



**Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey
Association**

Association Policies

Revised September 13, 2022

House League Goaltender Policy U9 – U21

The WSMHA supports the desire of all players to play a position where they feel most comfortable and which they feel will bring them the most enjoyment from their hockey experience. We also feel that younger players in particular, should have the opportunity to try different positions until they determine the best fit with their skills and hockey objectives. We recognize, however, that there are some very real challenges in achieving these goals when it comes to the goaltending position and these challenges increase as the players get older. They include:

- a. Not all skills are transferable between goaltenders and “skaters”.
- b. Equipment is very different and not easily transferable from one player to another.
- c. Only one player can play goal at any point in time (versus five skater positions).
- d. Goaltenders must practice/ play the position on a regular basis to develop their skills.

Recognizing that our goals may sometimes conflict when it comes to goaltenders, the WSMHA has attempted to develop policies and guidelines which we hope will enable us to resolve such conflicts when they occur in a fair and objective manner.

1. Registration dates and times will be recorded for all players and the principle of “first come, first served” may apply in certain situations as described more fully below.
2. A goaltender’s “history” (their skill or experience, where he/she played in previous seasons, whether he/she was the only goaltender on their team or shared goaltending duties with another goaltender) will have no bearing on the team to which they are assigned, whether they will be the sole goaltender on their assigned team or required to share goaltending duties with another player for the current season.
3. Players specifying an interest in playing goal will initially be assigned to teams in order of registration: first registered assigned to Team #1, second to Team#2, etc. until each team has been assigned a goaltender; if there are more goaltenders than teams in a particular division, the “extra” goaltenders will be assigned in reverse order e.g. in a six-team division, the seventh goaltender to register will be assigned to Team#6, the eighth to Team#5 etc. until all goaltenders have been assigned, or every team has been assigned two goaltenders.
4. Once all teams in a division have been assigned two goaltenders, any remaining unassigned goaltenders will be advised and placed on a waiting list; if there are available spaces for skaters in that division, any such player will be given the option of remaining on the waiting list or accepting a non-goaltending position on a team.
5. In the event that a particular division has one or more goaltender vacancies i.e. a team or teams with no assigned goaltenders, goaltender(s) from a lower division in which there are more than one goaltender per team can be transferred to fill the vacancy(ies) if they are judged to be capable and if they are willing to do so; the Association may also consider transferring a goaltender from an older division where there is a surplus if that goaltender’s skill/experience is not inappropriate for the younger age group and the player is willing to be re-assigned.

6. Once all goaltenders have been assigned to a team (apart from any who opt to remain on the waiting list), the coach of any team with more than one goaltender will meet with the assigned goaltenders and their parents to determine if the goaltenders will share games, or play full games on an alternating basis; if the latter, both goaltenders will be given the option to play a different position during games in which they are not scheduled to play goal.
7. If a team is aware that they will not have a goaltender for a particular game, they will advise the convenor of that division who will assign a goaltender from another team using a process of random selection. Where possible the convenor will assign a goaltender from a team with more than one goaltender to maximize the goaltending opportunities for goaltenders in the division.

Motion approved February 10, 2014, updated May 14, 2020

Non-resident player Policy

1. Any non-resident player (NRP) wishing to try out must qualify under OMHA regulations re: residency and player movement ratified on January 23, 2011.
2. Any NRP trying out for a Clipper team must be evaluated by a committee appointed by the Board as part of the try out process.
3. No NRP trying out can be offered a position on a Stouffville rep team unless he/she has been approved by the evaluation committee, and such approval will be conditional on the committee's assessment that the player qualifies as one of the top three forwards, one of the top two defensemen, or the top goaltender among those trying out at those positions.
4. The final decision as to whether an NRP approved by the evaluation committee is offered a position on a rep team remains with the head coach.
5. The number of NRP's on any rep team cannot exceed the number permitted by OMHA regulations.
6. Any rep team selecting one or more NRP's must roster a minimum of 17 full-time players as well as at least 3 AP's from the A team at their age group.

