



# NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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## **NOHA Policies for New AAA Teams**

When establishing requirements for new AAA teams in the Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA), it's important to strike a balance between ensuring the quality of teams and maintaining the integrity of the league while providing opportunities for growth and development. Here are requirements for new AAA teams as approved by the NOHA Executive:

### 1. Application and Acceptance Letter

Teams must submit a formal letter of application to the NOHA expressing their intent to join the AAA league. The NOHA Board should review and accept applications based on established criteria.

### 2. Arena Availability

Teams must provide confirmation from the arenas where they plan to play, demonstrating the availability of ice time for the upcoming season. This ensures that teams have a suitable venue to host their games.

### 3. Financial and Logistical Information

New AAA teams must submit a detailed financial plan and budget, outlining projected revenues and expenses. This information must include player fees, fundraising strategies, and other financial details to ensure the team's financial sustainability.

### 4. Sustainability Plan

Each new AAA team must develop and submit a sustainability plan, outlining their strategies for long-term viability. This plan must address financial stability, community engagement, player development, and marketing initiatives. The NOHA Board should review and approve the sustainability plan.

### 5. Player Eligibility and Roster Composition

Establish clear rules for player eligibility, including requirements for player residence and any player transfer restrictions. New AAA teams must adhere to these rules to maintain competitive balance.

### 6. Team Executive and Staff

Teams must have a well-structured team executive, including a Manager, Head Coach, and Trainer. These individuals should meet the necessary qualifications, certifications, and background checks as per HC, OHF, and NOHA Policies.

### 7. Compliance with Regulations

Ensure that new AAA teams operate in strict compliance with the current Hockey Canada (HC), Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), and NOHA Policies, By-Laws, and Regulations. This includes adherence to player registration, insurance, and other league-specific rules.



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### 8. Player Development Programs

Provide the Association's plan to not only develop Players internal to their Association but to also work with neighbouring Associations who provide Players to their organization.

Encourage teams to invest in player development programs and ensure that coaches have the necessary qualifications to facilitate player growth and skill development.

### 9. Marketing and Promotion

New teams will develop marketing and promotional strategies to raise awareness and increase fan support and of their Players. This includes creating a team brand, social media presence, and local advertising.

### 10. Transparency

Teams must be transparent with players, parents, sponsors, and the NOHA regarding their financial status, team operations, and any significant changes within the organization.

### 11. Evaluation and Continuous Improvement:

New AAA teams must commit to regular self-evaluation and improvements. Periodic reviews of the team's performance and adherence to league requirements can help identify areas for enhancement.

These requirements are aimed at ensuring that new AAA teams in the Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA) are well-prepared, financially stable, and committed to the long-term success of their Teams, while also adhering to established league regulations. The NOHA will regularly review and update these requirements as needed to maintain the league's standards and competitiveness.

**Approved by the NOHA Board of Directors, December 2023**