

Membership Policy

Reference

This policy is intended to support and supplement Article I of the Bylaws.

Eligibility

Membership in the Association is a privilege, not a right.

Memberships are issued on the basis of a "family unit". In other words, all parents/guardians and siblings under the age of eighteen (18) living at the same address are recognized under a single membership. The administration of membership rights for family arrangements outside this situation will be considered by the Board on a case by case basis.

A person wishing to further the Objects, Goals and Aims of OMHA and living in the Town of Olds and District, may apply in writing to the Board for membership. Normally this person will fit one of the following descriptions:

- the parent or guardian of a child or children wishing to participate in the Association's activities.
- a team and/or on-ice official, or the parent or guardian thereof, registered with the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association who has designated OMHA as their "home" LMHA. (Team officials must also be prepared to sign required team affiliation card(s) and/or to be added to the necessary team sheet(s), pending approval.)

Filling out the Association's registration materials will satisfy the condition of applying in writing.

Potential members living outside the designated OMHA boundary may apply for membership; they will need to supply written permission from their home Association before their application can be considered.

The Board may also place other conditions on the membership application process. These conditions may include, but not limited to:

- payment or the promise of payment of Association fees and dues, according to the rates and schedule approved by the Board.
- signing a waiver or voluntary assumption of risk agreement
- signing a personal conduct agreement or similar document
- providing a certified medical report from a physician.

Approved - August 21, 2008

Ratified - October 28, 2008

The Board shall have the discretion to accept or refuse an application for membership:

- Prior members or participants who have been the cause of unacceptable behaviour, or who have been a burden to the OMHA in the past may be refused re-entry.
- Potential members or participants from other LMHAs, with a reputation of poor behaviour or conduct, may also have their application declined.

Expiration

All memberships in the OMHA, except those of duly elected Board members, will be deemed to expire on July 31 st. They must be reactivated annually.

Expectations and Rights

Members shall unconditionally commit to obey and abide by all the Objects, Bylaws, Regulations and Policies of the OMHA, at all times.

At any meeting of the general membership, one vote will be given to each membership unit as defined above. The vote can only be cast by an adult from that unit.

Any adult from any membership unit in good standing may allow their name to be put forward for election to a Board position.

A member has the right to petition to appear before the Board to be heard on matters of interest.

Suspension/Revocation

As per clause B of the Bylaw, a member may voluntarily withdraw from the Association.

Residents of the LMHA may petition the Board to release a player or players from OMHA.

In emergent situations, the President shall be empowered to temporarily suspend a member for a period of up to 14 days, pending investigation and ratification by the Discipline Committee and/or Board.

The Board may suspend a member for a specified period of time, until specified conditions are met or both. Suspensions cannot extend beyond the term of the membership, but the circumstances related to the suspension can certainly be considered should a new application for membership be filed.

Suspensions may be applied to the entire membership unit or to individual(s) within that unit.

Approved - August 21, 2008

Ratified - October 28, 2008

Positive Participation Policy

This policy supplements Articles I and II of the OMHA Bylaws. It is designed to encourage enjoyment of all of the benefits of belonging to the OMHA.

Membership in the OMHA is a privilege, not a right and should be treated as such.

All members of the OMHA are expected to demonstrate appropriate behaviour at all times. The details of the behaviour expected from members of the Board (Executive), on-ice officials, parents and players are described in the appropriate appendices which are a part of this policy. All other members of the Association not covered in an appendix are still expected to abide by the spirit of this policy.

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action.

Olds Minor Hockey Association Positive Participation Policy Appendix A - Board Member Code of Conduct

Members of OMHA Board are accountable to all members of the Association.
Executive members are expected to adhere to the following:

Acquaint themselves with the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures of OMHA.

Carry out their responsibilities as set out by the OMHA, to the best of their abilities.

Make decisions believed to be in the best interests on the Association.

Encourage a hockey program that focuses on the development of players and not for the benefit of adults.

Seek further input when they are unsure of the issues or uncertain as to the preferred course of action.

If complaints are received, refrain from comment and direct members to the proper complaint process.

Refrain from making any comments on behalf of the Executive to any individuals or groups, other than to take up the request with the Executive and respond appropriately.

Step down from participating in matters where a conflict of interest exists or is perceived.

Act as good stewards of the Association, through ethical conduct.

