



## **OWHA CATEGORIZATION POLICY**

- (A) Categorization will be managed in accordance with the OWHA Categorization Policy.
- (B) The online Team Application Form (Intent to Register, ITR), due on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>, indicates each team's registered category and division from the previous season. If a team wishes to change its category, please update to the desired category and division on the ITR form. The change will be automatically granted until October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season in accordance with Regulation Three (A) (2)
- (C) The OWHA will circulate a list of teams that are registered in a specific division at the OWHA Fall Forum to authorized team delegates.
- (D) If a team wishes to submit a category change with its Roster, which is due before participation in a tournament, exhibition or league game, but no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>, the change will be automatically granted in accordance with Regulation Three (A)(2)
- (E) After October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season, teams will remain in their division/category as circulated unless a Request for Re-Categorization form or a Request OWHA Team Category Review form is received by the OWHA as an official position of a Team or Association.
- (F) All requests for re-categorization of your own team and all requests for a review of another team must be submitted on the applicable form, i.e. "Request for Re-Categorization" form or "Request OWHA Team Category Review" form, and submitted to the OWHA office no later than a date to be set annually by the OWHA. Each individual request must be submitted on a separate "Request for Re-Categorization" form or "Request OWHA Team Category Review" form and signed by the designated authority.
- (G) Upon receipt of the written Request OWHA Team Category Review form, the OWHA will contact the team, in writing, to make a decision to either move up or provide written rationalization as to why the team should stay in its current category.
- (H) If the team wishes to remain in its current category, the OWHA will review all pertinent information and render a decision.
- (I) The OWHA will circulate an updated list of teams in a specific division no later than a date to be set annually.
- (J) Input on the circulated list from an official position of a Team or Association will be accepted no later than a date to be set annually. Such input must be on either a Request for Re-Categorization form or a Request OWHA Team Category Review form.
- (K) No movement (re-categorization) will occur unless a properly completed Request for Re-Categorization form or a Request OWHA Team Category Review form is received on or before the deadline from a Team or Association. An application to request a review of the category of another OWHA team must be endorsed by the requester's Association.
- (L) The dates of Categorization decisions and Appeals will be set in accordance with the OWHA Categorization Policy.
- (M) Online Game Reports of all games played must be recorded in accordance with the OWHA Categorization Policy. Failure to complete the Game Report may result in ineligibility for Provincials. Competitive teams shall have access to scores from Game Reports received.

- (N) The OWHA has the authority to move any team at any time, in accordance with the OWHA Categorization Policy, notwithstanding that a team may not have been petitioned for re-categorization.
- (O) Appeals will be heard in accordance with the OWHA Appeals Policy.
- (P) All appeals must be submitted in writing to the OWHA Office in accordance with the OWHA Appeals Policy.
- (Q) Upon the receipt of a categorization appeal, the OWHA will provide to the appellant, within 3 to 4 days, all information that was available at the time of the decision.
- (R) Categories:  
All teams playing within the OWHA shall play within approved OWHA categories. OWHA teams within the Province of Ontario shall play under the following categories:

<b>COMPETITIVE</b>	<b><u>Note:</u> All ages are as of December 31<sup>st</sup>.</b>	
Senior "AAA"	Open Age	Highest category
Senior "AA"	Open Age	Lower category than "AAA"
Senior "A"	Open Age	Lower category than "AA"
Senior "BB"	Open Age	Lower category than "A"
Senior "B"	Open Age	Lower category than "BB"
Senior "C"	Open Age	Lower category than "B"
Intermediate "AA"	21 & under	Highest category
Intermediate "A"	21 & under	Lower category than "AA"
Intermediate "B"	21 & under	Lower category than "A"
Int. "C" (if req'd)	21 & under	Lower category than "B"
Midget "AA"	17 & under	Highest category
Midget "A"	17 & under	Lower category than "AA"
Midget "BB"	17 & under	Lower category than "A"
Midget "B"	17 & under	Lower category than "BB"
Midget "C"	17 & under	Lower category than "B"
Bantam "AA"	14 & under	Highest category
Bantam "A"	14 & under	Lower category than "AA"
Bantam "BB"	14 & under	Lower category than "A"
Bantam "B"	14 & under	Lower category than "BB"
Bantam "C"	14 & under	Lower category than "B"
Pee Wee "AA"	12 & under	Highest category
Pee Wee "A"	12 & under	Lower category than "AA"
Pee Wee "BB"	12 & under	Lower category than "A"
Pee Wee "B"	12 & under	Lower category than "BB"
Pee Wee "C"	12 & under	Lower category than "B"
Atom "AA"	10 & under	Highest category
Atom "A"	10 & under	Lower category than "AA"
Atom "BB"	10 & under	Lower category than "A"
Atom "B"	10 & under	Lower category than "BB"
Atom "C"	10 & under	Lower category than "B"
Novice "A"	8 & under	Highest category
Novice "B"	8 & under	Lower category than "A"
Novice "C"	8 & under	Lower category than "B"
Masters	35 years+	

