



NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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Date: November 10, 2025

To: NOHA Associations

From: Jason Marchand

Re: New Team Requests for 2025-2026

The Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) has implemented a Moratorium on the addition of any AA and below competitive programs for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 seasons (OHF Bulletins 24-054 and 24-055). This decision aligns with the OHF Members' directive to adopt Playing Regulations that promote greater player movement opportunities.

The Moratorium allows Member organizations like the NOHA to request approval from the OHF for new Teams in "vacant categories" where Associations did not operate a Team during the 2024-2025 season. **The NOHA must submit all new Team requests to the OHF by January 15, 2026.**

This bulletin outlines the process for NOHA Member Associations to apply for new Representative Teams for the 2025-2026 season.

Does Your Team Require an Application?

The following Teams may return or be added in 2025-2026 **without going through this application process:**

1. Returning Teams

- Any Team that was active during the 2024-2025 season
- **No NOHA Board approval required**
- **No OHF approval required**

2. Teams on Approved Leave of Absence

- Teams that did not operate in 2024-2025 but were on an approved leave of absence
- **No NOHA Board approval required**
- **No OHF approval required**

3. Natural Age Progression Teams

- Teams that represent the natural aging-up of an existing program

Example: Your Association operated a U13 AA Team in 2024-2025 but did not operate a U14 AA Team in 2024-2025. You may add a U14 AA Team for 2025-2026 as this represents the



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natural progression of your U13 AA Team aging up, however this does require formal NOHA Board approval.

- **NOHA Board approval required**
- **No OHF approval required**
- **Contact the NOHA office to arrange Board approval**

Teams That MUST Apply Through This Process:

Any Team that:

- Did NOT exist in 2024-2025, AND
- Was NOT on an approved leave of absence, AND
- Does NOT represent natural age progression of an existing Team

These Teams require both the NOHA Board approval AND OHF approval.

Under the OHF Moratorium provisions, applications must include:

- Rationale for not operating the Team during 2024-2025
- Demonstration that the operation will not be detrimental to adjacent Associations that did operate during 2024-2025

Application Timeline

Date	Milestone
November 10, 2025	Application window opens
November 19, 2025	Optional information call (details to follow)
December 5, 2025	Applications due by 4:00 PM EST
December 11-20, 2025	Neighbouring Association consultation period
January 6, 2026	NOHA Board review and vote
January 15, 2026	NOHA submission to OHF



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Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted using the attached application form and must include:

- **Team Information:** Division, category, and age group of requested Team
- **Vacant Category Confirmation:** Verification that this Team did not operate in 2024-2025
- **Rationale:** Detailed explanation for why the Team did not operate during 2024-2025
- **Impact Analysis:** Assessment of how the Team's operation will not be detrimental to adjacent Associations that did operate in 2024-2025
- **Supporting Documentation:** Current registration data, historical registration trends (past 3 years if available), geographic/travel considerations, and any other relevant supporting information

Neighbouring Association Consultation

As part of the review process, the NOHA will share applications with neighbouring and potentially affected Associations for feedback. This consultation period will run from December 11-20, 2025.

Neighbouring Associations may be asked to provide feedback on:

- Potential impact on their programming
- Player retention/recruitment concerns
- Any operational concerns

How to Apply

Deadline: December 5, 2025

- Complete the **New Representative Team Application Form via Google Forms**
- Gather all supporting documentation
- Submit via the Google Form:
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Optional Information Session:

- Date: November 19, 2025
- Time: 7:30 p.m.
- Format: Zoom
- Registration details will be sent in a follow-up communication

Important Notes

- **Only complete applications submitted by the deadline will be considered**
- Incomplete applications will be returned for correction, which may impact review timelines
- The NOHA Board will review all applications on January 6, 2026



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- Board-approved applications will be submitted to the OHF on January 15, 2026
- **Final approval rests with the OHF**
- All applicants will be notified of the Board's decision within 24 hours of the January 6 meeting

If you are uncertain whether your Team situation requires an application under this process, please contact the NOHA Office **before December 5, 2025**.

[NOHA New Representative Team Application Form – 2026-2027 Season](#)