

Letter of Understanding

January 15, 2018

Letter of Understanding regarding Northumberland Minor Hockey Association on Manual of Operations section 4.

Dear Members: A motion has been passed to change the wording within the NMHA Manual of Operations under section 4. The NMHA will adopt the following:

SECTION 4

TRYOUTS AND PLAYER MOVEMENT

Tryouts

- 4.1.1 The intent of the Association will be to form the best possible OMHA Representative teams, using the best eligible players available. All players should be encouraged to play at the level of their ability and coaches shall choose players who s/he deem capable of playing at such level.
- 4.1.2 The NMHA will post tryout fees, contacts, times and policies for the REP teams (if required) at their discretion to the NMHA website.
- 4.1.3 The Association will make every effort to ensure tryouts are run in a fair and consistent manner.
- 4.1.4 All players must be registered with the NMHA, all forms completed, all registration fees paid (or post-dated cheques on file as outlined in the fee payment schedule) and tryout fees paid BEFORE ANY PLAYER MAY PARTICIPATE IN A TRYOUT OR PRACTICE.
- 4.1.5 Only players eligible by residence may tryout as per OMHA residency rules.
- 4.1.6 After the third tryout, the coach may determine the number of players s/he will take on their team and must receive approval from the Coach Selection Committee before announcing publicly.
- 4.1.7 All players wishing to play for an OMHA team must attend and fully participate in all tryouts held for that team. Once a player is released by the AA coach, the player is then eligible to tryout for an AE team. Should the coach refuse to release a player from AA tryouts who has asked for a release, the player may only play house league and select hockey and may not AP to any Rep hockey team.
- 4.1.8 Any player who participated in the NMHA House League in the year prior and is eligible by residence may attend both AA and AE tryouts but is not required to attend AA tryouts.
- 4.1.9 Any player unable to attend tryouts due to conflicting tryouts at a higher level, injury, illness or any other reason, must contact the head coach prior to the tryout. If the coach is satisfied, the player may be excused from the tryout, but will not be eligible for a refund of the tryout fee.
- 4.1.10 Any underage player wishing to apply for exceptional player status must meet

the following criteria:

- a) The player must be the top player at their own age group and
- b) The player must be the top player at the age group they wish to try out for.
- c) The goalie must be the top goalie at their own age group and group they wish to try out for.

The player's parent must file a request in writing to the VP of Representative hockey at least 7 days in advance of the team's first tryout. The player must attend all tryouts for the team at his/her age group as well as the age group above. Should a conflict arise, the player is to attend the tryout at his/her own age group first.

- 4.1.11 Registered NMHA Players shall not be released until after the second AA Tryout. Released Players may then tryout for AE at his/her respective age group where they will receive at least two tryouts. Should the association not be able to roster a minor team due to lack of numbers, those players effected shall be eligible to attend tryouts at the major age division.

Player Movement

- 4.1.10 Any player, who tries out for an OMHA Team and is selected by the coach, is expected to play for that team. If a player leaves his/her team of their own volition prior to December 10th s/he can only play for a House League team if an opening exists and with the agreement of the House League Vice President. S/he cannot return to the AA/AE team for the balance of the season and is ineligible for select hockey
- 4.1.11 No player may be rostered to play for more than one team except those who are affiliated as defined by the HC and the OMHA.
- 4.1.12 For purposes of Player development, whenever possible, Representative teams are expected to AP Players from the same age group from team below. AA teams are allowed to AP from the AE teams. AE teams are allowed AP from House League. AA teams may not AP from House League unless the AE coach at the same level agrees first.
- 4.1.13 Affiliated Players (AP) must fulfil their responsibilities of attending games and practices of the team they are rostered with i.e. AA, AE or House league. Players on a select teams may still AP to a Rep team and may choose between the Rep or Select practice/game. Any coach wishing to use an AP, must make prior arrangements with the coach the player's rostered team and the affiliated player's parents. Should any dispute arise, the Vice President of Rep, and President will make the final decision.
- 4.1.14 Prior to using an AP in a game, OMHA coaches MUST complete all necessary paperwork and ensure the player is approved, to prevent unnecessary suspensions. A player can only affiliate to one team. (i.e.: if a player is affiliated with the AAA Red Devils, then s/he cannot affiliate with any NMHA team.
- 4.1.15 With co-operative communication between the House League and OMHA Coaches, Affiliated Players are encouraged to practice or play at the OMHA REP level (as permitted by the OMHA) without expectation of playing in a future game. Coaches should not object to their players practicing or playing with their associated teams when there is no conflict with their commitment. Teams are encouraged to invite their Affiliated Players to attend their practices and may charge the player(s) a nominal fee

for participating.

- 4.1.16 Should an OMHA Team wish to permanently sign an AP to their team, no player may be transferred without the approval of the Executive Committee.
- 4.1.17 Any player wishing to return to NMHA as a player after being registered with an AAA centre may only do so at the discretion of the Executive Committee and the AAA Zone Governing/Operating Committee.
- 4.1.18 If a new player moves into the Association's protected area as defined in Appendix "A" after the OMHA team selections have been made, s/he may be granted a 5-day practice try-out in his designated age classification, up until December 15th. Such registration is subject to the Rules and Regulations of HC and the OMHA. Final approval for placement is at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 4.1.19 Should a player's home centre fold a REP team and issue an OMHA 3.5 letter to the player after NMHA tryouts have concluded, s/he may tryout for the team if a roster spot is available and at the discretion of the coach. No current rostered player may be displaced from the team in favour of the new 3.5 player.
- 4.1.20 The responsibility for the release of any player from the NMHA is vested with the NHMA Executive Committee. All releases must be signed by the President and Secretary of the Association in order to be valid.
- 4.1.21 The Executive Committee will grant a review for a decision regarding an application for release of any minor hockey player. All permits and releases to play for another centre are according to OMHA rules.