



## NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE  
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8  
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 • FAX: (705) 474-6019  
[www.noha-hockey.ca](http://www.noha-hockey.ca)



Date: March 23, 2023

To: NOHA Membership

From: Sue Shepherdson

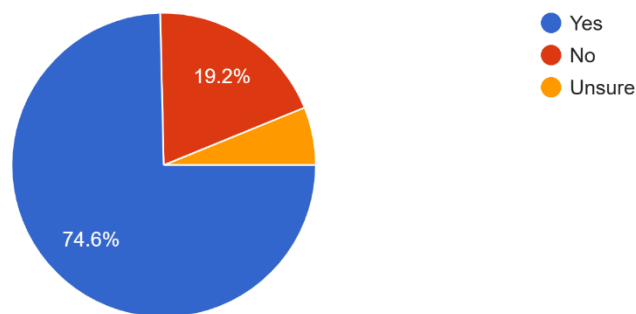
Re: Freedom of Movement Survey Results

The NOHA Board of Directors very much appreciates the feedback that we received from more than 1800 families across the NOHA regarding their thoughts on freedom of movement within our jurisdiction. This represents approximately 20% of the membership – thank you to all who took the time to provide their feedback!

Out of more than 1800 responses, including approximately 2500 players, more than 74% of respondents support freedom of movement within the NOHA, while 19% do not support and another 6% are unsure.

Do you feel that your child(ren) should be able to register with whichever Association within the NOHA that they desire? In other words, do you support freedom of movement within the NOHA?

1,880 responses



### Responses by Association

Enclosed we have provided additional breakdown of the number of respondents by Association; here is a high level summary of the largest response from some of the Associations.

Timmins – 235 responses, 91% in favour;  
Sudbury – 187 responses, 76.5% in favour;



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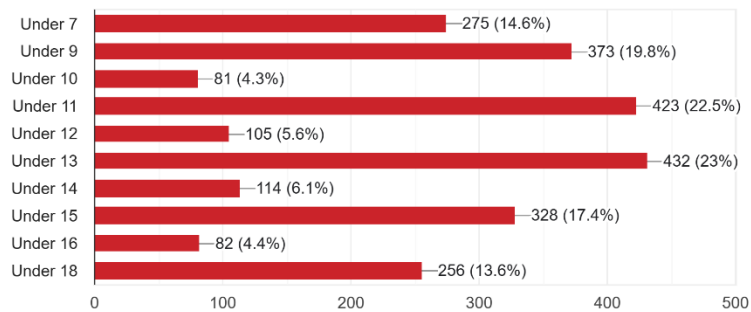


Nickel City – 144 responses, 84.7% in favour;  
Porcupine – 128 responses, 93.8% in favour;  
Copper Cliff – 115 responses, 75.7% in favour.

### Feedback by Division

The survey received strong responses for all age divisions, with a fairly even breakdown across all divisions. U11 and U13 each received over 25% of the total responses.

Which Division(s) of Hockey do they Play?  
1,880 responses



When taking into consideration the families who have multiple children playing hockey within the NOHA, the responses represent more than 2400 participants; below is the breakdown of support for freedom of movement based on age division.

Division	Total Responses	Yes	No	Unsure
Under 7	274	75.9%	16.8%	7.3%
Under 9	371	69.3%	22.9%	7.8%
Under 10	80	68.8%	22.5%	8.8%
Under 11	419	74.7%	19.1%	6.2%
Under 12	104	76.0%	20.2%	3.8%
Under 13	426	68.8%	24.6%	6.6%
Under 14	113	84.1%	11.5%	4.4%
Under 15	326	77.3%	16.3%	6.4%
Under 16	79	89.9%	6.3%	3.8%
Under 18	255	74.5%	22.0%	3.5%
Grand Total	2447	74.1%	19.7%	6.2%



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### Feedback by Category

Not surprisingly, more than half of the responses received were from parents involved with House League programming. 57% of respondents were from this category, with 73% of them in support of freedom of movement.