Motion approved April 2, 2012, updated August 15, 2022

Rostered Select Policy

Basic Principles

1. The primary purpose of Rostered Select is to enhance our House League program by offering an additional hockey experience for those players who may be interested in pursuing this option while continuing to play House League hockey.
2. Selection for Rostered Select teams must be based on merit so every effort must be made to ensure that all eligible players are made aware of tryouts, and player evaluations are conducted in a fair and objective manner.
3. While some accommodation to resolve schedule conflicts may be attempted, regularly scheduled House League games and practices must take precedence over Rostered Select team activities.
4. The cost of Rostered Select participation should be proportionate to the added value of the on-ice program; teams are expected to use good sense in terms of purchasing team apparel or extra practice ice; the Association reserves the right to cap total team expenditures regardless of the availability of funding from parents or sponsors.
5. Good coaching is the foundation of all successful hockey programs, and the coach selection process must be conducted in such a way that the best possible candidates are chosen.
6. Rostered Select is not an entitlement i.e., the Association is not required to offer a Rostered Select team for any or all age groups; a determination as to the number of teams and the age groups will be made by the WSMHA on a year-by-year basis taking into account ice time, player and coach availability.
7. Coaches are encouraged to pick a full team consisting of 15 skaters and 2 goalies.
8. Alternate players can be added for practices and play games in the event a regular player is absent. Alternate players must be rostered to participate.
9. Rostered Select hockey is primarily used as a development league and as such all players are to be given equitable ice time. The last five minutes in a tournament game will be at the coach's discretion.

Motion approved May 14, 2013, updated May 14, 2020

Rep and Rostered Select Tryouts Policy

1. The WSMHA's policy re: Rep team tryouts are consistent with OMHA rules and regulations, the WSMHA Constitution & Bylaws and the WSMHA's philosophy on player development.
2. Any player trying out for a rep team must be a registered member of the WSMHA.
3. Underage players must obtain a letter of permission from the WSMHA to try out for a rep team. A decision as to whether an underage player is "qualified by ability" to be rostered to a rep team will be made by a committee appointed by the WSMHA Board of Directors.
4. Head Coaches for AA, A and AE teams appointed by the WSMHA shall both attend the tryouts for their respective division (age group) and shall be responsible for selecting players for their teams based on an objective assessment of the relative skills of the players trying out. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the Board and the Board may elect to appoint a selection committee who will be responsible for selecting players for the team based on an objective assessment of the relative skills of the players trying out.
5. Head Coaches are encouraged to use independent evaluators to assist them in player selection, and to avoid appointing parents of players trying out for their team to their coaching staff until the team has been selected.
6. The Head Coach of the AA team shall have first right of selection for any players trying out for a particular division, and must advise the players, the A Head Coach and the WSMHA as to the individuals he/she has selected upon completion of the second tryout for that division.
7. The Head Coach of the A team shall have two tryouts to complete the selection of players for his/her team.
8. All players are charged the tryout flat fee regardless of the number of tryouts the player attends.
9. Any player who tries out for a rep A team and is not offered a position on that team will be so advised in person or by telephone in a timely manner and will be told what areas of his/her game they need to work on to improve their chances for selection in future.
10. The Head Coach of the AA team retains a right of first refusal re: any player who is physically unable (due to illness, injury, re-location timing etc.) to attend the scheduled tryouts for that division, but who wishes to be considered for a position on a Rep team.
11. A player selected for a position on an AA team who refuses to be rostered to that team may be asked to meet with representatives of the Board of Directors to explain his/her decision, and at the discretion of the Board may be denied the ability to roster to another rep team on either a full-time or AP basis.

12. Any player wishing to play REP hockey (AA or A) for the WSMHA is expected to attend the AA tryouts for their age group. However, for divisions where MD is offered as a 2nd team, players who do not wish to participate in a league where body checking is permitted are not required to attend the AA tryouts, i.e., they can attend the MD tryouts only.

