



NOHA Policies for New AAA Teams

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	Board of Directors	December 2023

Purpose

The Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA) is committed to ensuring the quality, sustainability, and integrity of its AAA programs while supporting growth and development opportunities for players. This policy outlines the requirements that new AAA teams must meet in order to be accepted into the league.

Scope

This policy applies to all prospective AAA teams seeking to join the NOHA AAA league. All requirements must be satisfied before a new team is granted approval by the NOHA Board of Directors.

Policy Requirements

All new AAA teams must meet the following requirements:

- **Application and Acceptance:** Submit a formal letter of application to the NOHA. Applications will be reviewed and approved by the NOHA Board of Directors based on established criteria.

- **Arena Availability:** Provide confirmation of available ice time from the arenas where the team intends to play.
- **Financial Plan:** Submit a detailed financial plan and budget, including projected revenues, expenses, player fees, and fundraising strategies, to demonstrate financial sustainability.
- **Sustainability Plan:** Provide a long-term plan addressing financial stability, player development, community engagement, and marketing initiatives. The plan must be approved by the NOHA Board.
- **Player Eligibility and Roster Rules:** Comply with NOHA regulations regarding player residence, eligibility, and transfer restrictions to maintain competitive balance.
- **Team Executive and Staff:** Establish a structured team executive, including a Manager, Head Coach, and Trainer, with all required qualifications, certifications, and background checks as per HC, OHF, and NOHA policies.
- **Compliance with Regulations:** Operate in full compliance with Hockey Canada (HC), Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), and NOHA policies, by-laws, and regulations, including those related to player registration and insurance.
- **Player Development:** Provide a comprehensive player development program, including collaboration with neighbouring Associations that supply players, and ensure coaches meet required qualifications.
- **Marketing and Promotion:** Develop strategies to promote the team and increase awareness, including branding, social media presence, and local advertising.
- **Transparency:** Maintain transparency with players, families, sponsors, and the NOHA regarding finances, operations, and significant organizational changes.
- **Evaluation and Improvement:** Commit to ongoing self-evaluation, periodic reviews, and continuous improvement to ensure long-term success and compliance with league standards.

Best Practices for New AAA Teams

In addition to the above requirements, new AAA teams are encouraged to:

- Engage local communities to strengthen support for the team.

- Establish advisory committees to provide oversight and guidance.
- Offer mentorship opportunities for players moving through the development pathway.

Conclusion

The NOHA requires all new AAA teams to demonstrate financial stability, organizational structure, and commitment to player development before being granted entry into the league. By meeting the outlined requirements and adopting best practices, new AAA teams will contribute to the growth, competitiveness, and long-term success of the AAA program across Northern Ontario.