Each Executive Member shall ensure that their behaviour towards other members prior to, during, or following a meeting is as follows:

- courteous, professional, fair, and unbiased
- contributes to the presentation of orderly decorum in the meeting
- avoid sarcasm, derogatory comments or questions designed to embarrass or demean
- respectful of the rulings of the OMHA as a whole

The President shall not tolerate:

- discourtesy by one party to another
- rudeness to other members
- disruptive behaviour

An Executive Member is not restricted in any public statement they choose to make, but as a Member of the Executive they are expected to:

- Support the Executive and its officers
- Support the current Policies and Procedures of the OMHA
- Support the decision and resolutions of the OMHA
- Retain in confidence any matters presented in confidence

**Olds Minor Hockey Association
Positive Participation Policy
Appendix B - On Ice Official Code of Conduct**

This code applies to referees, linesmen, and other minor game officials.

I will:

- Respect and adhere to all ideals, policies, and rules determined by the C.H.A, the AAH.A, and the Olds Minor Hockey Association.
- Make sure that every player has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability within the rules.
- Avoid or remedy any situation that threatens the safety of the players.
- Maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
- Not permit the intimidation of any player by word or by action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct towards myself, other officials, players, coaches, or spectators.
- Be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feelings towards a team or individual player.
- Handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity.
- Accept my role as a teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants.
- Be open to discussion and contact with players before and after the game.
- Remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.
- Obtain proper training to upgrade my skills.
- Work in co-operation with other officials for the benefit of the game.

Olds Minor Hockey Association Positive Participation Policy Appendix C - Coach Code of Conduct

Membership in OMHA is not a right - it is a privilege. Members must abide by the Bylaws and their behaviour is expected to mirror the spirit of this code.

- I will respect and adhere to all ideals, policies and rules determined by the C.H.A, the AAH.A., and the Olds Minor Hockey Association.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills as required.
- I will exhibit a high degree of sportsmanship, teamwork, and positive attitudes at all times.
- I will respect the rules of the game, opponents, officials, and their decisions and teach my players to do the same.
- I will do my best to control the behavior of my players.
- I will refrain from using foul language towards players, other coaches, or officials.
- I will show respect for the feelings and abilities of my players and the players on the other team.
- I will ensure that my player's equipment is complete, safe, and in good condition.
- I will prohibit unacceptable conduct within the dressing rooms, at players bench, or on the ice surface.
- I will organize practices that are fun and challenging for players. I will familiarize myself with the rules, techniques, and strategies of hockey; I will encourage all my players to be team players. I will be prepared. I will not ask anything of players, other coaches, executive or parents that I would not ask and expect of myself.
- I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices.
- I will inform parent/guardian and/or submit a Player Discipline Form (see attached) to the Disciplinary Committee if a child is disciplined during a game or practice.
- I will keep line of communication open with parents, players, and the executive.
- I will be a positive role model to my players and display emotional maturity by maintaining self control.
- I will be generous with my praise when it is deserved and encourage players to have confidence in themselves; I will not ridicule or yell at players or criticize them publicly. I will be consistent, honest, fair, and just. I will remember the value of a positive and respectful approach, even in discipline.
- I will ensure that all players get equal instruction, support, and fair* playing time.
- I will keep winning in perspective and accept defeat graciously.

Love the game above the prize.

*Fair ice time is determined by the coach, weighing factors such as player commitment, work ethic, dedication and situational play throughout the season. Considering these factors fair may not always imply equal in any given game.

Approved

August 23, 2006

Olds Minor Hockey Association

Positive Participation Policy

Appendix D - Parent Code of Conduct

Membership in OMHA is not a right - it is a privilege. Members must abide by the Bylaws and their behaviour is expected to mirror the spirit of this code. All parents or guardians must sign this form before being allowed to participate in OMHA.

