



OWHA NEW MEMBERSHIP POLICY

A team or group of teams interested in membership in the OWHA may apply in accordance with the following:

- (i) Anyone wishing to register a new team/association or expand from team to association status must make application to the OWHA on the applicable form.
- (ii) A \$50 fee must accompany the application. No application will be reviewed until the fee has been paid. The official date of application will be the date that OWHA receives the fee payment.
- (iii) The approval of membership is to be in the best interests of female hockey in Ontario as determined by the Board and is at the sole discretion of the OWHA Board or by any committee or individual delegated such authority by the Board
- (iv) The OWHA decision is final and the applicant will be notified in writing. Appeals will not be accepted.
- (v) Input will be gathered by the OWHA from existing OWHA registered teams and/or associations in the surrounding area of the application to learn the impact of a new group on their program. Applicants will not solicit this input.
- (vi) Association status is granted to serve teams in the Intermediate category and under or Senior divisions, or for both. To request a change in status, an Association must apply to the OWHA. The request may be approved or denied.
- (vii) Groups with association status registering one (1) team only for two (2) consecutive seasons will lose association status and must re-apply to the OWHA to regain association status. Independent teams failing to register for one (1) season will lose their membership and must re-apply to the OWHA.
- (viii) All newly approved teams or groups granted association status are placed on probation for one year to ensure adherence to the By-laws, regulations, rules, policies and Code of Conduct of the OWHA. It is a requirement for full approval that, upon completion of the probationary period, they provide proof of their operation as an independent female hockey structure with contacts for their Board of Directors and a copy of their constitution, approved and filed with the OWHA office.
- (ix) The OWHA reserves the right to revoke membership for cause at any time while on probation. Any change in status/name requires an application to OWHA
- (x) Requests for any team/association to change their name must be submitted to the OWHA Office on the OWHA Name Change Application Form for approval. No fee will apply.

NOTE: While an application is under review, the applicant cannot advertise and must follow OWHA By-laws, rules, regulations and policies, especially in regard to the tampering guidelines. Only after an application has been approved is it possible to start making announcements or publish advertisements to attract players.

DEFINITIONS

TEAM - A team is a group of players and staff properly registered and approved by OWHA.

ASSOCIATION STATUS - A group of 2 or more teams as defined above, operated under an OWHA approved By-laws, administered by an independent executive and having persons designated as Signing Officers for Permission to Skate and to approve player releases.

Full Association may offer all levels of Female Hockey

Junior Association may offer Novice to Intermediate only

Senior Association offers Senior Hockey only

House League Association offers House League only, no competitive

Policy Approved: July 26, 2023