



# *Newmarket Ringette Association*

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## **Serious Injury Policy**

In an effort to safeguard our players and bench staff, this policy has been adopted by the Newmarket Ringette Association (herein referred to as NRA) to ensure that the current and future wellbeing of a player is paramount with respect to decisions as to when a player can resume participation in any Ringette game or practice. As the players are very enthusiastic about playing, and may wish to return to active participation prior to complete healing of an injury, this policy is meant to remove the burden of responsibility from the Head Coach (or a designated alternate). It is also necessary to ensure that there will not be any legal repercussions to the bench staff or the association resulting from a player further injuring herself by continued participation while being injured.

Any player or bench staff who sustains a serious injury, whether the injury occurred while participating in a Ringette or otherwise, must provide the Head Coach (or a designated alternate) with a Doctor's certificate indicating that the injured person is medically fit to resume participation in all Ringette related events. The Head Coach is required to provide a copy to the Coach and Player Development Board of Directors Committee member, and the board Secretary, who will file the document in that season's confidential NRA files.

Serious injury is defined as, but not limited to, any injury requiring professional, medical attention that will hamper or may hamper the physical or cognitive abilities of the participant in performing their normal function during a Ringette game or practice.

Any Head Coach (or designated alternate) that allows an injured person to continue to participate, knowing that the participant has sustained a serious injury, and that they have not provided the Head Coach (or designated alternate) with the mandatory Doctor's Certificate will be subject to a disciplinary hearing by the Board of Directors Committee, which may result in suspension or his/her removal of that bench staff member from the team completely.

Any player, parent/guardian, or bench staff member who feels that the Head Coach has made an unjust decision regarding the assessment of a "serious injury" may contact the Division Coordinator to have an initial discussion with respect to that concern. Further escalation will follow the NRA Code of Conduct, Grievance and Appeal Policy.

*This policy may be revised at any time by the elected Board of Directors Committee and it is the member's responsibility to ensure that they have the read the most recent version.*