

Thamesford Hockey Parents

As you are aware, the OMHA has made a final ruling and TAMHA has been reclassified as a local league centre for the upcoming 2017/18 season.

Players are now eligible to pursue playing REP/Competitive hockey at the next closest association. The next closest association is measured from your home address to the centre point of the association (generally considered to be the Post Office unless otherwise specified by OMHA). Depending on where you live, you may have the option to pick between 2 or more associations as long as the measured distance between each association is not greater than 8km. You may not pass through one association to play for another in the same general direction. Please also refer to the OMHA Regulations to assist you in this process. These can be found at <http://www.omha.net/manualofoperations> - Section 3.4 of the Regulations on page 95.

Centres offering 'AE' teams are also considered "competitive" hockey and follow the same rules as REP.

Should a player choose to try out for another centre's REP or AE team you will be required to declare that as your new "right of choice (ROC)" centre. OMHA rules dictate that a player must sign a ROC prior to attending a tryout. Before signing a ROC at another centre you need to ask and understand their rules as most ROC's can be a 'forever' commitment to that association for REP/AE hockey while you remain at your current home address. If you do not make the REP or AE team of your new ROC centre you cannot try out at another centre.

Local League (LL) hockey has no such Right of Choice rules and players are free to play anywhere. But we hope that those players wanting to play LL will remain in Thamesford for any teams that we can make available to you.

HOWEVER, at the recent meeting with the OMHA, the attending OMHA members stated that although this LL ruling was made, Thamesford may still apply for a Rep/Competitive exception on a Team by Team basis and if approved can field that team in the 2017/18 season.

Although, we are not aware of all the factors that OMHA will consider to grant that team exception, we expect that TAMHA would need to confirm that there are enough players willing to commit and who have the ability to play on a Rep team in Thamesford for the 2017/18 season.

It is important to note that submitting an application or being approved for a Rep team exception is on a team by team basis only and that all players within TAMHA will remain eligible to tryout and play for REP teams in other centres and at all levels/divisions. Players not interested in playing for a REP team in Thamesford will not be bound to TAMHA under this exception if OMHA approval is received. The application for specific TAMHA Rep Team(s) exceptions must be submitted in April and OMHA will make a decision by June. Therefore the players involved with a TAMHA REP team application will know the status of a team well in advance of the start of the next season.

In order to proceed with any Rep Team applications, we would like to inquire whether your player would commit to play representative hockey in Thamesford if an exception was approved for his/her division. If you have more than one child who is participating in hockey, we would need a response for each individual player. If an exception is provided, players who have chosen to play in other centres are not required to return to TAMHA. If your child signs a ROC with another centre and fails to make that centre's REP or AE team, they will be ineligible to play on the REP team in TAMHA if TAMHA receives approval from the OMHA for an exception.

Willingness to commit to a TAMHA REP team also does not guarantee the players participation if a team is approved. The standard process of a formal tryout will still be required (unless unique circumstance deems otherwise as decided upon by TAMHA). Based on the feedback received, a decision to submit an individual REP team application will be based on the following:

- number of players committed to stay and play for that team
- REP experience of those same players
- General assessment by TAMHA of that team's overall ability to complete at the Rep level.

While we understand the current season has ended and your thoughts are on other sports or activities, in order to be able to file the application and be able to obtain a decision from the OMHA in time for the 2017/18

season, we need to receive your response by April 23rd so a formal application can be submitted to OMHA by the end of the month.

We wish to thank you for your support of Thamesford Minor Hockey in the past, present and future. We hope that you remain committed to future registration in our Hockey program.

If you have any questions regarding the process, please e-mail us at tamha@tamha.net

Thank you

TAMHA Executive