



OAKVILLE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2020-21 WELCOME NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the 2020-21 hockey season! While this season may look a little different than past years, we are confident that fun competition and camaraderie will still be the key focus for our players, coaches, and families!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the 2019-20 season has been cancelled indefinitely due to the Province's Covid-19 gathering restrictions. Please forward any questions and/or concerns to oakvilleminorhockeyassociation@gmail.com for an immediate response.

There are currently three (3) members of the Board looking to take a step back from OMHA prior to the end of the term ending after this season, at which time regular elections would occur. These positions include the Treasurer, Registrar and President. Any persons interested in assisting these positions or joining the Board as a Director at Large for the upcoming season should forward their intent before September 11th.

COACHES & TEAM MANAGERS

The OMHA is currently asking for all interested coaches and team managers to forward their application (including relevant background information) ASAP. The deadline for application is September 11th, with coaching and team manager decisions to be made by the board on September 15th.

Everyone chosen to coach and/or manage this season will be required to have a Criminal Record Check submitted prior to the start of the season, as well any applicable Coaching and/or Respect In Sport certifications.

WOLVERINES FEMALE HOCKEY PROGRAM

OMHA intends to run a full female hockey program for the 2020-21 season, including full-time teams all the way from U9 to U15, if registration numbers permit. The Oakville Wolverines will continue to play in the Pembina Valley Female Hockey League.



IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration will be online from September 1st to September 11th and will be done through Hockey Manitoba as in previous years. Payment will not be taken during this timeframe, as two (2) in-person dates will be made available to accept payment at the rink. *These in-person dates are Monday, September 21st and Wednesday, September 23rd, both from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.*

Please visit www.oakvilleseals.com and follow the link for 2020/21 Online Registration.

REGISTRATION FEES

U7 (formerly Initiation) - \$325/ U7 (1st year player) - \$200

U9 (formerly Novice) - \$400

U11 (formerly Atom) - \$450

U13 (formerly PeeWee) - \$475

U15 (formerly Bantam) - \$525

Registration fees for this season have gone up from the 2019-20 season largely due to the current Covid situation. As a result of Covid, the Oakville Rink will be looking to hire a caretaker to ensure proper cleaning and sanitization procedures of the venue are followed. This will ensure both Oakville Minor Hockey and the Oakville Rink can provide a safe and comforting environment for those attending and spectating this season's hockey. These added costs will cover the cost of flooding, meaning that there will be limited volunteer shifts outside of hockey days from the Oakville Rink Board. This will all be confirmed once the final COVID protocols are released for Oakville Rink and OMHA. Game day volunteer shifts will still be required as in previous years (flooding, canteen, 50/50, time clock etc). We hope that you can appreciate the value of this gesture as it pertains to the fee increase.

Please note that these fees will cover the cost of a full season (tournament fees extra, if applicable). Should any interruption in the season, including the ability to play home games, create a surplus with OMHA, the Board will look at partial reimbursement of fees at the end of season.

In addition to the above note, OMHA will also require that all registration fees be made over three (3) payments with post-dated cheques. These cheques will be dated for October 15th, November 15th and December 15th. This will allow for more flexibility in payments/fee returns should the season be stopped on short notice due to Covid-19.



FUNDRAISING

The Grey Cup fundraiser done the past two seasons was widely successful and we had strong plans to grow this endeavour in the upcoming season. The cancellation of the CFL season has put an obvious halt to this fundraiser and the OMHA Board is actively working towards a new initiative to help raise funds for OMHA.

Details on the new initiative will be released at the time of registration, but all families should be prepared to submit a \$100 fundraising cheque when they attend the in-person registration night(s).

COVID AFFECTS ON THE SEASON

As we all know, Covid has had an affect on every aspect of our lives over the past months, and this coming hockey season will be no different. While we anticipate several changes to the season, a full Covid Response Plan is yet to be finalized. OMHA is actively working with both the Oakville Rink and the Central Plains Hockey Association to create a fluid Covid Response Plan to be used within Portage and surrounding hockey associations.

OMHA is strongly considering the need to expand our previous practice schedules to include practice times throughout the week, not just on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This will ensure that traffic volumes, cleaning schedules and physical distancing is feasible and strictly adhered to.

Rink capacity may be greatly affected by the current Covid regulations, and future restrictions could extend as far as one person per player allowed at the rink. This is all to be determined still and both Oakville Rink and OMHA will be sure to make this public as soon as available. Please begin to plan accordingly in the event that your entire family is not allowed to visit the rink at the same time during your child's practices and/or games.

Player development sessions will not be scheduled at this time, and a final decision on whether such sessions can take place will be made a later date in the season.

Volunteer shifts, as mentioned above, may not be required at this time from our hockey families, as the increase in fees will allow for the Oakville Rink to hire a caretaker for cleaning, sanitizing, and flooding. If the cleaning regime of the rink, specifically dressing rooms, is too extensive there may be a request for volunteer shifts still.

We would like to thank everyone involved with minor hockey in Oakville for their support, assistance, and cooperation with all of the changes to this hockey season, ensuring that our young players can continue to enjoy the game of hockey!

As always, please forward any concerns and/or questions regarding the 2020-21 hockey season to the OMHA Board at oakvilleminorhockeyassociation@gmail.com.