

Delhi-Norfolk Minor Hockey Memorandum of Understanding

Proposal Highlights

June 2022

Norfolk Minor Hockey - Background

- Norfolk Minor Hockey began in 2020-2021 after Port Dover, Simcoe & Waterford Minor Hockey Associations agreed to cooperate to better satisfy and address our shared priorities and challenges, notably:
 - Our shared priority to offer members a hockey program that maximizes development and enjoyment of the game.
 - We agreed that to maximize development and enjoyment, forming competitive teams with players of consistent ability is necessary.
 - Without cooperation, our local associations faced challenges offering full rep hockey programming, or had difficulty offering strong AE programs, and experienced a wide range of player ability on many teams.

Rep Hockey Partnership Model

- Port Dover, Simcoe & Waterford associations agreed that a full amalgamation was not appealing, and looked for a preferred cooperative model.
- The associations wanted to maintain community spirit and our existing local league experience, while cooperating at the Rep program level, to improve team structure and programming at all levels.
- This discussion led the associations to the Rep Hockey Partnership Model that would result in existing Local Associations remaining as Local League Centres and creating a new Norfolk County Minor Hockey Rep Program to be run jointly by the Local Associations.

The Big Picture: Benefits of a Rep Partnership

- Preserves The Hometown Hockey Experience ✓
- Preserves Independence of Local Boards on Local Issues ✓
- Ensures Local League Teams Remain in Local Rinks ✓
- Creates a New Rep Program that each Local Centre Feeds Into ✓
- Creates a New Board Structure with Equal Representation ✓
- Agreed principals on Coach Selection and Tryouts to ensure fairness and representation by all Associations ✓
- Uploads business functions to shared service model to help reduce burden and workload on volunteers ✓
- AAA Affiliation – no change ✓
- Maximizes use of Norfolk County rinks ✓
- Will result in competitive teams with balanced ability, thereby maximizing development and fun for all players ✓

Local Leagues

- The existing Local Leagues continued in a modified form:
 - Provide fun, recreational hockey for ~70% of players
 - Kids play locally in their community rinks with their friends
 - Pride of “representing” their home communities
 - Streamlined roles & responsibilities for local organizations
 - Provide a mechanism for communities to elect their local Minor Hockey Directors & to engage local sponsors & volunteers



Port Dover
Local League



Simcoe
Local League



Waterford
Local League

Partnership Model

- The Local League organizations are bound together with a clearly defined and written Partnership Agreement setting out the relationship between the Parties:
 - Clearly defines the rights, obligations and relationship between the Partners
 - Provides the legal platform to create a new jointly administered Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association that each LL program would flow into for Rep Hockey



