



## **POLICY: GAME CHANGE POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**Last Update: October 2022**

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The expectation of RRA is that every attempt will be made to play games as scheduled. An equitable schedule takes into account the number of days between games, staggering of opponents, reasonable start times, notice of events, qualified referee availability etc. Changes to the schedule can have a negative ripple effect on divisions outside of your own. When teams are travelling out of town for a tournament, they will not be scheduled on Thursday, which is considered a team travel day. Teams should be prepared to play the Wednesday before and the Monday after.

Game changes are permitted only for valid reasons such as: if your team received notice of acceptance into a tournament after the blackout date deadline; if your team has been devastated by Covid and your bench is extremely short. Please contact your commissioner for clarification on a valid reason.

In circumstances where a game reschedule was reasonably avoidable, the team coordinating the reschedule may be fined by the RRA for failing to play the game as scheduled. The minimum fine is \$200. (Examples include, but are not limited to, rescheduling a game for an unavailable coach when the majority of players and other bench staff are available; no attempt was made to call upon affiliate players; taking extra days for a tournament; a team coach is on two bench staffs and wants to attend overlapping games etc.).

Cancellations due to weather and referee shortages will be handled by RRA. If your team needs to change a game for an allowable reason, these are the steps.

1. **Alternative #1:** Check the schedule for a game in which another team in your division plays your scheduled opposition. Example: Team A plays Team B on November 1; Team C plays Team B on November 9 – Team A & Team C coordinate to switch dates.
2. **Alternative #2:** Check the schedule for another game in your division to switch with. Example: Team A is scheduled to play Team B on November 1; Team C is scheduled to play Team D on November 9. Team A trades games by coordinating with all 4 teams so that Team A and Team B will play on November 9 and Team C and Team D will play on November 1.
3. **Alternative #3:** Check the schedule for a game in an adjacent division to switch with (this is so that the refs may not need to be re-scheduled).
4. **Alternative #4:** (last option) Only if the alternatives above are unsuccessful, practice ice may be utilized to reschedule a game. The team with the conflict should contact their opponent to select a date that both teams can accommodate. The team without the conflict will utilize the ice of the originally scheduled game and provide one of their practices assigned by the league to reschedule the game. Once a game change is agreed upon by the opposing team, the opposing team (the team that did not require the reschedule) is responsible to use the ice. If they choose not to utilize the ice, they are still responsible to supply the ice for the rescheduled game. Ice should never go unused - teams may sell practice ice, but the ice must remain within the RRA league due to liability.



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After selecting some game options to change with, you must contact the staff of all the teams affected to see if this change can be accommodated. All parties **must** agree, in writing.

If the change is agreed upon, you must then e-mail the details of the game change(s), along with written confirmation of all teams in agreement, to your division **commissioner(s)** at least 2 days before the change. The commissioner(s) will need the following information:

- team names affected;
- contacts for the teams;
- original/current date of game;
- new date; and
- who asked for the changes and the reason.

There will be no cancellations permitted; a new date for the rescheduled game must be agreed upon before the game change form can be submitted.

The game change will be confirmed by the commissioner. If you do not receive a reply from the commissioner, you must contact them by phone.

No team may execute a game change without contacting the division commissioner.

No team may contact the ROAR Assignor directly to reschedule a game.

RRA must be given reasonable notice to notify the officials when a game is rescheduled to a different date. If sufficient time is not provided (same day changes), and the officials aren't notified per the terms of the Officiating Contract, the team coordinating the change will be responsible to pay the officials at the rescheduled game.

Any game that is not rescheduled will be considered a forfeit and may result in a suspension to the senior bench staff.

Please make sure you are reaching out to the **COMMISSIONERS**, **NOT** scheduling directly.