

NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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



Date: October 4, 2019

To: 2004-Born Families Eligible for Team NOHA

From: Claudette Myre

Re: **2019-20 Team NOHA Process**

Over the last three months, changes have been made to the Team NOHA program, impacting the amount of events we play in, the selection process of Team NOHA, and the tournament format of the OHL Gold Cup in May 2020.

The purpose of this letter is not only to notify you of these changes, but to provide you with an opportunity to show intent on being a part of the Team NOHA Process in the 2019-20 Season.

Number of Events

Typically, Team NOHA has attended three events in a season:

- OMHA Eastern AAA (ETA) Showcase – the first weekend of December – we would bring 38 players split into two even teams to compete against ETA teams.
- The OHL Cup – March Break – we would bring 19 players.
- The OHL Gold Cup – First Week of May – we would bring 20 players.

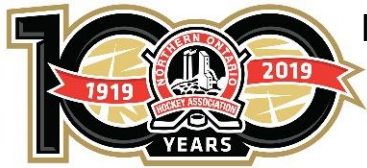
This season, the ETA and the South Central AAA (SCTA) league (where the other half of the OMHA AAA teams play) have decided to combine their showcase events together. This means that they cannot accommodate Team NOHA this season.

Team NOHA Staff

The NOHA and the Great North Midget League opened the application for staff in the summer. At that point, the commitment was for three events. Since we will not be attending the OMHA ETA Showcase in December, the commitment is now for two events. This gives us more time to determine our staff. Therefore, we will be reopening the applications this week to the coaches across the NOHA.

We will have a Director of Operations in place within the month, hopefully sooner. His duty will be to select the players that will be attending the events.

The rest of the coaching staff will be named before the end of the calendar year.



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Team NOHA Selection

The NOHA did not conduct evaluations at the Under-15 Camp in Sudbury that was run by the OHF. We did not have a Director of Operations in place at that point and since not every eligible player for Team NOHA was in attendance, it was not fair to evaluate at this Camp.

The team will be selected using three separate criteria:

- Evaluations at regular season games by the Team NOHA Director of Operations
- Feedback from your team's coach on:
 - On-Ice Performance
 - Off-Ice Personality
- Feedback from OHL Central Scouting

If you would like a rough idea on what the staff will be looking for, do not hesitate to contact NOHA Technical Director, Andrew Corradini, whose contact information will be at the end of the letter.

OHL Cup

The OHL Cup event, hosted by the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL) during the March Break (March 15 to 23, 2020) in Mississauga has not changed for this season.

The NOHA is fortunate to send an All-Star Team to this event, providing exposure to all of our top players across Northern Ontario.

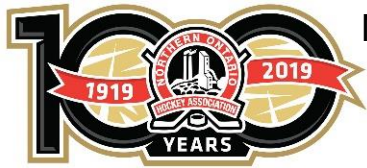
Players that successfully make this team of 19, will be notified in late-January to early-February.

The OHL Cup is the flagship event of an OHL Priority Selection Eligible Player's Season.

It is essentially an All-Ontario Championship, featuring the Champions of each league, and other deserving teams based on where they finished in their league's playoffs.

Team NOHA is guaranteed 4 round robin games at this event. If we finish either first or second in our pool, we qualify for the playoff round, which concludes with the Championship Game played on March 23, 2020 at the Mattamy Athletic Centre (formerly Maple Leaf Gardens) and is broadcasted nationally on Sportsnet.

We operate the OHL Cup at an "at cost" rate, which means, the final cost to the parents depends on how we fare at the event.



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A rough estimate of the cost of the OHL Cup is maximum \$950.00 (this is the best case scenario where we make it to the finals that is played on the Monday), and minimum \$750.00 (this reflects the worst case scenario where we do not advance past the round robin, which ends on the Friday).

We operate the event as conscientious of cost as possible. We pay gas money for the coaches to attend the event as opposed to mileage, we ensure they car pool, we leverage our relationships with hotels to get better rates for the coaches (who room together) and parents, we do not pay any of the staff an honorarium for their time.

Additionally, the NOHA produces a promotional program for this event, which gives selected families an opportunity to canvas local businesses for sponsorship money, in exchange for advertisements in the program. This helps reduce cost for families that are successful in obtaining sponsorship dollars.

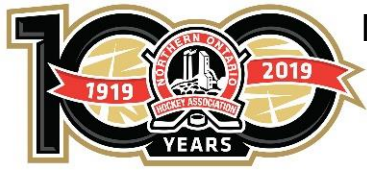
OHL Gold Cup

The OHL Gold Cup is typically hosted in the first weekend of May. It features the top OHL Priority Selection players in Ontario competing in an 8-team tournament with representation from each of the following organizations: the NOHA, Minor Hockey Alliance of Ontario (MHAO – Kitchener, London, Windsor, etc.), GTHL, Hockey Northwestern Ontario (HNO – Thunder Bay and Area), Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO – Ottawa and Area) and OMHA.

The tournament is held to not only showcase Ontario's top Under-16 talent, but is an evaluation opportunity for Hockey Canada to select players for Hockey Canada's National Under-17 Camp that is held annually in July at Hockey Canada's state of the art facility in Calgary. From this National Camp, Hockey Canada forms 3 equal teams that will compete in the World Under-17 Challenge which is held annually in November. The OHL Gold Cup is a key component of the revamped Hockey Canada Program of Excellence. With eight teams and 160 players, the future of Canadian hockey is on display during the OHL Gold Cup.

