



Norfolk County Minor Hockey

Questions and Answers

Q. Which Associations will form the proposed Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association?

- A.** Port Dover, Simcoe and Waterford Minor Hockey Associations (the “Local Associations”) will form the Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association. Delhi and Langton participated in initial discussions but elected not to join at this time.

Q. Why is the Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association being proposed?

- A.** The Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association is being proposed to manage a joint Rep hockey program for players from each participating Local Association. This will help each association deliver on our shared priorities of offering a hockey program that maximizes player development and fun. The Norfolk Association will do this by helping to field teams comprised of players with consistent ability at every level of competition.

Q. Who would run the Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association?

- A.** The Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association’s Board will be comprised of an equal number of Directors from each Local Association. As such, each Local Association will have an equal say in the management and oversight of Norfolk Minor Hockey.

Q. At what level would the Norfolk Minor Hockey Rep teams compete?

- A.** This will ultimately be decided by the OMHA, however the full expectation is that the Norfolk Rep teams will compete as A-Centre teams. AE teams, also to be managed by Norfolk Minor Hockey, will compete as either AE teams or as lowerlevel Rep teams (i.e. B-Centre or C-Centre teams).

Q. Would my Local Association continue to exist?

- A.** Yes. The Local Associations would continue to exist and manage Local League hockey programs. Local Association representatives would also work

collaboratively within the Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association to align programming where it makes sense to do so.

Q. If the Partnership is approved, where will my Local League child be playing?

A. One of the primary goals of this Partnership is to maintain the same high quality Local League experience for our community-based recreational teams. This means that the Local League Teams continue to play out of their specific community arena.

Q. If the Partnership is approved, where will my Rep child be playing?

A. The Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association will allocate Rep Team ice time equally amongst the available arenas, so that all communities in the Association will host Rep Team games and practices and each Rep Team will have ice time in each arena. This will likely involve the rotation of ice times among various facilities throughout the season.

Q. Will the Norfolk County Rep Teams have a new logo and colours?

A. Yes.

Q. How will the new Rep Team logo and colours be selected?

A. The new Rep Program logo and colours will be decided by the Norfolk Minor Hockey Board, who will likely invite Members to submit their ideas to the new Association for consideration, before making a decision.

Q. How will the Partnership affect player registration costs?

A. Players registration costs are expected to be consistent with current costs. Overall, the total number of players and the arenas they will be playing in will remain unchanged. Accordingly, total costs should be relatively unaffected.

Q. How will the Partnership affect ice time?

A. The Partnership agreement expects to deliver similar ice allocation per team as you have today. One of the benefits derived from a Partnership arrangement is the opportunity for improved use of our ice centers. Norfolk County (as the owner/operator) supports improved use of these centers as this positively impacts the cost-recovery model and reduces the burden on tax-payers (us as residents), who must otherwise subsidize or carry the cost of unused ice time. Strong minor hockey associations can make better use of our available ice.

Q. With a larger pool of kids potentially interested in Rep hockey, how will the Partnership impact the ability of certain players to make a team?

A. It is anticipated that Norfolk Minor Hockey will field by minor and major “A” teams in each division, plus “AE” teams where numbers and ability provide. It is expected that this will result in a similar number of total rep teams as that currently offered by the combined Local Associations. However, the opportunity to access these levels will be improved and stabilized for players seeking to do so and resulting teams will realize more consistent player ability.

Q. Will players from surrounding areas be eligible to tryout for the Norfolk County teams?

A. Yes. As Norfolk Minor Hockey Rep Teams is expected to be A-Centre teams, players from outside its territory are eligible to tryout at Peewee and above divisions. However, such players will be considered “import players” and there will be a restriction imposed by the OMHA on the number of “import players” allowed per team. This limit will be later determined by the OMHA.

Q. Will some players who previously made a Rep team be playing Local League under this model?

A. Perhaps – but the impact of this Partnership on individual players is difficult to predict, and ultimately, a great deal will depend upon the level of interest and player numbers for the Rep Program going forward. The main focus is to provide a fair opportunity for all players to succeed, have fun, and develop at a level appropriate for their skill. No Association can do this when they have to worry about stable player numbers and teams collapsing at various levels every year due to low enrollment.

Q. Will Local League players be eligible to be an Affiliated Player “AP” to a Norfolk Hockey Rep Team?

A. Yes – players from Local League organizations will be eligible for AP opportunities.

Q. Will Teams have to play in a different loop?

A. Local League teams will continue in their existing Southern Counties-Intertown loop, and therefore realize no change in travel. The OMHA will confirm this, along with the loop for Norfolk Minor Hockey teams. Due to annual changes

amongst many centres the OMHA will not make these determinations for the Norfolk Minor Hockey until the New Year.

Q. Will there be a fixed number of Players from each Local Association on each Rep team?

A. No. It is not realistic to set fixed player numbers from each Association. Player selection will be based on player ability/skill. This ensures consistency in talent/skill amongst selected player groups and provides for strong/competitive team structures that are fun and exciting to play within.

Norfolk Minor Hockey will have a Tryout Committee comprised of representatives of each Local Association. The Tryout Committee will establish a fair and consistent Tryout Process, including selecting a neutral Evaluation Panel to conduct objective player evaluations that will be used for the purposes of validating player selection. The focus is to ensure there is a fair opportunity for every player to succeed.

Q. How will Local League Coaches be selected?

A. The Local Associations will continue to select their Local League Coaches independently, as they have done in the past.

Q. How will Rep Coaches be selected?

A. Norfolk Hockey will have a Coach Selection Committee with representation from each Local Association. The Coaching Committee will draft a comprehensive policy to manage the Coaching Selection Process, ensuring it is fair, free from bias, and promotes the underlying goals of the Norfolk Hockey Association.

Q. How will the Partnership impact “AAA” Player Affiliation?

A. There will be no impact to AAA Affiliation. Our collective centers will continue to be affiliated with Brantford for “AAA” play.

Q. How will the Partnership affect player movement rights?

A. As always, players at the recreational Local League level can play wherever they want, without residential restrictions.

For Rep Hockey players, the new Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association is expected to be classified as an “A” level Rep Hockey Program for the purposes of player movement rules. This means that players looking for more competitive hockey options will continue to have access to “Permission to Skate” requests for “AAA” Tryouts, and can also request a Non-Resident Passport (NRP) in order to participate in a “AA” Tryout. However, OMHA Regulations will not allow NRP’s to be issued for players looking to move laterally from one “A” Program to another “A” Program.

Q. Will the OMHA Borders for Norfolk County Minor Hockey be impacted?

A. Subject to OMHA approval, the centres will continue to operate under the “8 km Rule”, as they do now.