



PURPOSE

Player affiliation allows an association to create a team at a level where there are not enough players for a viable team and allows a team to replace absent, sick, injured, or suspended players **on a game by game basis**. Player affiliation cannot be used to improve the competitiveness of a team at the expense of ice time for a regular player. The intent of player affiliation is to provide Airdrie Ringette Association teams with “back-up” player options when a specific need exists. The purpose of player affiliation is team viability, not player development.

SCOPE

All Airdrie Ringette Association teams registered with Ringette Alberta may affiliate players who are also registered within our association and Ringette Alberta.

PRINCIPLES

1. All player affiliation within ARA must comply with Ringette Alberta policies and guidelines.
[Ringette Alberta Player Affiliation Policy Sept 20 2014](#)
2. Affiliate players will generally be identified and selected from the next lowest level utilizing the initial start-up player assessment/evaluation process and input from the current coaches. In some cases it may be necessary to affiliate from more than one level or age division lower. (i.e. player availability, skill levels, etc.). This will be reviewed by the coaches from the team that requires the affiliate as well the coaches from the affiliate’s team and the Director of Coaching and Player Development.

REQUIREMENTS

- There is no restriction to the number or type of games an affiliate player may play for U12 and up. For U10 Step please refer to section 5.4.4 in the Ringette Alberta policies and guidelines.
[Ringette Alberta Player Affiliation Policy Sept 20 2014](#)
- Using best practice, coaches of all teams are generally only permitted to use affiliate players when their team roster falls below that team’s regular number of skaters up to a maximum of 12 skaters (RAB).
- Coaches will offer equal opportunity to affiliates as replacement players by rotating with no single affiliate consistently chosen.

- The intent of player affiliation is not additional player development or additional ice time for a select few players. This creates an environment of preferential treatment and animosity among members of our association.
- Affiliate players generally are not to be attending the affiliate team's practice ice regularly.
- The regular practice ice is for the regular rostered players to have full development time and attention with their coaches and fellow players. In rare instances when an affiliate is needed for a game and it's necessary to attend practice for a specific reason, it must be cleared with the affiliate's regular coach and the Director of Coach and Player prior to. This should be a rarity and not the norm. The use of practice ice will be monitored by Airdrie Ringette Association for compliance to guidelines.
- For affiliation purposes, the next lowest level is defined in the Ringette Alberta 5.0 Player Affiliation policy, Section 5.03 - Table 1
- Affiliate players main responsibility is to her full time team's schedule (practices, league games, exhibition games, Playdowns, provincials and tournaments).

COMPLIANCE AND CONSEQUENCES

Coaches or members violating the Airdrie Ringette Association Player Affiliation intent, guidelines, and policy will be subject to disciplinary action by Airdrie Ringette Association. This will include and is not limited to the suspension of Head Coach or Acting Head Coach or may be prohibited from coaching within Airdrie Ringette Association or other association in the future.

These violations need to be brought to the Director of Coaching and Player Development or any other Airdrie Ringette Board member's attention. The Violation will be then verified before disciplinary action is taken.

- First time offense: The head coach or Acting Head Coach will meet with the Director of Coaching and Player Development and two other board members to discuss concerns and redirect.
- Second time offense (within two calendar years of the first offense): The Head Coach or Acting Head Coach will meet with the Director of Coaching and Player Development and two other board members. A possible outcome if there has not been compliance from the above guidelines and the direction given after the first offence the Head Coach or Acting Head Coach will receive a 3 game suspension.
- Third and subsequent offenses (within two calendar years of the first offense): A disciplinary hearing will be held and run by the Director of Coaching and Player Development and two other board members. If there has not been compliance from the above guidelines and the direction given after the first and second offence and the Head Coach or Acting Head Coach will receive a minimum 3 game suspension or may be prohibited from coaching within Airdrie Ringette Association or other association in the future.