Note: NRP Passports to attend any other centers "A" tryouts, will only be issued to players who attend the WSMHA AA tryouts and only for the age group where the WSMHA is not offering an A team.

Motion approved April 2, 2012, updated September 13, 2022

Re-imbusement of Team Officials

1. Team officials (head coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and managers) are volunteer members of the Association whose appointments are subject to approval by the Board of Directors; they are responsible to and serve at the pleasure of the WSMHA Board of Directors.
2. No team official shall receive compensation in any form to carry out their duties.
3. A team official who purchases goods or services on behalf of the team should be reimbursed out of team funds for those purchases upon presentation of appropriate receipts provided that such purchases were previously identified in the teams' budget and approved by the parent group.
4. No team official who is directly related to a player on the team shall receive re-imbusement for travel expenses incurred in carrying out his/her duties; team officials who are not related to a player on the team may be reimbursed out of team funds for accommodation expenses incurred at out-of-town tournaments, OMHA play down games or OHF Championships provided that such re-imbusements have been previously approved by majority vote of the parent group.
5. No team official shall be reimbursed for food or beverage costs incurred while carrying out his/her duties.
6. No team official shall be reimbursed by an individual team for the cost of obtaining any accreditation required to carry out their duties; any such re-imbusement shall be the responsibility of the Association.
7. Team officials who have received Board approval to be rostered to a WSMHA team may apply to the WSMHA for re-imbusement of funds they have paid to receive accreditations for rostering purposes. The cost of courses, clinics, seminars etc. which enable a team official to obtain credits for renewing his/her current accreditations will also be re-imbursed by the WSMHA. Proof of successful completion for new or renewing accreditations must be submitted along with receipts. Expenses incurred for educational activities which are not a prerequisite for rostering will not be re-imbursed without prior written approval of the WSMHA.

Motion approved April 2, 2012, updated April 12, 2021

Team Apparel & Equipment Purchase Policy

1. The WSMHA Board of Directors conducts a tender process to select suppliers of specified equipment and apparel for the Association to ensure:
 - our members receive good value for their investment in equipment and apparel.
 - uniformity and consistency in appearance and quality.
 - Integrity in the purchasing process.
 - protection of WSMHA trademarks.
2. The WSMHA will publish a list of approved suppliers at the beginning of each season.
3. Teams purchasing on-ice or off-ice apparel or equipment which is identified with the words “Stouffville” or “Clippers” or uses the Stouffville Clipper logo or facsimile must make their purchases from an approved Association supplier.
4. Any teams which wish to purchase apparel or equipment from a supplier not identified as an approved WSMHA supplier may only do so with the prior written permission of the Association.
5. Team officials for any team which purchases equipment or apparel from other than an approved supplier without the prior written permission of the Association will be subject to sanctions including suspension or dismissal.

Motion approved April 2, 2012

Policy re: Anonymous Complaints

1. The WSMHA acknowledges that the Board of Directors has an obligation to investigate and resolve to the best of its abilities concerns that are communicated in good faith by a member and in particular those that relate to the safety of its members, the integrity of the Game and/or the reputation of the Association.
2. The WSMHA recognizes that the identity of a member communicating a concern may need to be protected and will in all instances take whatever steps are necessary to keep such information confidential without the prior consent of that member.
3. The WSMHA will not be responsible for responding to concerns from anonymous sources where the authenticity of such concerns cannot be readily determined, or the ability of the Association to objectively investigate and effectively resolve the issue is compromised by our inability to communicate with the source.

Motion approved April 6, 2010

Affiliated Players for Rep Teams

The WSMHA policy re: affiliated players (AP's) for rep teams is consistent with the OMHA regulations pertaining to player affiliation (Section 7.0) and the WSMHA's philosophy on player development.

