



## **OGHA Formation of Competitive Teams Policy**

### 1.1 Statement of Purpose

1.1.1 This policy establishes the criteria and process for the formation of competitive teams within the OGHA.

1.1.2 This policy embodies the principle of association loyalty

1.1.3 This policy does not apply to the Intermediate AA Team.

### 1.2 General

1.2.1 Teams will be formed with a minimum of 15 skaters and 1 goalie by the beginning of regular season play. The Board of Directors can approve up to 17 skaters. NOTE: For C level teams, a minimum of 11 Skaters and 1 goalie is required to roster the team.

1.2.2 Players are expected to play within their age level, unless under exceptional circumstances. If a player would like to play at a higher level a formal request with the relevant justification must be made to the Board of Directors and approved.

All players attending competitive tryouts will pay a fee as determined each season by the Board of Directors.

### 1.3 Definitions

#### 1.3.1 Returning Player

1.3.1.1 Players are considered returning if one of the following criteria is met:

- a) A player that was registered the previous hockey season with the OGHA; or
- b) A player that left the OGHA to play with another association at a tier that was not offered by the OGHA the previous season; or
- c) A player that left the OGHA or has been Released but has never affiliated with any other OWHA association since their departure;

#### 1.3.2 New Player

1.3.2.1 Players are considered new to the OGHA if one of the following criteria is met:

- a) Any player not previously registered with an ODWHA team;
- b) Any player coming directly from a Boys Minor Hockey Association; or
- c) Any player coming directly from ringette

#### 1.3.3 Import Player

1.3.3.1 Players are considered imports to the association if the following criteria is met:

- a) Any player registered within the ODWHA during the previous Hockey Season and that association was not the OGHA.

### 1.4 Competitive Tiers



1.4.1 The OGHA shall form a competitive team for a given division and category as long as there is sufficient ice, interest and talent among its players to do so, as determined by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Technical Director and the coaches.

#### 1.5 Tryouts Eligibility - All Levels

1.5.1 Returning players must register online for tryouts in advance and have paid the tryout fees in full.

1.5.2 Import and new players trying out for any OGHA Competitive team (AA and below) may register with the proper paperwork (eg: Permission to Skate/Release) at the door or have submitted electronically all forms to the OGHA Registrar 24 hours prior to the start of the tryouts and have paid the tryout fees in full.

#### 1.6 Tryout Attendance

1.6.1 Though it is not compulsory to begin tryouts at the highest tier within each level, it is recommended that players attend a higher tiered tryout within the same level to have exposure to the expected pace of the tryout and to be seen by the next tier coach who will be present to begin the assessment for their team.

1.6.2 Once a player begins tryouts, it is expected that the player continues to attend tryouts at that tier until they are released or tryouts at that tier are completed.

1.6.3 If a player is requested to "sit" from a tryout by the Head Coach for evaluation purposes, the player is not obligated to attend the session. Head Coaches MUST notify the OGHA Board in advance and provide a rationale for any such absences. .

1.6.4 Players are obligated to attend a minimum number of tryout sessions to become eligible for a competitive team. If a player is unable to attend 60% of the tryout time (on-ice), OGHA Board approval is required prior to offering the player a roster spot.

#### 1.7 Player/Goalie Evaluation Process

1.7.1 Tryouts will be conducted by a selection committee made up of independent evaluators that will include the team's assigned head coach and the Technical Director.

Note : Independent evaluators are defined as individuals with the appropriate hockey-knowledge who do not have previous knowledge of the players nor coaching history with the Head Coach.

1.7.2 The OGHA will provide the appropriate number of independent evaluators for each session to ensure efficient and effective running of the tryouts and selection of the best players for that level.

1.7.3 At the end of each session the scores from ALL evaluators will be reviewed and provided to the board of directors.

1.7.4 During the evaluation process, some players may not make a tier that they are trying out for and will be required to try out for a lower tier. No scores from a previous tier shall be utilized or calculated for rankings at a lower tier.



- 1.7.5 If a player is cut and moves to a lower tier, the evaluation process is re-started. Every child must be successful at the tryout in order to be placed on a competitive team.
- 1.7.6 In the event that a player cannot attend tryouts due to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. illness and injury, the Board of Directors reserves the right to utilize evaluations from previous coaches and tryout sessions.

## 1.8 Selection of Teams

- 1.8.1 The selection of teams shall be monitored by an OGHA Board member and the Technical Director.
- 1.8.2 In those situations where a parent coach has been selected for a competitive team, the Program Committee has made an assessment in advance that the Coach's daughter would be appropriately placed on that level of team. However, there are no guaranteed roster spots for any child of a named coach.
- 1.8.3 All rosters (Players, Asst. Coaches, Bench and On-ice staff) will be vetted and approved by the Board prior to the Registrar rostering the team.

### 1.8.4 AA Teams

- a. There can only be a maximum of three (3) import players, including goalies, for selection at the AA level;
- b. There will be no preference given to minor players over major players at AA. All players trying out at AA will be considered for making each AA team.
- c. There is no restriction on the number of new players that can be rostered on the AA Teams;
- d. For imports to be considered for selection to a AA team, they must achieve an overall evaluation score that places them within the top six (6) forwards OR the top four (4) defence positions. This ranking is based upon equal weighting of all the session evaluators : independent evaluators and head coach.
- e. The approval of any import players rests with the OGHA Board of directors.

### 1.8.5 Below AA Teams

- a. Up to a maximum of three (3) import players, including goalies, may be selected over the entirety of the divisions (not team) ranked below AA. However, the higher ranked team(s) in each division will have the first choice of these players. Thus, if the higher ranked team selects the maximum allowable number of import players for that division, the lower ranked team(s) will not be eligible to select any import players, with the exception of C teams where imports can be used to complete a team to make it viable to roster
- b. There will be no preference given to minor players over major players at all levels below AA. All players trying out at all levels will be considered for making each team.



- c. There is no restriction on the number of new players that can be rostered on all levels below the AA Teams.
- d. For imports to be considered for selection to any team below AA team, they must achieve an overall evaluation score that places them within the top six (6) forwards OR the top four (4) defence positions. This ranking is based upon equal weighting of all the session evaluators : independent evaluators and head coach.
- e. The approval of all import players rests with the OGHA Board of Directors.
- f. *Import Policy Exception:* The Board will allow any number of imports for the competitive team at the lowest tier in that division, if and only if, the roster cannot be filled with OGHA players. For example is there are only 9 players to form a C team, the board can allocate up to the maximum amount (17 players) of imports to fill a roster.

## 1.9 Appeal Mechanism

- 1.9.1 If any disagreement arises between coaches, parents or players regarding this policy, the OGHA Board of Directors has the authority to intervene to uphold the intent of this policy.