**NARRA – POLICY CHANGE SUBMISSION**

**BLACK GOLD LEAGUE – OPERATIONS MANUAL**

**4. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION**

**436. Evaluator**

A person certified by Ringette Canada and assigned by NARRA or an Association to assess and provide feedback to On-Ice Officials regarding their performance during a game.

**437. Mentor**

An experienced Official assigned by NARRA or an Association to mentor new or developing On-Ice Officials on and off the ice.

**610. BGL Referee-In-Chief**

The additional duties of the BGL Referee-In-Chief include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. Mediate any disputes regarding Officiating;
2. Preside over a meeting to discuss Officiating objectives for the season;
3. Render decisions regarding inability of Home Teams to provide qualified Officials;
4. Be a member of Protests, Grievances, or Appeals Committee as required;
5. Liaison between the BGL Executive and NARRA;
6. Ensure Officials know which League rules and policies they are required to know and administer; and
7. Support NARRA initiatives to develop Officials.

In the absence of the BGL Referee-In-Chief, or if the role is vacant, the BGL Executive may ask the NARRA President to fill the position on an “as needed” basis.

**703. Association Referee-In-Chief / Referee Allocator**

The duties of the Association Referee-In-Chief / Referee Allocator include but is not necessarily limited to:

1. Attend the season Start-Up Officials/Referee Meeting;
2. Schedule qualified Referees for Schedule League Home games that are not scheduled by NARRA as defined by BGL (Sections 11, 15 and 19);
3. Schedule Officials as requested by the BGL Scheduler for special scheduling scenarios (Section 12);
4. Liaise with the BGL Referee-In-Chief regarding absences of officials relevant to the Association;
5. Participate in the processes regarding the handling of Misconduct and Match Penalties (Section 16);
6. Ensure Officials know which League rules and policies they are required to know and administer; and
7. Support NARRA initiatives to develop Officials.

**1402. U10 Rules**

**1402.1 U10 Step 1 Rules**

B) U10 Step 1 Games before December 31

* A maximum of one (1) Coach from each Team is allowed on the ice; staying close to the boards and out of the area of play; skates and CSA approved helmets are mandatory; sticks are not permitted.

D) Officiating Practice for U10 Step 1 Games

The primary focus will be to have the Players learn the rules of Ringette. The On-Ice Official making the call will explain violations and penalties to the Players and Coaches (should it be necessary). Serving of penalties will be according to the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Point in Season | Action |
| Up to December 31st | Play continues with the non-offending team given a free pass in the appropriate circle. |

***Rationale:*** *Games before Dec 31 are being run inconsistently, some associations/officials are under the impression that penalties are not served in the first half of the season. We all know that new officials struggle with calling penalties for numerous reasons which includes the fear of making a player cry (it’s as equally traumatizing to the official as it is to the player). NARRA recommends removing this barrier to blowing the whistle. Mentors have also reported having to explain calls impacts the amount of actual playing time which is further eroded waiting for the player to be replaced on the ice.*

**1402.2 U10 – 3 Goal Rule**

C) Shootout

Should the scheduled game be determined by need of shootout, players who have already been credited with three (3) goals during the regulation time (as indicated above) are eligible to participate in the shootout.

***Rationale:*** *The whole point of a shootout is to end the game in the scheduled time slot, now is not the time for fair play rules that don’t exist anywhere else.*

**1410. Minimum Number of Players for a Game**

Team that cannot ice at least (7) seven players (skaters and goaltender combined) to start the game will forfeit the game (Section 1408).

***Rationale:*** *Cannot find this policy in Ringette Alberta’s policies. Section 7 of the Rule Book indicates a forfeiture once the game is started and a team cannot ice four players but does not indicate a forfeiture for not being able to start the game.*

**1411. Late or No-show Teams**

Teams shall be ready to play within three (3) minutes from the beginning of the scheduled ice time. A delay of game penalty shall be assessed for being late for a game. An additional delay of game penalty shall be assessed for each additional (2) two minutes that a team is not ready. Should either team not be ready within ten (10) minutes from the beginning of the appointed ice time the non-defaulting coach has the following options…

**1412. Pregame Warm-up & Intermission**

Teams will be ready to play (5) five minutes BEFORE their scheduled ice time begins.

All pre-game activities will take no longer than (3) three minutes from the scheduled time slot beginning. The warm-up will start at the scheduled time slot beginning or when all the participants are on the ice, including the On-Ice Officials, whichever is earlier.

The period intermission will be no longer than (1) one minute.

As per Ringette Canada Rules, the Home Team will warm-up in the end of their choice. The teams will start game in the zone in which they warm-up.