1. A rep team may roster AP's horizontally from the same age group (division) one level below; in addition, a rep team may roster AP's vertically from one age group below at the same level.
Example: a U13 AA team may roster AP's from the U13 AE team; in addition, they may also roster AP's from the U12 AA team.
2. The primary AP's for any Rep team will be players from the same age group, one level below (horizontal affiliates); vertical affiliates should only be used when there is a schedule conflict with the horizontal affiliate, or the appropriate position player(s) is (are) unavailable due to sickness or injury.
3. Teams should only roster AP's who they are prepared to use in games and such players should be invited to practice and play from time to time with the team to which they are rostered as AP's.
4. Horizontal selection of AP's will take precedence over vertical selection, and each Rep team can initially select up to four skaters and one goalie from its horizontal affiliate; additional horizontal affiliates may be rostered after the vertical AP selection process has been completed.
5. Teams wishing to roster AP's vertically may do so after they have selected their initial five horizontal AP's, and the teams from the age group below them have done likewise.
6. A player selected to AP to a particular team who refuses to be rostered to that team may be asked to meet with representatives of the WSMHA Board to provide his/her reasons, and the Board may deny that player's request to AP to any other team if it believes such action to be appropriate.
7. Coaches are expected to support the AP process and enable their rostered players to play or practice with the selecting team unless there is a schedule conflict, the player requested is injured or sick, or there is a disciplinary issue with the player in question.
8. Coaches are required to actively support the player development objectives of the Association's AP policy by rostering AP's, inviting them to attend practices and providing opportunities for the AP's to play in games – particularly if fully rostered players are absent

Motion approved February 16, 2010, updated January 9, 2017

Arena Banners

The WSMHA will fund the purchase of arena banners for OHF, OMHA and York Simcoe Championship teams, and such banners will be displayed in perpetuity in the Stouffville Arena or Clipper Sports Complex. Other banners, including banners for “Finalists” in League Playoffs or Regional Playdowns may be purchased by the team, and will be displayed in the Stouffville Arena or Clipper Sportsplex for a period of one year.

International Silverstick Tournament Champion banners will be displayed in perpetuity in the Stouffville Arena or Clipper Sportsplex. Championship banners for tournaments other than the International Silverstick may be displayed in the Stouffville Arena or Clipper Sportsplex for a period of one year.

Motion approved February 16, 2010

Code of Conduct

The WSMHA endorses the OMHA Code of Conduct as defined in the OMHA Manual of Operations and reserves the right to take appropriate action to enforce adherence to the Code of Conduct by our members, including the referral of alleged violations to a Board of Discipline in accordance with Bylaw #5 of the WSMHA Constitution.

Motion approved February 16, 2010

Reimbursement for Championship Mementos

Teams purchasing apparel, jewelry or other items commemorating an OMHA or OHF Championship from a supplier approved by the OMHA (or OHF as the case may be) are entitled to a reimbursement of 50% of the cost to a maximum of \$2000 upon submission of receipts. Note: a team winning both an OMHA and an OHF championship in a given season will be entitled to receive a maximum total reimbursement of \$2000.

Motion approved April 8, 2008, updated April 13, 2020

Reimbursement of Championship Travel Costs

Teams traveling to OMHA Championship Final Series or OHF Championship Tournament games by bus where the travel distance one-way is 250 km or more are entitled to a WSMHA reimbursement of 75% of the net cost (total cost less any grants or subsidies) of the bus rental/ driver accommodation to a maximum of \$3000 upon submission of receipts.

Motion approved April 8, 2008, updated March 19, 2018

Underage Players- AA Teams

In accordance with the OMHA Manual of Operations “a player is eligible to try out for and if qualified by ability may register and play for” an AA team in the next higher division. The decision as to whether such a player is “qualified by ability” will be made by majority vote of a committee of 3 members appointed by the WSMHA. The decision as to whether an underage player who has been declared “qualified by ability” shall be rostered to the next higher division team remains with the head coach of that team.

