable, then advice will be sought from the local police force. The Technical director will track completion of record checks. The record checks must be repeated every 3 years, and completed by November 1st of each season.

9. All bench staff must complete the Speak Out program at least once.

10. It is the responsibility of coaches to ensure observance of and familiarize players with the by-laws, policies and the Code of Conduct of Ringette Canada, RO and the Association.

11. It is also the responsibility of coaches to assist and support fundraising activities as requested by the Association.

12. Coaches and bench staff will be subject to evaluations at season end in accordance with the Coaching Selection and Appointment Policy.

**Players:**

13. Non-registered players are not permitted on the ice during Association scheduled times.

14. It is the responsibility of players to comply with the by-laws, policies and the Code of Conduct of Ringette Canada, RO and the Association.

15. All players, regardless of age, are to ensure that they are wearing all mandatory personal protective equipment, including honeycomb shaped, RO approved face shield. Goaltenders are also required to wear an RO-approved face shield and helmet. All minor age players (age 17 or younger) of House League division must wear shoulder pads. All minor age WFRA players shall wear mouth guards as a part of their mandatory equipment.

16. All players will condition in their own age group. Consideration will be given for team placement at the yearly draft.

17. Special requests by a player to be placed with another player will not be accepted unless the requesting player is new to the association and would like to play with someone known to the new player. If a special request is made, that request must be made by both players to be accepted. Only one mutual request be made per player - whether this applies to friends, siblings or ride-shares. Acceptance of the special request resides with the Executive.

**Teams:**

18. House league divisions are as determined by the Executive on a year-to-year basis based on ice available, registration numbers and number of players within each age group, depth of skill at the age group, age and maturity of the players at the age group, development of the players at the age level and financial state of the Association. Age groups may be rearranged to provide balanced teams over the divisions, where necessary.

19. House league teams are decided at a yearly draft in the format as determined by the Executive.

20. Player request to move up or down divisions shall be decided by the Executive in conjunction with the yearly draft and shall be considered on a case-by-case basis considering age, skill level and reason for request.

21. During season play, upon recommendation of the coach, the House League Director and the parents of the player, a player found to be too strong in her division may be moved up to a higher division, or a player found to be too weak may be moved down.

22. Rep team requests to play within the house league division will be decided by the Executive on a year-to-year basis based on ice available, registration numbers and number of players within each age group. Rep Teams may be allowed to participate in the House League shall participate in a division at least one age group above the level of the Rep Team.

23. In all fairness to the players, the House League Director, with the help of the coaches, will attempt to equalize all the teams in each division as to player strength and number within the first month of league play, and then no further transfers will take place for the purpose of balancing unless circumstances dictate such a move is required for fairness and with the agreement of coaches in that division.

24. Registration will not be accepted after December 31 of any given year with the exception of a new player moving to the Association's jurisdiction or with leave of the Executive.

25. Teams will receive jerseys with name of team sponsors and/or divisional sponsors as determined by the Executive.

**Playing Rules:**

26. The rules of play of the Association will conform to the Ringette rules as established by Ringette Canada Rule Book. Exemptions may be set where the Executive sees fit to suit house league play.

27. Each team must dress six players for a league game, one of which must be a goalie, or forfeit the game. If a team has less than the required number of players, both teams must use the ice as a practice session or exhibition game.

28. A team that is short may pick up players of equal calibre to the missing players from the same division. Where there are no players available within the same division, major players may be picked up from the division below. The number of players picked up a team can pick up can only be a number which brings the number of players on the short team to be equal to the number of players on the opposing team.

29. If a player is picked up to play, the coach must mark the player on the score sheet as an "AP" (alternate player).

30. There shall be no pickup of players during playoffs.

31. In each division, each team will participate in a minimum twenty game schedule.

32. There shall be team standings but no individual player point system for goals or assists in House League play. Team points shall be: Three for a win, two for a tie and one for a loss.

33. A shot clock will be used in all U12 and higher divisions.

34. Games shall be thirty minutes in length, normally consisting of two fifteen minute periods with stop time. Within the Senior Division (U19 and 18+), if time permits, games shall be forty minutes in length, consisting of two twenty minute periods. Length of periods is intended to make the best use of ice time.

35. In the U10 and younger divisions a two minute buzzer will be used for line changes and the score will not be put on the scoreboard until playoffs.

36. Each child must be given equal ice time in both periods of play during a House League game. The only exception to this is for the U14 and above, for the last two minutes of a game where a power play is allowed. It shall be the responsibility of the House League Director to ensure that this rule is adhered to.

37. Each coach is responsible for ensuring that the game sheet is filled in completely and accurately. It must include the date, team name, jersey colour, location, start time and players' names and numbers. All score sheets must be signed by coaches or managers prior to the start of the games and it is the responsibility of the coach to ensure the game sheet accurately reflects the team's roster for that game.

38. Once a game has begun, the game will count and the score will stand as is when the game is finished or is called by the referee.

39. Any coach, manager, trainer or player who receives a match penalty or game misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Association.

40. All games will start promptly at the scheduled time, or as soon as possible after the Zamboni has finished cleaning the ice. At this time, the timekeeper will post a two minute warm up. If a team (a minimum of six players including the goalie) is not on the ice after the two minutes has expired, a goal will be awarded to the opposing team. If the team has not iced a team after another minute, another goal will be awarded and after every minute thereafter until a full team (a minimum of six players including the goalie) as is on the ice.

**Referees:**

41. The referee-in-chief shall be responsible for ensuring that there are two referees assigned to each league game.

42. The referee's decision shall be final and no protests will be accepted on judgment calls.

43. Referees are to be paid a fee established by the Executive for league games and play-off games.