

Haldimand and District Minor Hockey Association

Partnership Highlights

October 2021

Clarifying Why

- The minor hockey associations from Caledonia, Cayuga, Dunnville, and Hagersville have met a number of times over the past couple of years to discuss the future of minor hockey here in Haldimand.
- We agreed our top priorities are player development and fun. Player development and fun are best achieved when players play at the level of hockey that meets their needs (Local League, AE, or REP) and alongside other players that have the same and/or similar skills and ability.
- Our associations have all struggled to offer a full range of hockey programming, particularly in REP, in a consistent manner across most divisions.
- By working together through a Rep partnership arrangement, we can provide a more complete and sustainable hockey program. Local league hockey will remain as it currently operates; those seeking more competitive/skilled hockey would have a combined REP level hockey program to play in.

Rep Hockey Partnership Model

- All associations agreed that a full amalgamation was not appealing, and looked for a preferred cooperative model.
- The associations wanted to maintain community spirit and their existing local league experience, while cooperating at a higher level to benefit the Rep Programs, where each have struggled.
- This discussion led the associations to the Rep Hockey Partnership Model that would result in existing Local Associations remaining as Local League Centres and creating a new Haldimand County Minor Hockey Rep Program to be run jointly by the Local Associations.

The Big Picture: Benefits of a Rep Partnership

- Preserves Our Hometown Hockey Experience
- Preserves Independence of Local Boards on Local Issues
- Ensures Local League Teams Remain in Local Rinks
- Creates a New "A" Program that each Local Centre Feeds Into
- Creates a New Board Structure with Equal Representation
- Agreed principles on Coach Selection and Tryouts to ensure fairness and representation by all Associations
- Maximizes use of Haldimand County rinks
- Will result in competitive teams with balanced ability, thereby maximizing development and fun for all players

Board of Directors

- Local League organizations will transfer their OMHA Rep hockey rights to the newly created Haldimand and District County Minor Hockey Association to be run by the combined Board at the Partnership level
- Elected Directors from the Local League level would flow upwards and represent their communities on the combined Board of the new Centre, providing equal representation from each community (4 directors each)



Finances

- Each Local Association will provide the Rep Association with a loan to cover costs incurred prior to registration of players such as any legal fees required to create a new non-profit corporation for the new Association.
- Each centre will contribute an equal amount
- That amount is undetermined presently
- Individual / registration costs have not yet been set as costs, such as ice time, for the coming season (2022/2023) also have not been set.

Coach and Player Selection

- Selection for either players or coaches will be handled by a committee consisting of members from each of the local associations
- Coaches:
 - A committee consisting of the Coach Administrator, the Director of Rep Operations , and Directors from each of the local associations will choose from applicants and submit their choices to the entire Board for approval
 - Applicants will be evaluated on a number of criteria including an interview, prior coaching experience, etc.
- Players
 - Players will try out for teams in the spring and will be evaluated by an independent panel. The Evaluation Panel shall be comprised of equal number of members from each of the Local League Associations as well as the head coach for the team.

When and Where?

- Plan to begin for 2022 – 2023 season
- As an 'A' centre we will no longer play in the Southern Counties Minor Hockey League. Instead, we would move to the Niagara District Hockey League (pending OMHA approval)
- Each Local Association will be the host for a rep division's home games and practices. For example, Caledonia might be the home rink for U10 and U11 while Cayuga will be home to the U12 and U13 teams. These rinks would remain the home centre from year to year.
- Home rinks have not been determined yet.
- Local League teams would remain in their home rink for home games and practices

Category of Play for Rep Teams

- Intention is to be an “A” Centre, playing in the Niagara District Hockey League (subject to OMHA approval)
- Allows for Minor and Major Teams at all Age Divisions
- Overall goal is to create more quality hockey opportunities
- Larger pool of players should allow for more successful teams at both the Rep and Local League levels
- Local League players can AP to Haldimand County Rep Teams from each Local Association

Name and Colours for Haldimand County Rep Teams

- Name and Colours for Haldimand County Rep Teams:
 - Not yet decided upon
 - Needs to be a fresh name and logo – unique from existing Local Teams
 - Will need to be decided upon to be ready for next season
 - New Board will seek suggestions from Membership for possible ideas and final approval by the Membership

Conclusions

- Partnership Model consistent with history & traditions of Haldimand County communities and preserves each town's local identity
- Achieves a large, competitive and robust "A" Centre with Rep Program
- Reduces NRP losses and promotes player retention
- Well structured and stable model that will clearly define roles and responsibilities – easily manageable by all Centres
- Provides a flexible "win / win" for each Association – leaves some independence at the Local League level, while allowing cooperation in areas where all Associations currently struggle
- Local League Centres don't lose their identity and partnership of equals provides better hockey opportunities for all players
- For membership at Local League level – *no significant changes*
- For membership at Rep level – *better quality hockey experience and more competitive teams*

Going Forward...

- We will be holding a second set of information meetings on Oct. 30 at the same times and places, to answer any further questions you still may have.
- We will then be holding membership votes during the second week of November on approval of the agreement in each centre.
- If approval is granted by the membership, then our proposal goes to the OMHA for approval early in 2022.
- If you have any questions before Oct. 30th, please submit them to your Association representative and we will do our best to answer them.

Thank You for Attending