Motion approved March 19, 2018, updated August 15, 2022

Underage Players- A/MD Teams

In accordance with the OMHA Manual of Operations and the Association’s philosophy on player development underage players will generally not be allowed to try out for or register with an A/MD team. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the Board in the case of an underage goaltender if there is no age-appropriate goaltender available from the membership ranks, or a team can only meet its minimum player requirements by registering 1-2 underage players.

Motion approved April 16, 2009, updated August 15, 2022

Use of WSMHA Logos

“Clipper”, “Spitfire” and “WSMHA” logos are protected by copyright and may not be used in any form without the express written consent of the WSMHA.

Motion approved September 9, 2008, updated June 9, 2014

Rep Tournaments During Playdowns/Play-offs

Rep teams are prohibited from entering tournaments during OMHA Playdowns or YSMHL Play-offs without prior written approval of the WSMHA Board of Directors. For greater clarity, no team can apply for acceptance to any tournament for the period which begins with the scheduled completion of the YSMHL regular season and ends with the team’s elimination from all OMHA Playdowns and YSMHL Play-offs

Motion approved January 9, 2017

On-ice Volunteers

The WSMHA recognizes that there may be instances in which it is beneficial for individuals other than rostered coaches and trainers to be on ice to assist with team practices. Coaches are encouraged to utilize such resources where appropriate but are reminded that such individuals must be capable of contributing from a player training and development perspective. More specifically, this policy is not designed to simply provide "free" ice time for family or friends of the coaching staff.

To qualify "on-ice volunteers" must be

1. at least two years older than the players (see OMHA Policies & Procedures 2.6)
2. registered with the WSMHA as an "on-ice volunteer" for insurance purposes (see OMHA Policies & Procedures 2.7)
3. If of legal age, must have the minimum Hockey Canada qualifications/courses i.e., Respect in Sport Activity Leader Course, Gender Identity & Expression Course and a valid Vulnerable Sector Check.
4. equipped with skates, gloves, and a CSA-approved helmet (14 years of age and older) or full hockey equipment if they are under the age of 14 (see OMHA Policies & Procedures 2.6).

Motion approved April 13, 2020

Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) Policy

1. All Team Officials including coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, assistant trainers, and managers as well as all on ice volunteers (collectively referred to hereinafter as "Applicants") must be approved by the WSMHA Board of Directors prior to being appointed to their positions.
2. To be considered for approval by the WSMHA Board of Directors, Applicants must first apply for and submit a Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) which is not older than six months from the date of submission; the WSMHA will reject any Applicant who fails to provide a VSC.
3. Once received by the WSMHA a VSC remains valid for a period of three seasons at which time a new VSC must be obtained by the Applicant for them to retain their Team Official or on ice volunteer status with the WSMHA.
4. Before applying for a VSC, Applicants should obtain a letter from the WSMHA stating that they are a volunteer; Applicants will be reimbursed by the WSMHA for the cost of obtaining a VSC upon submitting an original (no photocopies) VSC; the original VSC will be retained on file by the WSMHA until it expires at which point it will be destroyed.
5. Individuals whose VSC does not meet the criteria defined by the current OMHA Criminal Record Check Policy will not be considered for a Team Official or on-ice volunteer position with the WSMHA; the WSMHA reserves the right to consider other information in addition to the VSC in determining whether to accept or reject an Applicant.

6. If an Applicant is rejected by the WSMHA for any reason they will be advised in writing; a rejected applicant has the right to know why he/she has been rejected as well as the right to appeal the decision in writing to the WSMHA Board of Directors.
7. Once approved, a Team Official or on ice volunteer must inform the WSMHA of any new pending charge(s) or convictions listed in the OMHA Criminal Record Check Policy; failure to inform the WSMHA of such new charges or convictions in a timely manner may result in that individual's removal from his position by the WSMHA Board of Directors.