Partnership Agreement

Port Dover
Local League

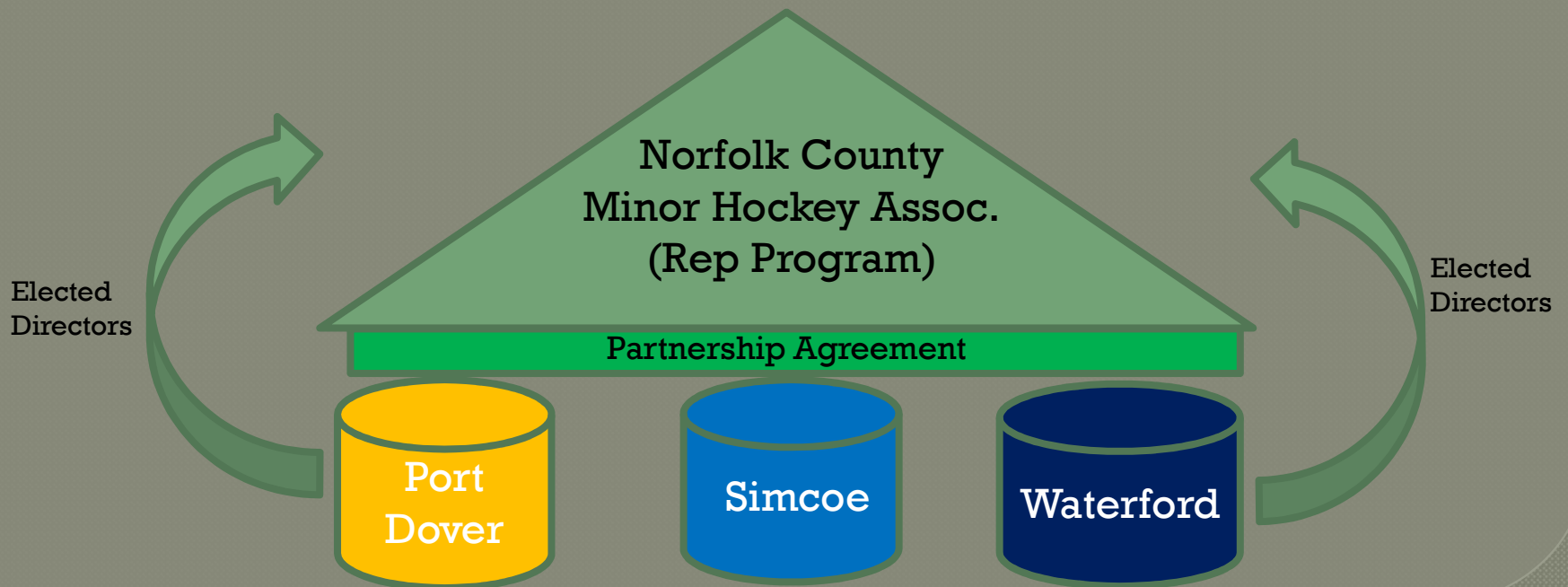
Simcoe
Local League

Waterford
Local League

Partnership Model

Partnership Structure:

- Local League organizations transfer their Rep hockey operations to the combined Norfolk Hockey Board at the Partnership level
- Elected Directors from the Local League level flow upwards and represent their communities on the combined Board of the new Centre, providing equal representation from each community
- Norfolk County Minor Hockey provide high level business services to entire organization (e.g. Registration, Ice Contracts, etc.)



Norfolk Hockey Experience

- Successful coach and team selection processes, including committees with representatives of all associations and independent player evaluation panels
- Very competitive “A” team programming, with many tournament wins, Niagara League championships, OMHA Championship qualifying teams, and higher level of play with more consistent player ability
- Stronger local league teams with improved balance between teams, very positive feedback on enjoyment of the season
- Dedicated “A” team development program
- Optional local league development program (skills, skating, goalie) offered to players of all associations, with tremendous participation and feedback

Future Enhancements

- Next Steps Forward to Include:
 - Home games in every arena
 - Teams in every division
 - Aim to offer “Second Norfolk Rep Teams” to satisfy the full spectrum of competitive/local league play levels. Likely requires an expended partnership.

What Norfolk Offers Delhi

- Delhi is in a similar position to our pre-partnership associations (rep teams in all divisions, healthy organization, facing increasing external pressures to keep kids playing at home, limited in program growth due to player numbers)
- Working with Norfolk could offer Delhi players/association:
 - Equal opportunity to try out for “Norfolk A” and “Norfolk B” hockey teams at all ages and without non-resident player (NRP) restriction
 - Minimize ability range on each team
 - Enhance local league competitive level/team balance while keeping Delhi Rockets LL teams playing in Delhi
 - Participate in a professionally delivered, unified development program
 - Have Delhi Executive participate equally with Port Dover/Simcoe/Waterford executives in running a unified rep hockey program

Memorandum of Understanding (1 of 2)

- OMHA-recommended first step to begin cooperation
- One year agreement for the 2022-2023 season for Delhi to “try before you buy”
- Delhi Directors would participate equally on Norfolk Board and on all Norfolk Hockey committees
- Delhi/Norfolk players will remain Delhi/Norfolk players, respectively, but will be “shared” for the season to form combined Norfolk rep teams (including equal ability to AP for Norfolk teams)

Memorandum of Understanding (2 of 2)

- Norfolk teams will play out of all arenas (Delhi Rocket's current rep ice time would be available for Norfolk team practices/games)
- With combined players, Norfolk will form both "A" and "B" rep teams in all divisions
- Local league will continue to be run by the local associations, and teams will continue to represent their home association and play out of their home rink
- All players will participate in a combined development program
- No cost to Delhi Minor Hockey to participate through the MOU

Player Cost

- Over 90% of all registration/rep costs relate to the cost of ice time. Accordingly, registration/rep costs to any team/player are directly tied to a) the cost of ice, and b) how much ice time a team is provided.
- Norfolk Hockey expects the “A” player cost to remain consistent with last season (approx. \$1,300 total)
- Norfolk Hockey “B” teams would be allocated less ice, being an amount in line with Delhi Rocket’s current rep team ice allocation. Total Norfolk “B” team/player cost will therefore be in line with Delhi Rocket’s existing rep costs (note: OMHA no longer allows gate fees, so such revenue will need to be replaced with player fees)
- Local league ice allocation and team cost will remain consistent with prior years for all associations, per discussions with Delhi executives

Summary

- Top priority and focus: Player FUN and DEVELOPMENT
 - Norfolk Minor Hockey has been a tremendous success in driving player fun and development, but we see further opportunity, primarily by offering a multi-level rep program
 - Delhi has a strong program, but faces external pressures that sub-"A" programs are all facing (as Port Dover/Simcoe/Waterford faced, but increasingly so)
 - We have strong player and community connections across Norfolk
 - By working together through the MOU, we see a great opportunity to offer a fantastic, comprehensive hockey program that will enhance the player experience for members of all associations