



WMHA – OHF Freedom of Movement Q & A

What is the OHF Freedom of Movement?

The Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) is the governing body of the OMHA, GTHL, Alliance, Northern Hockey League, and more. In March of 2024, discussions began to explore the removal of residential barriers with respect to Representative Hockey. Through dialogue with parents, players and member partners such as the OMHA and GTHL, it was determined that there should be no restrictions on where an individual chooses to play representative hockey effective the 2025 hockey season. The key focus is on enhancing the participant's experience.

As a result, starting in 2025 from U10 to U18, players will be able to attend evaluations (tryouts) for any level of representative hockey (B, BB, A, AA, AAA) with any Association under the OHF umbrella.

Do I need a release from WMHA to attend evaluations/tryouts at another centre?

No. The Freedom of Movement mandate does NOT require any player to attend their home Association evaluations/tryouts prior to attending evaluations at another centre. Players can choose to play Representative hockey with any Association within the OHF (OMHA, GTHL, Alliance, NOHA) at any level if they are successful making that specific team.

Will WMHA permit players from other centres to play Rep Hockey here in Whitby?

Yes. The new landscape of minor hockey will require all Associations to ice competitive teams at all age groups and all levels. Players from outside of Whitby will have the opportunity to make Rep teams in the Association.

Will WMHA limit the number of players outside of Whitby who can make a Rep team?

Each level (B, BB, A, AA, AAA) will be evaluated accordingly and parameters will be in place to meet the competitive needs of the Association on a team by team basis.

Will WMHA add or reduce the number of Rep teams for the 2025/2026 hockey season?

The OHF will permit Associations to 'grandfather' current Rep team structure with this new policy. Therefore, WMHA will maintain the exact same number of Rep teams as the 2024/2025 hockey season but are not permitted to add teams to any age group or level.

Can a player tryout at multiple centres at the same time?

Yes. Players will be able to attend tryouts at as many Associations as they choose, however, once a commitment is made to a team, this cannot be rescinded.

When will Coaches for Representative teams in WMHA be announced?

As a result of these changes, the OHF directive is that AAA coaches cannot be announced publicly prior to February 15th. AA and below coaches will be announced later in February with the application process starting in mid January. Those interested are asked to regularly visit the WMHA website.

When do evaluations/tryouts begin?

AAA evaluations are scheduled to begin on Saturday April 19th, 2025, for U10-U13 and Monday April 21st, for U14-U18. AA starts seven days after AAA, and A seven days after AA, etc. Further information related to dates and times will be posted in the spring of 2025. Note U18 AAA evaluations will take place in the spring of 2025.

What does all of this mean for WMHA?

Historically Whitby Minor Hockey Association was deemed a 'closed centre' at all levels and all age groups. Therefore, this marks a significant transition for our board, our coaches, players and families.

WMHA specifically at AA and below is a premier Association demonstrating success in division standings and achieving tournament championships at all age groups. WMHA is one of a few Associations to provide two 'A' level teams. WMHA has many very successful teams and takes pride in the development and competitive opportunities we have available for our players. Similarly, our AAA programs continue to make strides and WMHA is committed to making our AAA teams a destination for our existing athletes and those looking to attend our AAA evaluations.

We recognize that these changes may cause some anxiety while for others this may pose as an opportunity to explore different options. WMHA will need to adapt and create a direction for sustainable and competitive teams at all age groups and all levels moving forward.

Questions related to the OHF Freedom of Movement and WMHA can be directed to:

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