
HOCKEY OPERATIONS POLICIES

HO-4: Player Eligibility

Background:

The Garden City Minor Hockey Association exists to promote, administer and improve organized minor hockey in St Catharines by:

- Having and exercising a general care, supervision and direction over all participating Association activities; and
- Fostering and encouraging the sport of hockey within the combined boundaries of St. Catharines Centre and the former Merritton Centre, as defined by the OMHA shall serve as the boundaries of the GCMHA;
- Fostering community spirit among its members and all supporters;
- Promoting the Association to other hockey organizations and affiliates, community sponsors, civic leaders and the community at large, and
- Promoting keen sportsmanship and the development of healthy minds and bodies.

Policy:

All GCMHA players must reside within the combined geographic boundaries of St. Catharines Centre and the former Merritton Centre, as defined by the OMHA.

The **series age limits** (as of December 31st) for the Association shall be in accordance with the OMHA rules, as follows:

Minor Novice 7
Major Novice 8
Minor Atom 9
Major Atom 10
Minor Peewee 11
Major Peewee 12
Minor Bantam 13
Major Bantam 14
Minor Midget 15
Major Midget 16-17

Procedure:

1. Any new player to Garden City Minor Hockey Association must provide proof of birth in the form of an official document issued by the Registrar General's Department from the province of birth or such other proof acceptable to the OMHA as part of the league registration process.
2. Players must attend try-outs for the appropriate level team and pay the appropriate fee. Notice of Try-outs for Garden City Minor Hockey Association Teams is posted on the GCMHA website at <https://gcmha.ca/> prior to the start of try-outs.

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HO-5: 2011/2012 Tryout Policy

Background:

Anyone wishing to try out for a GCMHA team must reside within the combined geographic boundaries of St. Catharines Centre and the former Merritton Centre, as defined by the OMHA.

The GCMHA and the SCMHA endorses and promotes the idea that players begin at the highest level of competition in the St Catharines centre.

As deemed by the OMHA, St Catharines' highest level of competition is AA based on the number of hockey participants in the city.

Therefore,

Policy

1. ALL eligible players in St Catharines MUST:
 - a. Register with the GCMHA for AA tryouts.
 - b. Upon release from AA, players are permitted to tryout for A
 - c. Upon release from A, players are permitted to tryout for AE
 - d. Upon release from AE, players are encouraged to join Kiwanis or Merritton House Leagues.
 - e. Players are also encouraged to attempt the AAA zone tryouts as representatives of GCMHA.
1. The cost for GCMHA tryouts for each season will be set annually by the Board of Directors.
2. No player may participate in AA Tryouts or off-ice activities without signing the Garden City Minor Hockey Association tryout form and paying the prescribed fee. Even if the player arrives for the last tryout only, that player must pay the tryout fee. **There are NO exceptions.**
3. **Spring Roster Selection:** The Tryout period for the GCMHA teams will be conducted over a 7 day period as per OHF Regulations. The A and AE Tryouts will commence following the completion of AA Tryouts in accordance with the policies of the **Garden City Minor Hockey Association.**
4. **Offers Of Commitment:** According to OHF Regulation E32: A player who is offered a player registration in accordance with E30 has fourteen (14) days to accept the player registration, failing which the AA team may fill the player's position.
5. Once a player signs an Offer of Commitment from the AA Head Coach, the player is not eligible to play for any other team including the A or AE teams, unless released by the head coach.
6. Within 24 hours of completing the roster the head coach must submit ALL names of players to the registrar as per OMHA regulations.
7. **Acceptance of Offers of Commitment:** All players receiving and signing an Offer of Commitment from the coach and witnessed in accordance with OHF Regulation E30, **MUST** present themselves in the Falcons room on a specified date and time. At this time the player **MUST** pay the non-refundable initial payment to the association. If the deposit is not paid on this date, contact **MUST** be made with the Treasurer, Treasurer to direct Bookkeeper to arrange payment or the player will not be allowed to participate in off-ice activities.
8. A player who lives nearer to the boundaries of the GCMHA centre than another AA centre may try out for a GCMHA AA team under the rules governing **Hometown Hockey**. If that player is released by the AA coach, he must return to his/her home centre. Please refer to **Policy HO – 7 Trying Out for GCMHA AA Teams on an NRP** for further information.

Procedure

1. The cost for Tryouts is posted each season on the GCMHA website. Each player is guaranteed 2 (two) sessions at AA and if released, is guaranteed 2 (two) sessions at A and the same at AE.
2. The AA Head Coach and the A Head Coach work in concert with each other. The A Coach should be part of the AA on ice selection process and evaluate players during week -one of the tryouts. The AA coach must then also include the A coach to assist with selections, AP lists etc.
3. Players will follow direction on website during the tryout process. Player will be offered a letter of commitment at

AA, A or AE. Players not offered a letter of commitment will be excused from GCMHA tryouts for that season.