***Rationale:*** *Officials require the 3 minutes to perform their pregame duties effectively. Officials are often travelling between games/arenas with little or no time to spare. NARRA expects officials to be ready AT game time.*

***Note:*** *Moved to Section 18. Discipline*

**1418. Unruly Fans/Spectators**

Fans/spectators are the responsibility of the Team they are associated to and are subject to Code of Conduct (Section 5) and Discipline Policy (Section 18). Fans/spectators are expected to demonstrate the same sportsmanship and ethical conduct as their Team.

Where fans/spectators are abusive to Players, Team Staff, or Officials, the On-Ice Official may have the fan/spectator ejected from the arena playing area. A person in a position of authority may also take immediate informal or corrective action, including ejection from the arena playing area, when witnessing Code of Conduct violations. Failing to comply with an order to leave can trigger additional sanctions, including a forfeit of the team associated with the offending spectators (Section 14), should the On-Ice Official or person of authority submit a detailed report within twenty-four (24) hours from the scheduled end time.

A person in a positon of authority includes, but is not limited to:

* BGL Executive
* BGL Referee-In-Chief
* Association Referee-In-Chief / Referee Allocator or Division Coordinator
* Evaluator or Mentor (assigned to the game by NARRA or an Association)
* Any other person designated by the BGL or Association to supervise the officials and/or game.

***Rationale****: Fans/spectators have always been the responsibility of the home team and Officials have always had the authority to eject them. Following significant improvements in scheduling evaluations of all NARRA officials each season and with the introduction of our Officials Development Program, senior officials are spending more time in the stands. Some have witnessed extremely bad behaviour and reported feeling like they wanted to do something but didn’t know how or what. One evaluator reported making herself visible to the very vocal fans (sitting directly in front of them) which only seemed to make things worse (i.e. frequency of abuse increased and more fans joined in).*

**1419. Withdrawing Team from Ice**

In accordance with Ringette Canada Rule Book, a team that withdraws from the ice before the end of the game shall forfeit the game (Section 1408). Team Staff will be required to submit a detailed report within twenty-four (24) hours from the scheduled end time to the BGL RIC and BGL VP (Section 1705).

***Rationale:*** *Rule 7.5. Coaches repeatedly defend their abuse of On-Ice Officials over concerns for the safety of the players. Team Staff need to know that withdrawing from the ice is an option and if the situation is as grave as they say, forfeiting the game is a small price to pay.*

**15. OFFICIALS/REFEREEING**

**1503. Providing On-Ice Officials for Games**

*Remove U12AA, U19AA and all 18+ from table*

**1507. Officiating Concerns or Complaints**

Team Staff, Players and Fans/Spectators are never to enter the Officials room without their consent, this includes other Officials participating in the game in the aforementioned capacities.

Concerns/complaints must be made in writing via email to the BGL Referee-In-Chief. The email must include the date, time and location of the game, name of Official(s) if legible, description of Official(s) if illegible, nature of the concern citing the exact calls disagreed with and any evidence to support the complaint (e.g. copy of game sheet or video). There is no time limit to submit a complaint as issues may become more apparent over time (i.e. multiple games).

Any and all discipline assessed to the On-Ice Official(s) will be kept confidential.

***Rationale:*** *Given incidents over the past few years, apparently it needs to be said that nobody is allowed to enter the Official’s room, before or after the game but especially after. Players, Team Staff and Associations have always been encouraged to put their concerns in writing in order for them to be dealt with. Stopping me in the arena lobby to “ask a question” is not enough, someone needs to take the time to document the issue(s). Note that issues are brought to the attention of the Officials in question (and their mentors, if applicable), and sometimes to all officials as they are seen as learning opportunities.*

**16. MISCONDUCT AND MATCH PENALTIES**

***Note:*** *Moved to Section 18. Discipline*

**18. DISCIPLINARY POLICY**

**1800. Overview**

The intent of the League policies is to ensure that fair punishment is applied when it is deserved. This process allows all parties an opportunity to assess the circumstances which led to the incident and to consider alternate reactions and actions.

**1801. Discipline Committee**

The committee shall be convened for the purpose of determining disciplinary actions where Ringette Alberta has not applied sanctions or in such circumstances where additional sanctions are appropriate.

**1802. Automatic Suspensions**

Automatic suspensions shall be served at the next BGL Scheduled Game, prescheduled exhibition games, or BGL playoff for that Team:

1. **Excess Penalty Minutes – U14, U16 and U19 Teams**

Teams accumulating more than **(30) thirty minutes** of assessed penalty minutes in a single BGL Scheduled Game shall have the head coach (as identified on the Game Sheet) automatically suspended for one (1) game.

1. **Excess Penalty Minutes – U10 and U12 Teams**

Teams accumulating more than **(20) twenty minutes** of assessed penalty minutes in a single BGL Scheduled Game shall have the head coach (as identified on the Game Sheet) automatically suspended for one (1) game.

