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Shared Boundary Proposal Western Ontario Athletic Association

Introduction

Over the past two years, the Western Ontario Athletic Association (WOAA) has undertaken a full review of their programming and the future landscape of minor hockey in the WOAA. This has included the formation of a Committee, led by WOAA Minor Hockey Chair, Paul Sebastian.

The WOAA has experienced a significant decline in the number of Associations over the past 30 years from over 40 Associations to the current number of 22 Representative Associations. While there has been a number of amalgamations over this period of time, the WOAA is faced with similar challenges experienced throughout the OMHA.

The primary issue is two-fold – the ability to provide both competitive stream hockey and recreational stream hockey.

Players/families are looking for the opportunity to play at the highest level of hockey they can while others simply want to participate in recreational programming in their communities.

With declining registration, Associations were not able to provide both a Rep team and a Local League team in each age group that would accommodate the skill levels of their players. In these cases the Association had to make a choice to enter one or the other. If they chose to go with a Local League team they would lose their better players to the next closest center. This in turn lessened the number of available players to the center to the point of not even icing a local league team.

The Committee reviewed a number of possible solutions and have come forward with the following proposal based the feedback from the Associations desire to give their players the chance to play at their proper skill level – both at Representative and at Local League.

Proposal

To deliver a Shared Boundary Pilot to form six (6) Representative 'zones' at the A category, U10 through U18, in the WOAA effective 2024-25.

Details

Timeframe - 2-year pilot starting in 2024-25

Review #1 – January/February 2025

Review #2 – December 2025

Zones – 6 geographical 'zones' made up of the following feeder Associations.

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1 809 Players	Bruce Peninsula	176
	Saugeen Shores	421
	Shallow Lake	212

4 707 Players	Howick	82
	South Bruce	137
	Walkerton	297
	Wingham	191

2 819 Players	Arran Elderslie	206
	Hanover	203
	Mt. Forest	160
	TCDMHA (Chatsworth)	101
	West Grey	149

5 867 Players	Arthur	109
	Central Perth	161
	Drayton	177
	Listowel	219
	Minto	157
	Wallace	44

3 792 Players	Goderich	165
	Huron Bruce	253
	Kincardine	374

6 834 Players	Blyth Brussels	199
	Mid Huron	351
	Mitchell	236
	Zurich	48

Organization/Governance – this pilot will be managed through Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) similar to Shared Boundary pilots that took place in the City of Hamilton.

The concept is to allow the WOAA to trial this solution without forcing Associations to go through the legal process of creating new Corporations and incurring costs associated with creating new Not-for-Profit Corporations.

Important to note that this a WOAA-led initiative - meaning this solution includes and impacts all Associations in the WOAA. The WOAA has established the number of 'zones' and feeder Associations. The purpose of the pilot is to trial this solution and to be able to review and make recommendations upon completion of the pilot.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) – Key Items

The MOA will include the following:

- Each 'zone' will establish an Operating Committee made up of two (2) representatives from each feeder Association.
- Operating Committee will appoint/nominate a Chair.
- The Operating Committee for each 'zone' must draft a Operating Budget to be shared with each of the feeder Associations and the WOAA.
- The Operating Committee will have the ability to name the new organization.
- Each 'zone' will register one team at each age-category from U10 through U18 (Single year age-groups).
- Encourage all feeder Associations to support the 'zone' by providing access to ice.
- 'Zones' and feeders should work together to support hockey development opportunities for all players and well as Coach Selection and development.
- Players must register with home Association and must be residentially compliant.
- Right of Choice – to feeder Association, then eligible to member 'zone'.
- Player Evaluation may take place in the Spring or Fall and must follow OHF/OMHA Seasonal Calendar.
- No player movement will be permitted, including NRP.
- Players cannot NRP to Alliance Hockey Associations/teams.
- 'Zones' must provide Offer of Commitment and signed by Player/family to accept offer.

Recreational Hockey / Local League

This proposal is not only a Representative solution – one of the priorities of this solution is the importance of maintain and growing local recreational local league hockey.

Feeder Associations will remain responsible for the delivery of recreational hockey programming – Local League – for their participants.

Feeder Associations will not provide any additional Representative entries – Rep hockey will fall under the purview of the 'zones' and recreational hockey will remain the focus and responsibility of the feeder Associations.

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