

1. Purpose

To formally outline the R4U program for players under the age of eight (8).

2. Program

Ringette 4 U is an instructor led program focused on developing athletic abilities in children age three (3) to seven (7). The program is a mix of skill specific lessons and split ice games to expand the skill level of its participants to try new skills while playing developmentally appropriate games. Participants are assessed at the beginning of each season to place them in the correct group.

3. R4U Stages

3.1 Red Stage

This stage is for players who are primarily new ringette players that have never skated or who are just beginning to skate. In this stage, athletes participate in a weekly practice and twelve games per season

3.2 Blue Stage

This stage is for players who have all the skills required to pass red. In this stage players participate in a weekly practice and twelve games per season.

4. General

4.1 Ringette 4 U eligible players shall remain at their home community club/town. If a community club/town does not have sufficient Ringette 4 U eligible players for a squad, the players from that Community Club/Town shall, wherever possible, be transferred as a group to the nearest Community Club/Town requiring players.

4.2 In cases of extenuating circumstances Ringette Manitoba can approve Ringette 4 U overage player requests.

4.3 R4U players may not be temporary players outside the R4U program.

4.4 Age Advance Requests

a) There will be no age advances from R4U to U10.

5. Tournaments

5.1 Ringette Manitoba will sanction Ringette 4 U tournaments upon receiving application for the hosting association.

a) All squads participating in a sanctioned Ringette 4 U tournament must be registered with Ringette Manitoba.

b) Tournament format must follow all Ringette 4 U program guidelines.

6. Ice Scheduling

6.1 Local Associations, Teams or Community Clubs/Towns not meeting the deadline date for submitted ice slots, will be fined 5% of the ice cost for each hour of ice, for each day it is late.

- 6.2 Each sheet of ice submitted before 5:00pm on a weekday may be charged additional funds to cover the costs of Instructors.
- 6.3 Any ice slots submitted to Ringette Manitoba for the purpose of R4U scheduling that are not returned within fourteen (14) working days of the ice submission deadline will become the sole responsibility of Ringette Manitoba.

7. Assessments

- 7.1 Every registered Ringette 4U player must be assessed by a Ringette Manitoba assessor at the beginning of each Ringette 4 U season. It is the Local Associations responsibility to ensure that all their players have access to an assessment skate.
- 7.2 In the case that a parent/guardian would like to request a review of the initial assessment results of their child and a re-assessment:
 - a) Should the request be approved a forty (40) dollar fee will be charged to the parent/guardian to cover the cost of re-assessment.
 - b) Once approved, a re-assessment date and time will be scheduled by Ringette Manitoba.

8. Scheduling

- 8.1 Opt Outs
 - a) Squads may request to be omitted from the schedule for a maximum period of four (4) days, once per season. Request will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.
 - b) No more than four (4) squads may be omitted on any given weekend at the discretion of Ringette Manitoba.
 - c) All requests must be submitted in writing in an email, sent directly to the Program Coordinator, with the subject opt-out, by a person listed on the squad's team staff.
 - i. The Program Coordinator will send a confirmation when request has been received.
 - ii. Unless the sender receives a confirmation email there is no assurance that the request has been recorded.
 - d) Requests must be received by the Program Coordinator by the following dates:
 - i. Omission from 1st half – September 15th
 - ii. Omission from 2nd half – December 1st.
- 8.2 Lesson/Game Cancellations
 - a) If for any reason a lesson or game needs to be cancelled; the managers of both squads scheduled for the ice must discuss the need for cancellation and notify the Program Coordinator and R4U Support Leader.
 - b) Both squads must agree to cancel a game or it will proceed as scheduled.
 - c) As road conditions can be unpredictable in winter, squads shall not cancel a game more than four (4) hours prior but no later than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled start time if cancelling for weather or road conditions. It is up to the coaches/managers of the squad(s) scheduled for the ice to assess the road conditions and determine safety of travel. Should the decision be made to cancel, the Program Coordinator and R4U Support Leader must both be informed.

- d) Ringette Manitoba may cancel a lesson or game due to hazardous conditions if required.
- e) If at any time, Ringette Manitoba must cancel a lesson, the coach(es) and instructor(s) will be notified, and the lesson/game will be cancelled on the schedule.

8.3 No shows

- a) If an instructor shows up to a lesson where the squad is not present, the local association of that squad will be billed the cost of sending out an instructor.

9. Format of Games

9.1 Red Games – All games will be played 3x3 in a cross ice environment with modified nets and no goaltender.

9.2 Blue Games – 1st half games will be played 4x4 in a ½ ice environment with modified nets where possible plus a goaltender. 2nd half games will be played 5x5 in a ½ ice environment with modified nets where possible plus a goaltender.

9.3 Goaltenders – At no time should goaltenders be wearing goalie equipment in the R4U program.

Date of Last Review: April 14, 2024

RMB Board is responsible for review of this policy at least once every three years.