- I will respect and adhere to all ideals, policies and rules determined by the C.H.A., the A.A.H.A., the Olds Minor Hockey Association and the Coaches.
- I will show respect for the judgement and authority of the officials and coaches by supporting the decisions they make and not undermining their efforts. I will not verbally abuse officials or coaches.
- I will show respect before, during and after practices and games by not using abusive or foul language or harassing players, coaches, officials, spectators or other participants. I will maintain self-control at all times.
- I will refrain from behaviour which may have the effect of creating a negative, hostile or uncomfortable team environment.
- I will ensure that my child is at practices and games on time or I will contact the coach ahead of time.
- I will exhibit a high degree of sportsmanship, teamwork and positive attitude at all times when representing my child, their team, and the Association.
- I will show respect for the feelings and abilities of my child, my child's teammates and the players on the other team by accepting their capabilities. I will not ridicule or yell at my child or other players for making a mistake or losing a game.
- I will avoid unnecessary or exaggerated celebration of a goal scored or a game won that would embarrass or demean the opposing team.
- I will ensure that my child's equipment is complete, safe and in good condition.
- I will not approach the bench during a game situation unless summoned by a coach.
- I will avoid confusing my child by coaching from the stands.
- I will support the team as a whole, not just my own child. I will not be critical of players, parents, coaches or referees in the presence of players.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflict in a positive manner without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game.
- I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- I will attend all parent meetings scheduled by my child's coach or manager; in my absence, I will accept decisions made by the majority of team parents.
- I will help with team chores such as fundraising, working the clock and penalty box, etc.
- I will recognize the value and importance of the volunteers who give their time and resources to provide hockey for my child.
- If I wish to express concern or make a complaint, I will do so using the appropriate channels and in a positive and constructive manner.

Love the game above the prize.

***OMHA may suspend or expel any team, member of a team or parent refusing to accept and abide by the Code of Conduct.**

Approved

August 23, 2006

Olds Minor Hockey Association Positive Participation Policy Appendix E - Player Code of Conduct

Membership in OMHA is not a right - it is a privilege. Members must abide by the Bylaws and their behaviour is expected to mirror the spirit of this code. All the players must sign this form before being allowed to participate in OMHA.

- I will respect and adhere to all ideals, policies and rules determined by the C.H.A., the A.A.H.A., the Olds Minor Hockey Association and the Coaches.
- I will play hockey because I want to, not because others want me to.
- I will attend all games and practices on time or contact the coach ahead of time.
- I will respect the arena facilities and staff, either home or away, in which I am privileged to play. I will behave myself at all times in all public places, including hotel rooms and restaurants, etc., during minor hockey events. I will leave a positive impression of OMHA.
- I will exhibit a high degree of sportsmanship, respect for others, teamwork and self control at all times when representing my team and the OMHA.
- I will refrain from using foul language towards teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents.
- I will control my temper - fighting and mouthing off will not be tolerated.
- I will respect the decisions, judgments and authority of the officials and coaches. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me.
- I will listen to my coaches' instructions.
- I will show respect for the feelings and abilities of my teammates and opponents.
- I will not be critical of teammates and never discuss teammates abilities except to encourage good team play.
- I will remember that winning isn't everything - that having fun, improving skills, making friends, and doing my best are also important.
- I will ensure that my equipment is complete, safe, and in good condition.

Love the game above the prize.

***OMHA may suspend or expel any team, member of a team or parent refusing to accept and abide by the Code of Conduct.**

**Olds Minor Hockey Association
Positive Participation Policy
Appendix F – Parent/Player Signature Form**

Players and both parents/guardians (*if both parents/guardians are involved with their child's hockey*) must sign the following and turn it in to the head coach of the team prior to October 15th of the current hockey season. You must sign and hand in this form in order to play. If these policies are unacceptable to you, OMHA will refund your registration as per Bylaw 2.02.

Parent

I/we have read and agree to abide by the rules and the principles of the Parent Code of Conduct as set and supported by the Olds Minor Hockey Association.

I/we have also read and agree to abide by the Policies and Procedures as set and supported by the Olds Minor Hockey Association.

DATE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

Player

I have read and agree to abide by the rules and the principles of the Player Code of Conduct as set and supported by the Olds Minor Hockey Association.

I have also read and agree to abide by the Policies and Procedures as set and supported by the Olds Minor Hockey Association.

DATE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

PLAYER SIGNATURE: _____

**Olds Minor Hockey Association
Positive Participation Policy
Appendix F – Signature Form**

Players and parents/guardians (anyone involved in the child's hockey) must sign the following and include in your 2010 registration. **This signed document will be valid on file your entire OMHA hockey career unless changes warrant a new form.** If these policies are unacceptable to you, OMHA will refund your registration as per Bylaw 2.02.

Parents/Guardians

I/We have read and agree to abide by the rules and principles of the **Parent Code of Conduct** as set and supported by the Olds Minor Hockey Association.

Players

I/We have read and agree to abide by the rules and principles of the **Player Code of Conduct** as set and supported by the Olds Minor Hockey Association.

We have read and agree to abide by the **Policies and Procedures** as set and supported by the Olds Minor Hockey Association.

