



MEMORANDUM

To: All affected participants and members

From: Dave Myers, Executive Director

Date: July 7, 2015

Re: Residency regarding AA in 2015-16

With the growth in opportunity for players to participate at U14AA in the 2015-16 season it is important to highlight key sections of Ringette Alberta's Residency Policy. While members and participants should always refer to Ringette Alberta's policies as the definitive source, we hope the following will help.

Evaluations

1. Releases are NOT required to attend evaluations. Players *may* attend evaluations for any AA team in the province, however:
 - Associations are under no obligation to allow players from outside their association to attend evaluations. Players should not assume they are welcome. Ask first.
 - If players are attending evaluations for a team outside their home association, players **MUST** inform their home association **IN ADVANCE**. Refer to the detailed requirements in the policy. Failure to provide advance communication **IS CAUSE** for a release to be denied.

Release Requests

1. Releases may **ONLY** be requested between September 1 and January 31 of the current season.
 - Home Associations receiving release requests before September 1 can ignore these requests entirely – no response is required.
 - Players who submit requests before September 1 must re-submit their requests.
2. The Home Association has 7 days from the date the release request is received to respond (to grant or deny the release). If the Home Association fails to respond within the 7 day period, the release is automatically granted.
3. Teams that wish to include players who will require releases **MAY NOT** expect an answer from the player or that player's home association before the 7 day response window has expired. Practically speaking, teams that are expecting to include players from outside their association (waiting for response to release requests) can not be finalized until 00:00, September 8, 2015.
4. Players may attend evaluations in other associations before or during the response period.

Home Association

Home Association is defined as:

- the association in the community in which the player lives, or;

- if a player has been granted a release to the same association in three successive seasons, that player will be granted a permanent release to that association and that association will be deemed her Home Association from that point forward, or;
- there are current players who live in communities with no ringette programs. These individuals have played ringette in a nearby community that does offer ringette programming. For these players, their Home Association is the community where they have played their ringette previously. Examples:
 - South: Player lives in Okotoks and played in Bow View. Bow View is considered the home association.
 - North: Individuals who have played previously for St. Albert or Sherwood Park, require a release from St. Albert or Sherwood Park respectively, to play for the Zone 5 AA Ringette Club. Individuals who have played for Leduc, Beaumont, Fort Saskatchewan, Spruce Grove, Hinton, Pembina, or Drayton Valley do not require a release.

“Grandfathered releases” – Remember, these are children not property.

1. In September 2012, when the St. Albert Ringette Association (SARA) formed its first U14AA team, despite not being required to do so by Ringette Alberta policy, SARA allowed all players who played with the Zone 5AA Club in previous seasons to remain with the Zone 5AA club if they wished. Ringette Alberta **STRONGLY** encourages this positive approach to continue, i.e,
 - i. Sherwood Park is icing a U14AA team in 2015-16. If there are players who are returning to U14 in the 2015-16 season who also played for another AA club in 2014-15, Sherwood Park is encouraged allow those players to remain with that club if the player wishes to do so.
 - ii. Zone 2 may be icing a U14AA team in 2015-16. As in the example above, Zone 2 is **STRONGLY** encouraged to allow players who reside outside of Calgary but have played for a Calgary U14AA team previously to remain with Calgary AA if they wish.
 - iii. Zone 2 may be icing a U16AA team in 2015-16. Any player who has played AA for three seasons in Calgary, does not require a release to continue to participate with Calgary AA.
2. Related to #1 above, AA associations that have accepted players from outside their association in the past are **STRONGLY** encouraged to continue that approach for 2015-16.
3. Whether an association chooses to grandfather the releases or not, the decision should be applied equally to all players. Picking and choosing depending on the player is highly inappropriate.

If there is any clarification required we encourage you to first read the residency policy available on the Ringette Alberta web site. After doing so, feel free to contact the Ringette Alberta office.