Motion approved February 7, 2022

Rep, MD and Select Head Coach Policy

- a) The Board of Directors shall appoint one or more Selection Committees each year for the purpose of selecting a Head Coach for each AA, A, MD or Select WSMHA team for the next hockey season, and each such committee shall be convened by an Executive Committee member and report to the Board of Directors.
- b) A Selection Committee shall consist of four individuals at least two of whom must be Directors; an alternate Selection committee member may be appointed to replace a Committee member who is unable to participate in the selection process for a particular position for any reason including conflict of interest.
- c) The application periods for prospective head coaches shall be determined in January each year and posted on the WSMHA website; all applications shall be in writing and must be received by the WSMHA by the relevant published deadline unless otherwise determined by a vote of the Board of Directors.
- d) The Selection Committee, after interviewing all applicants, shall recommend a candidate for each head coach position to the Board of Directors for the Board's approval; the recommendations of the Selection Committee are not binding on the Board, and the Board may, by majority vote, instruct the Selection Committee to continue its search should the Board determine that a recommended candidate is unacceptable.
- e) If a candidate recommended by a Selection Committee is not approved by the Board of Directors, the Selection Committee may:
 - I. Re-submit its original recommendation to the board on the basis that the Board's expressed reason for rejecting the recommendation has been factually disproved.
 - II. Recommend another candidate who has been interviewed as part of the original selection process.
 - III. Initiate a new selection process leading to a new recommendation to the Board of Directors.
- f) Following the Board's approval of head coaches and by a date specified by the Board, all candidates will be contacted and advised of the Board's decision; the names of selected coaches shall remain confidential until the date specified by the Board; the Board's decisions re: selected coaches are not subject to appeal.

- g) All selected head coaches shall be required to sign a WSMHA Coach Agreement; an applicant who refuses to sign this Agreement shall be deemed to have declined the offer of a head coach position.
- h) All selected head coaches shall submit the names of other potential Team Officials for their team to the Board for approval; all proposed Team Officials must receive Board approval before their names are submitted to the OMHA for inclusion on the roster; the Board reserves the right to reject a proposed Team Official; a Team Official once appointed may only be removed from the approved roster by majority vote of the Board.
- i) Notwithstanding any other appointments or agreements, the Head Coach is accountable to the Board for the actions of all members of the team including Team Officials.

Motion approve February 7, 2022, updated August 15, 2022

Right of Choice/ Shared Area Policy

1. While there are specific exceptions under OMHA Regulations, players who wish to participate in residence restrictive programs (essentially any program other than House League) may only register and play for the Centre in which they reside.
2. Each OMHA Centre has specifically defined boundaries and players who reside within these boundaries are considered “residents” for the purpose of determining their eligibility for resident restrictive programs.
3. There are also geographic areas which are not assigned to a specific Centre but are instead designated as “shared areas”. A “shared area” is an area between two or more adjacent Centers defined by a boundary agreement between the Centers for the purpose of determining hockey eligibility of players for residence restrictive programs.
4. As indicated on the Whitchurch-Stouffville boundary map, there are several shared areas between the defined geographical boundaries of Whitchurch-Stouffville and adjacent centers such as Aurora, Markham and Uxbridge.
5. A player whose residence is in a shared area has the right to choose which of the two applicable Centers he/she wishes to play for as it relates to any residence restrictive program.
6. To exercise their “right of choice” under OMHA Regulation 3.4, a player who is resident in a shared area will be required to confirm his/her decision by signing a Right of Choice Declaration prior to registering for or participating in a residence restrictive program.
7. Having signed a Right of Choice Declaration to participate in a residence restrictive program in Whitchurch-Stouffville, a shared area resident will be subject to the same OMHA Regulations as an actual resident of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Centre.
8. The WSMHA reserves the right to oppose any request for a release from a player who has signed a Right of Choice Declaration to play in Whitchurch-Stouffville unless such request is specifically permitted under OMHA Regulations.

Motion approved August 15, 2022