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To Whom It May Concern:

There has been some discussion regarding the implementation of the Long Term Athlete Development plan. This letter is to inform everyone of how your Sport Development Committee plans to implement the new plan over the next year.

Your Regional Sport Development representative is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this plan within your region beginning in September 2011. Associations are asked to do their own evaluations using the skills matrix for each age group (U7, U8, U9 and U10) at the beginning of the season. After the teams have been formed using the matrix, the results are to be forwarded to your Regional Sport Development representative.

Every Association is asked to recruit 2-3 volunteers to run your evaluations. There may be a second evaluation later in the season to assess how the players have developed during the season. The skills matrix is a tool to help with team formation and for information on player development and coaching.

The goal this year is to get all associations in Ontario (U8 to U10) using the skills matrix for player evaluations and forming the teams accordingly. Implementation of the program this year will assist in the creation of benchmarks for the future.

U7 should be restricted to six year olds as much as possible; U8 should be restricted to seven year olds as much as possible. However, there may be instances where the total number of athletes in U8, U9 and U10 in the association needs to be considered. If an exception is required, the association needs to bring the request back to the Regional Sport Development representative in writing to discuss the options and come up with a solution. Age will be the first determining factor in forming teams, and the second will be the skills matrix. The skills matrix will be used more to determine overall ability for the team so that the team plays against teams of a more similar skill level.

The skills videos that are currently available on the Ringette Canada web site can be viewed as a good starting point to demonstrate the progression of the skills so that evaluators know what the various designations look like for each skill.

The goal is for players to play within their age group, yet be able to play at their ability. This is where the exceptions mentioned above come into effect. If you are unsure of how this affects your association please contact your Regional Sport Development representative. It is important to ensure that the same policy is being applied in every region across the Province.

Thank you for your support.

Kevin Hanlon, Chair Sport Development
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