



ONTARIO MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
25 Brodie Drive, Unit 3, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3K7
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All OMHA Centres
CC: OMHA Board, Convenors
DATE: November 5, 2015
SUBJECT: Leagues Operating Outside the Auspices of Hockey Canada

Calgary, AB: - Hockey Canada, its member Branches, Major Junior and registered Junior Hockey Leagues in Canada are concerned with the proliferation of leagues that operate outside the auspices of Hockey Canada.

Hockey Canada offers the best development programs worldwide. It has invested significant resources in the development of officials, coaches, administrators and players countrywide. We have a committed strategy toward a cohesive long term athlete development model.

These “Non-Sanctioned” organizations do not support the development of these programs. Further, they operate in a vacuum, with no consideration to the impact of their programs on minor, junior, senior, adult recreational hockey, female hockey, officiating development, coaching development or administrator development in Canada.

These “Non-Sanctioned” leagues instead choose to utilize the resources already developed by Hockey Canada and its member Branches. The teams who make up these “leagues” operate in this fashion because they do not agree with the existing overall vision of Hockey Canada. They profess to have a better program yet often operate without a constitution, by-laws, create their own rule book and may not provide adequate insurance for their participants. Further, they offer the lure of “Rep” or “Junior” level competition when this is clearly not the case. Hockey Canada, its member Branches, Major Junior Leagues as well as registered Junior Hockey Leagues wish to be exceedingly clear with our response to these programs.

Definition:

Hockey Canada and its member Branches view all leagues that operate outside the auspices/sanctioning of Hockey Canada programs to be classified as “Non-Sanctioned”





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leagues. This currently does not include summer hockey leagues/teams, adult recreational hockey leagues/teams, high school hockey, and/or hockey schools.

Sanctions:

- 1) Any individual who participates [knowingly or otherwise] in “Non-Sanctioned” programs after September 30 of the season in question [“the Cut-Off Date”] will lose all membership privileges with Hockey Canada for the remainder of that season, and may only reapply for membership with Hockey Canada after the end of that season. “Participation” in a “Non-Sanctioned” program will be considered to have occurred if the individual takes part in one game [including an exhibition, tournament, league or playoff game] after the Cut-Off Date. If a participant makes the choice to participate in these “Non-Sanctioned” programs, they must understand the ramifications of that choice and that the sanctions described in this paragraph will remain in effect even if the league or team folds, or the individual is released, suspended or fired.
- 2) Hockey Canada and its member Branches across the country will make every effort to ensure that local minor hockey and female hockey associations in areas where “Non-Sanctioned” Leagues exist are not supporting these leagues in any manner whatsoever. For greater certainty, “supporting” includes, but is not limited to, assisting a “NonSanctioned” League directly or indirectly through advertisement, promotion, ticket sales, volunteer activities, assigning Officials, sharing resources or enabling such a league to participate in Hockey Canada sanctioned activities. We will withhold tournament sanctions and will preclude such associations from benefitting from any Hockey Canada/ Branch/ CHL sanctioned event by whatever means necessary, including the withdrawal of any such event from any community within the geographic boundaries of that association if need be to stress this point.

This policy is aimed at those leagues that choose to operate outside the hockey structure established by Hockey Canada, its member Branches and the Canadian Hockey League.

Some recent publications have announced a partnership of two such outside organizations; the Canadian Independent Hockey Federation (CIHF) and the US based Amateur Athletic Association (AAU). The CIHF operates teams in the Toronto, Golden Horseshoe, Oxford County, Waterloo and Orillia areas under the name Ontario Rep Hockey League. The AAU has branches in Texas, Illinois and most recently Michigan and New York State. The Michigan Amateur Youth Hockey League (MAYHL) and the Greater Niagara Amateur Hockey league (GNAHL) both claim to offer sanctioned





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competition levels ranging from House League through to Rep (B - AAA), as well as international tournaments.

All Centres must take caution, as a tournament host, that they do not accept entry applications from any team associated with the AAU, MAYHL, GNAHL and ORHL. In addition, OMHA teams may not participate in tournaments hosted by the AAU or any of its member branches. Please be fully aware that these organizations and leagues are not recognized by Hockey Canada or USA Hockey.

Following is a list of leagues/teams known to be operating as Non Sanctioned Teams with no affiliation to Hockey Canada or USA Hockey.

Sincerely,
ONTARIO MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Richard Ropchan
Executive Director





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Amateur Athletic Union (AAU)

Greater Niagara Amateur Hockey League

Buffalo Jr. Saints
Clarence Stallions
Lakeview Hawks

Lakeview Warriors
Mighty Buffaloes
Rochester Grizzlies
Rochester River Monsters

Syracuse Valley
West Seneca Jr. Wings
Wheatfield Jr. Blade

Ontario Rep Hockey League

Belfry Hockey
Burlington Cougars
Burloak Bears
Cambridge Outlaws
Cambridge Pirates
Cambridge Rebels
Cambridge Renegades

Conacher Hockey (Burlington)
Halton Ravens
Hamilton Steelcats
KBX Selects
Kitchener Kingsmen
London Cobras
Oakville Spitfires
Peel Predators

Royal City Kings
Sault Ste. Marie
Simcoe County Kings
TNC Hockey Toronto
The Beast
Tri City Kings
Toronto Stealth

Other Leagues/Teams

Barrie Knights
London Red Circle

Barrie Christian Hockey League
Stratford Rotary

Little Native Hockey League
Sudbury Playground

Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) 2015-2016

Alliston Coyotes
Almaguin Spartans
Bobcaygeon Storm
Bracebridge Blues
Bradford Bulls
Bradford Rattlers
Brantford Steelfighters
Colborne Chiefs
Coldwater Falcons
Grey Highlands Bravehearts
Grey County Grizzlies

Haliburton Wolves
Halton Ravens
Kingsville Kings
Komoka Dragons
London Lakers
Meaford Knights
Niagara Whalers
Norfolk Vikings
North York Renegades
Orangeville Ice Crushers

Oshawa Riverkings
Parry Sound Islanders
Seguin Huskies
Shelburne Sharks
South Muskoka Shield
Sturgeon Falls Lumberjacks
Temiscaming Titans
Toronto Attack
Toronto Ice Jets
Toronto Predators
Tottenham Steam

