



INFORMATION BULLETIN

BULLETIN #: 260122-030-I
DATE: 22 January 2026
TO: OMHA Associations; OMHA Leagues
CC: OMHA Board; OMHA Convenors
FROM: Ian Taylor – Executive Director
SUBJECT: VSC/RISK MANAGEMENT REMINDERS - 2026-27 SEASON PLAYER EVALUATIONS

As we approach the Player Evaluation phase for the 2026-2027 season, please be reminded of and ensure the following to ensure safety as the priority for our participants.

Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC)/Screening/Registration of Those Conducting Evaluations

It is expected the OHF will be releasing a Bulletin end of March regarding the **OHF Screening Process for 2026-27 Season**

In order to provide as much lead time as possible to allow individuals requiring a VSC to initiate the process of obtaining their VSC, the following information is provided:

The OHF Screening Portal is expected to open April 1, 2026 for the 2026-2027 season.

Team Officials, On-Ice Officials or Third-Party Instructors approved on a roster for the 2025-26 season may participate in the Spring Evaluation process.

Any NEW individuals, not currently on a roster in your Association, must complete their VSC Screening and Declaration form prior to participation in Spring Evaluations. Any individuals in this situation are encouraged to initiate the process with their police service immediately. They must then be registered to your Association and added to your 2025-26 Volunteer or Third-Party Instructor Roster dependent on their role. For the purposes of evaluations, the requirement of Regional Director/designate approval is not necessary, and assignment to one of these two Rosters implies the MHA has identified, selected and approved the individual in that role, and they meet all necessary requirements to be rostered.

Subsequently, the Roster approval process of submission to Regional Director/designate for approval MUST be completed prior to participation in any sanctioned team activities including, but not limited to, regular season games, tournaments and exhibition games (not associated with the evaluation period).

Any member involved in spring evaluations and/or who will be rostered as bench staff on a team selected in the spring or will be added to an At-Large or Volunteer roster, must have completed VSC results on their HCR profile. VSC application receipts will not be accepted. i.e. VSC status must be completed and not pending. Exceptions will not be granted.

Team Officials, On-Ice Officials, or Third-Party Instructors, etc. returning for the 2026-27 season and had approved screening during the 2025-2026 season with a VSC from 2024 or 2025 are required to complete and submit only the online declaration for the 2026-2027 season. Individuals that were approved last season with a VSC from 2023 are required to submit a new VSC along with the online declaration. All declarations from 2025-26 season will expire on May 31, 2026.

Team Officials, On-Ice Officials, or Third-Party Instructors, etc. that are new to programming for the 2026-27 season are required to submit a VSC and complete the online declaration for this season. These Individuals must be registered with their Local Minor Hockey Association in the HCR prior to submitting their screening to the OHF.

Individuals aged 17 and under are not required to complete screening.

Third-Party Service Providers and Volunteers.

Requirements for Third-Party Service Providers include:

- Vulnerable Sector Check
- Respect in Sport Activity Leader
- Rowan's Law Acknowledgement
- Gender Identity and Expression Course

Associations are to roster Third-Party Service Providers on the team identified in the HCR as 'At Large – Third-Party Instructor'.

Requirements for Volunteers include:

- Vulnerable Sector Check

Associations are to roster Volunteers on the team identified in the HCR as 'Volunteer'.

- Volunteers must be identified as either On-Ice volunteer or Volunteer.

Dressing Room Supervision

As with all team activities during the season, please ensure adherence to the Ontario Dressing Room Policy during the course of all Preparation Phase and Player Evaluation activity.

[Ontario Dressing Room Policy](#)

Body Checking During Evaluations – Players Entering U14

Each season, there are questions with regard to the status of the introduction of body checking during Evaluations involving players entering U14. Member Associations have the opportunity to provide body checking educational sessions for their players in preparation prior to evaluations. Despite best efforts of associations, this challenge becomes more complex when dealing with players potentially unfamiliar to coaches/Associations (i.e. Player movement, etc.), and in confidently ensuring all players have been exposed to the same education. In cases where an Association cannot be completely certain that all participating players have been exposed to the same education and training, it is recommended that tryouts be conducted without body checking.

It is imperative that Associations and Coaches conducting evaluations ensure that players are not exposed to a situation in which there may be a skill evaluation for which they have not been appropriately instructed.

Your attention to these matters will contribute to ensuring a positive, safe player experience.