Category	Total Responses	Yes	No	Unsure
AAA	178	84.8%	10.1%	5.1%
AA	360	76.7%	18.3%	5.0%
A/B/C	458	72.1%	22.1%	5.9%
House League	1075	73.3%	19.9%	6.8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2071</b>	<b>74.6%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>

### NOHA Position

The NOHA Board of Directors previously shared its position on freedom of movement in November, 2022, and we continue to support not only based on the data provided, but also based on the following rationale:

- It is the position of our Board that families should have the choice of where they register their child in programming;
- It is also the position of the Board that Players being allowed to participate in the program of their choosing will benefit recruitment and retention of Players;
- The NOHA is the only Member Partner in the OHF that does not have freedom of movement at House League/Recreational Hockey;
- While we now have all AA Teams competing in the same League, we have had Associations not provide releases to Players wishing to compete at a higher level and subsequently they played "A" when there were other opportunities to play AA within another Association;
- The majority of appeals received by the NOHA are requests for releases. While most families have valid reasons, such as work, or requiring family support to bring their Player to practices/games, the Appeals Committee generally has supported the NOHA Constitution and subsequently, our Minor Hockey Associations;
- There are several Associations in the NOHA who have their own internal agreements, which allows for a form of freedom of movement. Some examples include,



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- Timmins and Porcupine
  - Copper Cliff and Sudbury
  - Soo Peewee and Sault Major
  - Manitoulin Minor Hockey
  - Blind River and Elliot Lake
  - Hearst and Kapuskasing
- There have been multiple situations where the NOHA has been compelled to resolve disputes between Associations due to issues surrounding the movement of Players. As a Board, we feel that this is an inefficient use of the NOHA Board's time as well as that of our Associations. Freedom of movement will allow the Board to focus on other issues.

We are looking forward to a fruitful discussion at the NOHA Annual General Meeting, being held in Timmins on May 6, 2023.

Results from the meeting will be shared by May 10, 2023.



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## Responses by Association

Association	Total Responses	Yes	No	Unsure
Black River Matheson MHA	21	9.5%	81.0%	9.5%
Blind River MHA	12	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%
Capreol MHA	21	76.2%	19.0%	4.8%
Chapleau MHA	16	56.3%	25.0%	18.8%
Cochrane MHA	15	66.7%	26.7%	6.7%
Coniston MHA	12	91.7%	0.0%	8.3%
Copper Cliff MHA	115	75.7%	20.0%	4.3%
East Nipissing MHA	57	66.7%	26.3%	7.0%
Elliot Lake MHA	16	37.5%	50.0%	12.5%
Englehart MHA	23	17.4%	60.9%	21.7%
Espanola MHA	18	94.4%	0.0%	5.6%
French River MHA	22	63.6%	36.4%	0.0%
Hearst MHA	12	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%
Hornepayne MHA	16	81.3%	12.5%	6.3%
Iroquois Falls MHA	35	68.6%	22.9%	8.6%
Kapuskasing MHA	12	75.0%	25.0%	0.0%
Kirkland Lake MHA	28	75.0%	17.9%	7.1%
Little Current MHA	8	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%
Manitoulin Panthers	10	60.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Manitowaning MHA	9	55.6%	22.2%	22.2%
Markstay/Warren MHA	18	16.7%	83.3%	0.0%
Massey MHA	2	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mattawa MHA	6	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
M'Chigeeng Minor Hockey	1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mindemoya MHA	16	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Moose Factory MHA	1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Moosonee MHA	2	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
New Liskeard Cubs	2	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Nickel Centre MHA	42	69.0%	19.0%	11.9%
Nickel City Hockey Association	144	84.7%	13.2%	2.1%
North Bay & District Trappers	86	81.4%	10.5%	8.1%
North Bay MHA	109	66.1%	25.7%	8.3%
North Channel MHA	25	80.0%	4.0%	16.0%
Onaping Falls MHA	10	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%
Porcupine MHA	128	93.8%	3.9%	2.3%
Powassan MHA	31	51.6%	29.0%	19.4%
Rayside Balfour MHA	29	69.0%	17.2%	13.8%



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Sault Major Hockey Association	49	59.2%	30.6%	10.2%
Schumacher Day MHA	2	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Smooth Rock Falls MHA	5	80.0%	0.0%	20.0%
Soo Peewee Hockey League	20	90.0%	5.0%	5.0%
St Charles MHA	5	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Sudbury MHA	187	76.5%	16.0%	7.5%
Temiskaming Shores MHA	48	52.1%	41.7%	6.3%
Thessalon MHA	25	96.0%	4.0%	0.0%
Timmins Majors	3	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
Timmins MHA	235	91.1%	6.8%	2.1%
Valley East MHA	40	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Verner MHA	12	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%
Walden MHA	20	65.0%	35.0%	0.0%
Wawa MHA	12	58.3%	16.7%	25.0%
West Nipissing MHA	59	69.5%	22.0%	8.5%
Western Manitoulin MHA	10	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%
Wikwemikong MHA	8	87.5%	0.0%	12.5%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1870</b>	<b>74.6%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>