1. **Excess Penalty Minutes – Player**

When a player is ejected from the game for accumulating a total of ten (10) minutes of penalty time, including overtime, that player shall be suspended for one (1) game.

1. **Misconduct or Match Penalties – U10 or U12 Teams**

If a misconduct or match penalty is assessed to U10 or U12 Team Staff, BGL will issue an additional suspension equal to the suspension given by Ringette Alberta (Section 16).

1. **Penalty Assessed at the End of a Game**

If a Player or Team Staff member receives a misconduct penalty at the end of the game (i.e. with 00:00 time left) then that Player or Team Staff, BGL will issue an additional one (1) game suspension in addition to the suspension given by Ringette Alberta (Section 16).

***Rationale****:* *Zero tolerance policies are usually created with the intention of eliminating undesirable conduct. Such policies impose predetermined penalties – usually suspensions - regardless of individual culpability, extenuating circumstances, or past history. If the BGL wants to live up to the very first sentence of their Code of Conduct, NARRA feels it needs to be specific and then consistently apply punishment when Players or Team Staff behave badly.*

*a and c) The younger age divisions should have a lower threshold and bigger consequences. New and/or younger officials are still learning and therefore, do not call all the penalties so if a team actually accumulates 20 minutes, the real number is most likely greater than 30 minutes. While abuse of officials in unacceptable at any level, NARRA feels strongly that yelling and screaming at 14 year old girls is disgraceful (and how they are not completely embarrassed and ostracized by their parents/association is beyond us).*

*c) With regards to individual players, in reality there is very little consequence for accumulating an excessive amount of penalties. Players are usually ejected in the final minutes of a game. NARRA likes the policy as written but if members have a concern with it, it could be revised to read “In the last 10 minutes of the game or in overtime, if a player is ejected for accumulating a total of ten (10) minutes of the penalty time, that player shall be automatically suspended for one (1) game.”*

*e)**A player or team staff that receives a misconduct penalty at the end of the game will receive at least a 1 game suspension from Ringette Alberta so the current policy serves what purpose? Once the game is over, it’s over. In the time that it takes teams to shake hands with their opponents and then make their way over to the officials, if a Player or Coach cannot change their thoughts or bite their tongue (this is no longer a “in the heat of the moment” type situation) then the consequences should exceed that of a regular game misconduct.*

**18. DISCIPLINARY POLICY**

**1804. Serving of Suspensions**

If a Player or Team Staff receives a suspension, the suspension will begin with the next BGL Scheduled Game, tournament, prescheduled exhibition game, playdown/playoff, or Provincial game for that Team. That individual shall remain suspended until the duration of the suspension can be determined in consultation with the appropriate governing body (RAB or BGL). A Player or Team Staff under suspension is not allowed in the playing areas of the arena, including but not limited to the dressing room, team bench or timekeeper’s box (*RAB Policy 15.4.11*).

Games which count towards the serving of a suspension are games which were scheduled prior to the incident occurring and involve the team that the individual was on when the infraction occurred. Games are considered scheduled if the Referee Allocator was contacted to assign officials *(RAB Policy 15.4.5*).

Multiple game suspensions shall be served based on the schedule that exists for that Team at the time of the incident leading to the suspension. It is the responsibility of that Team’s Head Coach to consult with the Ringette Alberta or the BGL Vice President to determine the termination date of any suspension. That termination date and time shall be the final game of the suspension. The suspension shall be in force until that date, regardless of any additional games that may be scheduled for that Team.

In the case where an individual participates in more than one capacity they are suspended from ALL CAPACITIES until the suspension has been fully served (*RAB Policy 15.3.7*). For example:

* A suspended Player is also ineligible to participate as Team Staff and/or an Official.
* Suspended Team Staff are also ineligible to participate as a Player and/or an Official.

***Rationale:*** *All of the above are as per Ringette Alberta 15.0 Suspension Policy. NARRA feels they need to be interpreted by providing clarification and examples.*

**1805. Reporting Suspensions**

***Note:*** *Moved from Serving of Suspensions (will result in renumbering subsequent clauses).*

**1806. Un-served Suspension Games from Tournaments**

**1807. Participation While Under Suspension**

If a Player or Team Staff while under suspension, participates and contravenes the terms of that suspension as outlined in the BGL Discipline Committee, then the game(s) shall be forfeited (Section 1408).

**1808. Appeals of Automatic Suspensions**

A protest from a Player or Team Staff must come from the Association’s President to the BGL Vice President via the Protests, Grievances and Appeals form (Appendix A).

***Rationale:*** *As stated above, Zero tolerance policies impose predetermined penalties regardless of individual culpability, extenuating circumstances, or past history. Another important principle of these policies is to be consistent so reviewing automatic suspensions should not be coming from anyone but the suspended Player or Coach.*