NOHA players that have gone to the Hockey Canada National Under-17 Camp from the OHL Gold Cup are the following:

- 2015:
 - Brady Lyle (Owen Sound Attack)
- 2016:
 - William Moskal (London Knights and Member of Canada Red at the 2016 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge)
 - Damien Giroux (Saginaw Spirit)
 - Cameron Lamour (Sarnia Sting)
 - Chad Denault (Peterborough Petes)



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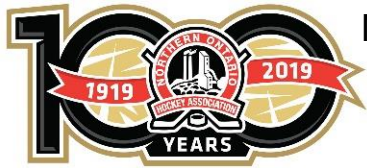
- 2017:
 - Camaryn Baber (Saginaw Spirit)
 - Payton Vescio (Hamilton Bulldogs)
- 2018:
 - Pacey Schlueting (North Bay Battalion)
- 2019:
 - Benjamin Gaudreau (Sarnia Sting)
 - Jack Matier (Ottawa 67's)
 - Chase Stillman (Sudbury Wolves)
 - Max McCue (London Knights)

Over the summer, the Partners of the OHL Gold Cup held various meetings to determine what this event would look like in future years.

The partners agreed that a format change was needed for a couple of reasons. The first being, the quality of hockey at the event has not been the highest caliber in recent seasons, the second being to ensure our Ontario players receive an experience that was similar to the experience they would receive at the Hockey Canada National Under-17 Camp.

The format change is the following:

- 8 teams consisting of 160 players
- MHAO, NOHA, HEO, HNO – will each identify 20 players each
- GTHL, OMHA – identify 40 players each
- Teams will no longer be divided by region, instead, the players will be mixed into 8 even teams consisting of players from each Member Partner and Branch
- OHL Central Scouting will confirm identified players and assign players to the teams to ensure they are even
- Players are eligible to participate based on the previous eligibility requirements as outlined below:
 - 2004 Birthdate
 - During the 2019-20 Season was a registered member of the OHF, HEO or HNO; or
 - A participant in Hockey Canada Programming and a resident of Ontario i.e. Notre Dame Participant with permanent residence in Ontario, Player would be eligible to participate with the team that complies with his Ontario residential jurisdiction; or
 - Non-resident Canadian citizen previously affiliated with an Ontario based Hockey Canada program (OHF, HEO, HNO) and eligible to the OHL draft



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The benefits to the NOHA are the following:

1. A more realistic event compared to the Hockey Canada Under-17 National Camp:
 - Due to the mixing of players, the OHL Gold Cup will more realistically mirror what the Hockey Canada National Under-17 Camp looks like.
 - Hockey Canada wants players out of their comfort zone, mixing players, as we do with our Under-14 and Under-15 Camps, will ensure players need to adapt quickly to new coaches, systems/tactics, and teammates.
 - This also will prepare the players for their future Junior Hockey career if they choose to go down this pathway.
2. A better chance for our NOHA players to succeed:
 - In the old system, the OHL Gold Cup was a difficult tournament for Team NOHA to succeed in, not because we don't develop quality hockey players, but because our number of players is significantly lower than the rest of the regions aside from the Thunder Bay and Region team.
 - If you look at the rosters for the OMHA and GTHL, you would see maybe the entire team drafted into the OHL, with many drafted in the first couple of rounds. Our team, usually had 6 to 10 players drafted, with usually a couple drafted in the first couple of rounds. It can be daunting for our team, and usually we do not push the play in the games.
 - While it was great that we recently upset some very talented teams at the event, such as the 2002-born Team NOHA defeating Team OMHA Black (a team that featured future NHL First Round Pick, Quinton Byfield) and the 2003-born Team NOHA defeating Team GTHL Red (a team that featured Shane Wright, who received exceptional status into the OHL a year before his OHL Priority Selection year), we are usually over matched at this event.
 - By mixing the players, an NOHA Player will have the opportunity (if merited) to play on the same line or defensive pairing as some of the top players from across the province, giving them a real chance to succeed.

The tournament format has not been confirmed for this upcoming season, that being said, historically, players receive 4 games guaranteed (with all teams playing on the Sunday), and 2 skills practices with Hockey Canada Skills Instructors that are hired by the event organizers. These skills sessions are very similar to the ones that the players that are selected to attend the National Under-17 Camp in Calgary will receive.

The details of cost are being finalized as we speak, last year's cost was \$650.00, but due to the format change, the cost may fluctuate. We will keep everyone aware of what this cost is as more information becomes available to us.



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Interest in the Team NOHA Process

As is the case with past years, the NOHA requires your son to commit to the Team NOHA Events if selected, at the beginning of the season.

We have had a few instances in the past couple of seasons where we have wanted to select a player due to their ability, but the player had no desire to be a part of the process for whatever reason.

If your son is committed to being a part of this new Team NOHA format this season, you need to fill out the survey [here](#). Please ensure the survey is completed in the name of the player.

Once the survey is completed, NOHA Technical Director, Andrew Corradini will confirm receipt of your son's application and will follow up with your son's coach to ensure he is firstly, aware that you committed to the program (if selected), and secondly, committed to allowing your son to participate as well (if selected).

There is no cost to showing interest in being a part of the Team NOHA Process.

If you have any other questions regarding Team NOHA feel free to contact Andrew at acorradini@noha-hockey.com or 705-474-8851.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Claudette Myre'.

Claudette Myre
NOHA President