4. Players may ask for a meeting to review performance during tryouts. A representative from the GCMHA Board will conduct the meeting at an mutually arranged time.
5. The Coaches will ensure that all players given an Offer of Commitment are aware that, although under OHF guidelines, the player has 15 days to accept the Card, and if the player does not make the decision immediately, his/her roster spot may **be offered to another player**. Although the minimum AA roster required by the Association is 17 players, coaches are encouraged to sign a full roster of 15 skaters and two goalies. This is especially important from Minor Bantam to Major Midget due to injuries, suspensions etc.

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HO – 6 Team Administration Duties

Background

The Coach of any GCMHA AA, A or AE team is ultimately responsible for his or her team. Head coaches, however, are not the contact for administrative matters including finances, registration, and equipment issues. The Coaches deal primarily with hockey matters and are responsible to the VP's.

Regulation

1. The **Head Coach** is responsible to the Conveners Committee, the Ice Allocator and the board as a whole to carry out specific duties including on and off ice tryout, selection, and training activities. He/she is ultimately responsible for his coaching staff and conduct of the players. He is responsible to the Association and for adherence to procedures, regulations, and Code of Conduct.
2. The **Manager** is responsible to the Head Coach, the appropriate VP, Treasurer, Bookkeeper, and the Registrar. He/she is responsible for all administrative and financial matters affecting the team.
3. The **Trainer** will be responsible to the Head Coach, and the Association Equipment Manager. He is responsible for all equipment and medical issues affecting the team.
4. The Head Coach shall have all bench staff approved and meet the OMHA requirements for rostering.
5. Parent coaches must have their children pre-evaluated by the Coach Selection Committee to ensure adequate leveling.
6. The Head Coach must report to the respective convenor on a regular basis the developments of the season including plans, budget, and news items.

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HO-6: Trying Out for GCMHA AA Teams on a Non Resident Passport (NRP) Background:

The GCMHA wishes to build stronger teams and make the rep hockey more desirable for players. This will help to attract high level coaches and, in turn, high level players from outside the zone.

Please note: a player who lives nearer to the boundaries of the GCMHA centre than another AA centre may try out for a GCMHA AA team under the rules governing Hometown Hockey. If that player is released by the AA coach, he/she must return to his/her home centre.

Policy:

1. GCMHA may accept three (3) eligible NRP players from nearby centres. NRP players are ONLY allowed from Minor peewee to midget at this time. If an assessment is needed to ensure fairness, the Tryout Committee will assist the Head Coach with the evaluation. The assessment would be done collaboratively with the coach and a Player Evaluation Committee assigned by the Board and headed up by the Vice-Presidents 1 & 2. A coach would notify the Convenor and the Player Evaluation Committee of the potential of selecting a waiver player and this would result in the committee attending the tryouts to assess along with the coach.
2. **This assessment is not required, however, when the remaining forwards, defencemen or goalies are not AA caliber. Rationale:** It is detrimental to a team and to an individual player's development to play AA hockey if they are not AA level.

Procedure:

1. According to OMHA Regulation 3.5(c), a player from a nearby A or lower classified centre may be permitted to attend try-outs in the Garden City Minor. A Non Resident Player trying out for a GCMHA team **must present** the following documents to the Registrar before the player is allowed on the ice with the team:
 - a. **Non Resident Passport Form** signed by the player's home centre.
 - b. **GCMHA Registration form and tryout payment.**
2. The Registrar or the Registrar's representative will be at the arena during each tryout session at a registration table. All new registrants and NRP players will be processed at that time.

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HO-7: TRYING OUT IN A HIGHER SERIES

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with the OMHA guidelines, a player may tryout in a higher series providing the coach at the higher series wants the player on his team. The Association however, has set certain criteria to approve this advancement. The purpose of players exercising this option is designed for "exceptional players". Players will be evaluated by compensated third party evaluators who will comprise the Evaluation Committee.

REGULATIONS:

In order for a player to try out for a higher series team the player must comply with the following:

1. Register and pay the required Association Tryout fee for the lower division.
2. Inform the Association 15 days in advance of the first day of tryouts by Registered Mail of the intent to try out at the higher division.
3. Pay an additional administration/ evaluation fee of \$250.00 to try out with the higher division.

PROCEDURES:

1. The Evaluation Committee will attend if at all possible the first tryouts of the higher division team to assess the player and determine, in their opinion, if the player is deemed to be "exceptional".
2. The Evaluation Committee will provide a report to the convenor outlining their evaluation.
3. The coach, player, and parent are expected to comply with and accept the decision of the Association in accordance with the *Code of Conduct*.

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