



# **HMHA Player Movement Information Session**

# ■■■ **INFORMATION NIGHT**

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 on Zoom

Coaches 6-7pm

Parents 7:30-8:30pm

Review new OHF regulations regarding spring tryouts

Answer questions

President, VP, Rep, Development, Registrar, Ice Scheduler & Secretary

# Housekeeping

Recording: The session will be recorded and posted for those who cannot attend.

Mute: Participants are asked to stay on mute.

Questions: Please use chat box during Q & A time.

Time: The meeting will run from 7:30pm – 8:30pm. Hard stop at 8:30pm to respect everyone's time.

# ÖHF Regulation

**Change** The Ontario Hockey Federation has announced a series of updates to its Player Movement Regulations to enhance participant experience and accessibility, effective for the 2025–2026 hockey season.

## Enhanced Player Movement

Beginning in the 2025–2026 season, OHF Minor Hockey Players in the U10 age group and above will have the opportunity to participate with the Association of their choice regardless of Category (AAA, AA, A, BB, B etc.).

## Pause on addition of Representative Teams for U10 and Above

The OHF is implementing a temporary hold on the addition of Rep teams at U10 age group and above by Associations and OHF Members. This hold will allow for a thorough review and adjustment of the number of teams at each age group and Category.

## Increased Penalties for Tampering

The OHF and its Minor Members will introduce timelines and increased penalties for recruiting players, during the current season, on other teams for the next season. Such penalties will apply to anyone involved with a team.

# Quick Facts

- Coaches can now be named beginning February 15<sup>th</sup> for the following season.
- Prep/skill sessions can now begin anytime after March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Players will have seven (7) days for AAA, seven (7) days for AA, and seven (7) days for A and below to participate in Player Evaluations in order to find a team. After the respective seven (7) day timeframe if the player registers with a lower Category the Player may not be released to a higher Category if an opportunity becomes available.
- Players are eligible to attend Player Evaluations with more than one Association at a time.
- Players must be registered for Player Evaluations with every Association they attend Player Evaluations with.
- In order to register a Player the team must have an Offer Acceptance from the Player and Parent and the Player must be on the HCR.



OHF Player Movement: Frequently Asked Questions

<https://ohf.on.ca/player-movement-faqs/>

OHF By-Laws and Policies

<https://ohf.on.ca/rules-and-regulations/by-laws-and-policies/>

OHF Important Dates

<https://www.ohf.on.ca/news/2025/2025-26-seasonal-calendar-key-dates/>

# FAQs

When do the new policies take effect?

The changes will be implemented for the 2025-2026 season, with regulations coming into effect immediately.

Will associations be allowed to maintain multiple teams at the same level during the transition, or will they be limited to just one team per level by 2026?

The Moratorium will establish team allotment based on the 2024-2025 numbers.

What about PTS forms? Are these still relevant?

Permission to Skate Forms still apply for Minor to Junior but there is no permission to skate required within Minor Hockey.

How long does a player have to accept and sign with a team that has offered a spot for them?

Each team, upon offering the opportunity can provide the time allowed for the player to accept the spot. There is no minimum time or maximum time. The responsibility is for the team to be clear in the timing the player has to accept the offer. HMHA 24 hrs.

# FAQs

Can a coach sign a player after only one tryout?

A player is eligible to be offered a spot on the first day of player evaluations.

Are players required to complete three evaluation skates before they can be cut or signed?

There is no requirement to attend three player evaluations before a team makes offers to players. As well, there is no requirement for a player to attend three player evaluations before they can attend another Associations player evaluations.

Do players need to register in advance for evaluations?

Players need to register for player evaluations in order to attend player evaluations and be offered a spot on a team.



# Tampering

## TAMPERING INCLUDES BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Talking directly to individual players or representatives of individual players yourself or through others.
- Answer interests by players with interest in them attending your programming and player evaluations.
- Promising players spots on next years teams prior to player evaluations.
- Informing a player they don't have a spot prior to player evaluations.
- Telling a current team that their coaches are returning next year.
- Only providing information directly to players that request details about your programs.
- Operating skates or inviting players to skates to confirm teams.

# ■ ■ ■ Evaluations

- May 5 to May 10 – 7-day period for A and below.
- Tier 1 & 3 together
- Tier 3 will have 1 additional tryout to evaluate players
- HMHA has permitted 4 NRP per team
- Following the designated timeframe for player evaluations, teams can have skates for players that are not registered with a team up to June 30 as part of their team activities. Must have attended evaluations.
- Teams may offer a roster spot during July and August but are not able to conduct player evaluation or invitational skates during that period.
- Strong communication among Tier 1 and 3 coaches.

# ■ ■ ■ ■ Evaluations

- What does "signing a player" mean and what does it look like?
  - Registrar will be on site to set up player signing in HC catalogue. 24hrs to decide once offered.
- When can we begin making offers to players?
  - After first tryout. Email or in person.
- What happens to those players after they accept an offer?
  - Coach/player decision.
- How are we approaching "releasing" kids after the final tryout?
  - Players can be released from B to D *after the 2nd tryout*. Cuts cannot occur until after the D tryout. We recommend that email be the preferred path, but ultimately it will be a coach decision. HMHA to provide standard templates.
- Outside evaluators are encouraged. See MOP Appendix XIII for player evaluation template.
- On ice help during evaluations. Development Director available to assist or provide guidance/resources.

# Spring Practices

- First week (week of May 11th) - Each team has an evening Practices - Either Monday, May 12th (5-9pm in order of age) or Thursday, May 15th (5-9pm in order of age)
- After that we begin alternating evenings and weekdays mornings between the B teams and the D teams.
- First week of alternating is the week of May 18th.
- Morning practices are Tuesday-Friday 6:30-8am (Friday ends at 7:30)
- Evening Practices are Thursday from 5-9 in order of age
- May 25th we change to Sunday evenings and weekday mornings for the remainder of the pre-season (until June 30th)
- Mornings are M,T,T,F 6:30-8am
- Sunday Evening (May 25) - 5-9pm
- Fall practices begin after Labour Day.



# QUESTIONS SUBMITTED

- Are out of town players from last year grandfathered in for this year or do they counted as the 4 nrps?

No. They count towards the 4 NRPs. Associations without Rep team in a Division are still considered NRP.

- For a U15 team, if there are players trying out from a different town, would a coach take all 2nd year kids with more kids to choose from or is it recommended that they have a few first year players on the team? How the teams have been made in the past seems beneficial. If we have open boundaries, it makes sense to go to an A centre to only have one age group on a team.

Coaches will have the ability to select the players they want. First year or second year. The OHF has established number of teams for the 2025-2026 season based on the teams operating in 2024-2025.

- Have other centres implemented the same “4 players from outside our association per team” rule?

Generally, Yes.

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# QUESTIONS SUBMITTED

- Will there be limitations on the number of out of boundary players allowed on rosters, similar to other organizations?

Yes. HMHA is permitting 4 NRPs per team.

- For tryouts, it seems like it would be very difficult for evaluators to properly evaluate lower end D players when there is just a group try out with both B & D levels on the ice together and not a split of the teams. How is HMHA going to ensure of a proper evaluation of lower end D players when they are on the ice having to compete with higher end B players and not just players of a caliber similar to their own skill level and the team they are trying out for?

The new regulations only allow for evaluations to occur in a 7-day period. This makes it challenging to fit all evaluations in. HMHA has added 1 additional tryout just to evaluate players for the D teams.



# QUESTIONS