DATE _____

(PRINT) **PLAYER NAME**

LEVEL

SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME

SIGNATURE

**Olds Minor Hockey Association
Positive Participation Policy
Appendix G - Player Discipline Form**

Date of Incident: _____

Team: _____

Player Name: _____

Reason for Discipline: _____

Disciplinary Action Taken: _____

Effective Date of Discipline: _____

Parent/Guardian Informed

Coach Signature

Parent Signature

Note: This form will be used at the discretion of the Coach. It will serve as your record if a parent and/or player disagrees with your disciplinary action and pursues it beyond the team level. If in disagreeing with your disciplinary action inappropriate conduct is displayed by a parent, then you must follow due process.

**Olds Minor Hockey Association
Positive Participation Policy
Appendix H - Incident Report Form**

Submit completed form to your Coordinator.

This form is to be utilized by anyone in the Olds Minor Hockey Association to report an incident of unacceptable behaviour. An individual is considered to be displaying unacceptable behaviour if they are verbally or physically harassing and/or abusing a game participant (player, coach, spectator, or official).

DATE & TIME OF INCIDENT _____

NAME OF OFFENDING INDIVIDUAL _____

ASSOCIATED WITH (TEAM NAME) _____

NAME(S) OF ADDITIONAL WITNESSES _____

On a separate attachment, please provide a clear description of the unacceptable behaviour witnessed. Please write clearly or type the report. Reports that are not legible will not be reviewed.

You can expect the OMHA Disciplinary Committee to investigate your report. Unfortunately, a written response to all reports is not possible. We will however make every effort to contact complainants at some point during or after the investigation.

Please summarize your expectations of the outcome resulting from your report:

If additional space is required, please use reverse side or attach separately.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY/TOWN: _____

PHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Olds Minor Hockey Association Positive Participation Policy Appendix I - Discipline Guidelines

In many instances, offences that are similar to those identified in the Hockey Alberta Minimum Suspension Guidelines will be dealt with in the same manner. The only difference being that when we are dealing with adults who should know better, they would be given an additional game suspension.

When an individual is suspended, they are suspended from all Minor Hockey activities. This includes attending other sibling's games if they are a parent with other children playing hockey. It also includes refereeing games if they are a referee.

ALL SUSPENSIONS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE PRESIDENT OF OMHA, OR HIS/HER DESIGNATE, TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY IN THE APPLICATION OF DISCIPLINE IS MAINTAINED.

Severity of Discipline

a. **Mild** (Reprimand and/or 2 game suspension)

This would be applied when it is a first offence which is less severe in nature. The offending individual has shown true remorse and the actions are out of character. There is little chance of this person re-offending.

b. **Moderate** (Minimum 3 game suspension)

This is for offences which are mild to moderate in severity. Application of this type of discipline would be for a second offence. It would also be applied to individuals who have not accepted responsibility for their actions, shows no remorse and the likelihood of re-offending is high.

c. **Severe** (Minimum 5 games to 3 years suspension)

This is for the most serious offences. An example could be physically threatening or assaulting another individual. Application of this type of discipline would be for individuals who have re-offended multiple times or have not accepted responsibility for their actions shows no remorse and are likely to re-offend.

The following individuals have been delegated authority to assess suspensions on behalf of the OMHA:

The President or his/her designate
The Disciplinary Committee
The Executive Board Members as a whole
The Head Coach or his/her designate - for player suspensions

Olds Minor Hockey Association
Positive Participation Policy
Appendix J - On/Off Ice Official Incident Report Form

Submit completed form to the Disciplinary Committee.

This form is to be utilized by an on or off ice game official for the Olds Minor Hockey Association to report an incident of unacceptable behaviour. An individual is considered to be displaying unacceptable behaviour if they are verbally or physically harassing and/or abusing a game participant (player, coach, spectator, or official).

DATE & TIME OF INCIDENT _____

NAME OF OFFENDING INDIVIDUAL _____

ASSOCIATED WITH (TEAM NAME) _____

NAME(S) OF ADDITIONAL WITNESSES _____

On a separate attachment, please provide a clear description of the unacceptable behaviour witnessed. Please write clearly or type the report. Reports that are not legible will not be reviewed.

You can expect the OMHA Disciplinary Committee to investigate your report. Unfortunately, a written response to all reports is not possible. We will however make every effort to contact complainants at some point during or after the investigation.

Please summarize your expectations of the outcome resulting from your report:

If additional space is required, please use reverse side or attach separately.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____

PHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

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Approved

August 23, 2006