

Primer - Residency Policy Task Force



Introduction:

At its January 23, 2016 meeting, the Ringette Alberta Board of Directors initiated the formation of a Task Force to examine Ringette Alberta's Residency Policy.

The [current policy](#) outlines how the movement of players from one association to another is managed. The stated purpose of the policy is:

To establish fair and equitable standards for athletes applying for and receiving releases for movement from association to association.

To ensure communication with all parties effected by a release including Ringette Alberta, Zones and Associations.*

*Zones are no longer involved in the release process. The release transaction is only of concern to the player and the two associations.

The Residency Policy is of very little consequence to the majority of participants simply because playing ringette in the community in which one lives is the norm. That said, there is an upward trend in the number of residency related issues and the "severity" of the impact on those involved that have precipitated the formation of this Task Force.

In simple terms, for those who are touched by the Residency Policy, the experience is, at best, an unwelcome administrative task that takes time away from more important sport development priorities (for administrators) and, at worst, can and has lead to legal proceedings and even the loss of players. During the release process, players are subjected to a great deal of uncertainty and stress which should not be part of their sport experience particularly if we want them to remain customers.

So, while the policy affects a small segment of ringette membership overall, for those who are affected, the impact is quite substantial and therefore it is necessary to revisit the policy.

The following outlines the Task Force's mandate and process.

Task Force Mandate:

1. Conduct a review of the current Ringette Alberta residency and related policies
2. Present a report to the Ringette Alberta Board of Directors and include recommendations, if any, for improving the way player movement from one association to another in Alberta is managed.

Recommendations must:

- Be compatible with the Ringette Long Term Athlete Development Model
- Be mindful of the different contexts of ringette in Alberta such as: relative association size, location, urban vs rural, program quality differences from one association to the next, team viability, municipal requirements to access ice (impact of non-residents), etc.

Timeline:

If there are any proposed changes to the current residency policy, they should be finalized no later than May 7, 2016 if there is an expectation that they would be in effect for the 2016-17 season. Ideally, any changes would be finalized and communicate long before May 7. Regardless, the Task Force will endeavour to understand any timeline related implications (for players and associations) and include those in its report to the Board.

Ultimately, it is the Ringette Alberta Board of Directors that will determine any policy changes and associated timelines.

Stakeholder Engagement and Transparency:

The Task Force will conduct its work in an open and inclusive manner. Stakeholders will be given opportunities to engage in the process. Stakeholder consultation methods may be determined by the Task Force, e.g., on-line surveys, invitation to submit written comments, conference calls, etc., however the Ringette Alberta Board is responsible for determining if there is sufficient and appropriate consultation prior to accepting any recommendation(s)

The report to the Board shall be available to any member or participant.

General Process:

Phase 1 – Gather information

1. Purpose & Risk Review:
 - Do we need a residency policy?
 - Is the policy meeting its purpose?
 - Is the policy being used for unintended purposes?
 - What are the risks of maintaining the current residency policy?
 - What are the risks of allowing individuals freedom to choose where they want to play?
 - Are there alternatives to manage those risks?
 - Does the current policy provide a reasonable balance between player choice and local associations' need to plan and manage effectively?
 - Other?
2. Invite stakeholders to submit open comment on the current policy
3. Ringette Alberta staff provide a summary of the current impact of the residency policy on Provincial administrative implications
4. Review and evaluate if more information is required. Gather more if indicated.

Phase 2 – Evaluate

1. Compile the information gathered in Phase 1
2. Prepare draft report and recommendations

3. Make draft recommendations available to stakeholders for further evaluation and feedback
4. Refine / Repeat as necessary

Phase 3 – Report

1. Present the final report with recommendations to the Board
2. Make report available to membership

Task Force Members

Sandra Fenton

Current Ringette Alberta Director
Current Black Gold League Scheduler
Large / urban association perspective
North perspective

Michele Wheeler

Current Ringette Alberta Director
Previous Zone 2 Association President
Smaller/rural and Larger/urban association perspectives
South perspective

Jim Dawson

Former President, St. Albert Ringette
Former President, Ringette Alberta
Former President, Ringette Canada
Member Ringette Canada Hall of Fame

Jennifer Luzia

Executive Director, Synchro Alberta
Former head coach, midget men's hockey
Former power skating instructor
Former Program Coordinator, Skate Canada (Alberta/NWT/Nunavut)

Darren Dekinder

Executive Director, Baseball Alberta
Former Head Coach, baseball at multiple age categories
Current administrator of residency / transfer policy for Baseball Alberta
Other sport perspective

Task Force Facilitator

David Myers, Executive Director, Ringette Alberta