**HOUSE LEAGUE** Note: All ages are as of December 31<sup>st</sup>

Senior	Open Age
Masters	35 years+
Senior House League	20 & over
Senior House League Competitive	20 & over
Intermediate	21 & under
Midget	17 & under
Bantam	14 & under
Peewee	12 & under
Atom	10 & under
Novice	8 & under
Hockey FUNdamentals Program (HCIP)	Open Age

- (S) (1) A House League is one in which the eligibility of players to participate is not restricted by skill level. Typically, a House League accepts all individual registrations and divides the players into equal teams based on age and ability. These teams then compete against each other. Placement of players on teams and teams in league groupings is entirely at the discretion of leagues and local associations, considering local conditions, fairness, and appropriate risk management. All players must register with the OWHA according to OWHA requirements.
- (2) Development Stream (DS) is a subset of the House League Program and must be in compliance with the Development Stream (DS) Program Policy.
- (T) The OWHA adopts the Hockey FUNdamentals Program (Hockey Canada Initiation Program – HCIP), which stresses fun and basic technical skill development for all ages and levels, for use in its hockey program.

## **OWHA CATEGORIZATION PROCEDURE**

- (a) If a team has been moved, appealed, had their appeal denied, there will be no further request accepted by the specific team to further review their team.
- (b) If a team has been moved and they did not appeal, the team may request a move later.
- (c) If a team requested to be re-categorized and it was denied and the team did not appeal, the team may request a move later.
- (d) If a team was moved, appealed and won their appeal and the Categorization Committee receives a second request from an outside member, the process will start again.
- (e) If there are extenuating circumstances that might make a difference after a re-categorization has occurred (ie loss of players through injury and/or moves), the team may make a request, in writing on the applicable form (Request for Re-Categorization form), to the Chair of the Categorization Committee for relief to have their team reviewed again. The Chair of the Categorization Committee, in conjunction with the

President of the OWHA, will make a determination if the request should go before the Categorization Committee again. If relief is granted to have the request reheard by the Categorization Committee for a second time and the team's higher level is confirmed by the Categorization Committee, there will be no further right of Appeal.

- (f) **In accordance with REGULATION ONE – Categorization (N), the OWHA President or designate shall have the authority to move a team, at any time, that is playing at a category due to Regulation THREE – Registration (A) (2). All teams that are moved to a category through this process will automatically be reviewed by the Categorizing Committee at their winter meeting with decisions of the Categorizing Committee final and binding with no opportunity for appeal**
- (g) The team re-categorized will be notified of the time to Appeal and in order to have an Appeal Hearing, they must complete the attached Appeal Application Form with the applicable fee by the date as advised to the OWHA.
- (h) The written facts supporting the Appeal regarding the team being re-categorized will be accepted at the time of the original submission, prior to the Appeal, or at the Appeal Hearing.
- (i) New material may be provided to the Appeal Committee by both parties.
- (j) The OWHA Appeal Tribunal shall be formed and operate in accordance with the OWHA By-Laws, Regulations, Rules, Policies and Procedures.

## **IMPORTANT NOTE RE U9 HOCKEY**

Hockey Canada has created mandatory requirements for novice hockey that impact OWHA programs. The goals and objectives are to teach all basic skills of hockey so players can enjoy the game, assist in development and enhancement of physical literacy and basic motor patterns, develop and encourage the concepts of being a team member through player participation in both on-ice and off-ice activities and encourage aspects of fitness, fair play and cooperation while having fun.

Please refer to the OWHA web site at [www.owha.on.ca](http://www.owha.on.ca) for detailed information on requirements for U9 hockey.