



## **Membership Policy**

The Ontario Ball Hockey Federation (OBHF) is a provincial member body of the Canadian Ball Hockey Association (CBHA) and the not for profit sport governing body responsible for the organization and regulation of ball hockey in Ontario. Through membership in the CBHA the OBHF is a partner of Hockey Canada and a member internationally of the International Street and Ball Hockey Federation (ISBHF).

Membership in the OBHF is inclusive. The strict definition, along with the privileges is defined by the bylaws. OBHF members have automatic membership in the CBHA, ISBHF and Hockey Canada. No additional membership purchases or forms are needed to have these memberships.

Membership seasons are fall/winter (September 1 – March 31) and spring/summer (April 1-August 31). Leagues can operate programs at any time of year with dues paid for these two sessions to the OBHF once a year in the spring/summer season.

Through OBHF membership athletes, volunteers, officials and coaches receive liability and accidental medical/dental insurance coverage during competitions, tournaments and clinics organized or sanctioned by the OBHF member leagues, OBHF, CBHA and ISBHF. Members can compete in sanctioned competitions/tournaments, which ensure safe, fair and competently officiated events.

### **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

The OBHF has the following categories of membership:

- a. Full (League) Member – A ball hockey league that is registered as a member of the Corporation and has agreed to abide by the Corporation's By-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
- b. Director Member – Any individual who is elected or appointed as a Director of the Corporation in accordance with the By-laws, is registered as a member of the Corporation, and has agreed to abide by the Corporation's by-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations
- c. Team Member – A ball hockey team that is registered with a Full Member and with the Corporation and has agreed to abide by the Corporation's By-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations
- d. Individual Member – Any individual who is a participant, coach, official, referee, administrator, honorary member, or lifetime member, who is registered with a Full Member or Team Member or directly with the Corporation, and who has agreed to abide by the Corporation's By-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations.

### **MEMBERSHIP STANDARDS**

Full Members of the OBHF must meet the following standards of the OBHF:

- a. agree to abide by the OBHF/CBHA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations;
- b. agree that any existing and future programs, tournaments or any ball hockey events that are operated by the full member and any current members of their organization's Executive/Board of Directors be sanctioned by the OBHF.

- c. agreed that as part of their OBHF membership to have liability insurance purchased through the OBHF/CBHA.
- d. agree to submit all dues levied, required registration forms and databases (including those specific to Provincial Championships, National Championships, and sanctioned tournaments) to the OBHF by the required dates. Only individuals included on a submitted database will be permitted to participate in OBHF sanctioned events and have access to member benefits including insurance.
- e. agree to contact the OBHF prior to organizing and promoting any tournaments, competitions or clinics to ensure the OBHF will sanction what they are planning.
- f. agree Non sanctioned events will not be allowed as a Full Member.
- g. shall not be registered to play in another province in a year unless they have received an official release from the OBHF.

Individuals (players) competing in OBHF and/or League play shall meet the following standards:

- a. a senior player must be eighteen (18) years of age in the year in which he/she is registering;
- b. a player must be a citizen of Canada and a resident with legally recognized status of Ontario by June 1 (Minors), June 15 (Women's), July 12 (Men's), in the year in which he/she is registering within his/her League;
- c. agree to abide by all OBHF and/or League Bylaws, Rules and Regulations;
- d. agree to submit all dues and levies to the OBHF and/or Leagues as required;
- e. underage players are allowed to participate at the Provincial Championships providing that the League to which an underage player is registered has in place a legal waiver form and liability insurance policy. The definition of underage is an individual under the age of 18 when the player will participate in the Provincial Championships.
- f. the maximum junior age of players participating at the Provincial Junior Championship is set at 18 in the year of participation, determined as the player not being older than 18 at 0:00 hour on January 1st each year.
- g. the minimum age of players participating at the Provincial Masters Over 40 Championship is set at 40 in the year of participation and Provincial Masters Over 50 Championship is set at 50 in the year of participation. Masters players cannot play in Men's A Provincial Championships.

Teams registering with an OBHF member League must meet the following standards of the OBHF:

- a. all teams must have a Manager/Team Representative, who is/are responsible for their team's conduct, discipline and financial obligations;
- b. all teams must register a minimum of twelve (12) players, including one (1) goaltender;
- c. agree to abide by all OBHF and/or League Bylaws, Rules and Regulations;
- d. agree to submit all dues and levies to the OBHF and/or its Leagues as required.

#### **ADMISSION AND RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP**

- a. Director Members – Membership commences on the date in which the Director assumes office in accordance with these By-laws and ceases upon termination of the individual's position as a Director or in accordance with these By-laws.
- b. Admission of Members – Any candidate will be admitted as a Member or renewed as a Member if:
  - i. The candidate member is a Director Member, the individual has been appointed or elected to the Board;
  - ii. The candidate member makes an application for membership in a manner prescribed by the Corporation;
  - iii. The candidate member was at any time previously a Member, the candidate member was a Member in good standing at the time of ceasing to be a Member;
  - iv. The candidate member has paid dues as prescribed by the Board;

- v. The candidate member is not an employee or contractor receiving \$500 or more in compensation from the Corporation;
  - vi. The candidate member agrees to uphold and comply with the Corporation's governing documents;
  - vii. The candidate member meets any other condition of membership determined by the Board;
  - viii. The candidate member has met the applicable definition listed in Section 2.1 of the OBHF Bylaws; and
  - ix. The candidate member has been approved by Ordinary Resolution by the Board or by any committee or individual delegated this authority by the Board.
- c. Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the membership year of the Corporation will be September 1st to August 31st and, for Director Members, the individual's term as a Director has ended or the Director has been removed pursuant to these By-laws.
  - d. Full OBHF Members are required to sign a membership renewal form prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> each year to renew their membership for the September 1<sup>st</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup> ball hockey season.

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS**

A League may become a member of the OBHF by submitting an application to the OBHF Membership Committee.

Following the receipt of application, a telephone interview will then be scheduled between the League and the OBHF Membership Committee to gather additional information to help determine whether membership to the OBHF should be granted.

Following the telephone interview, the Membership Committee provides the application and summary of the League interview to the OBHF Board of Directors for review.

The OBHF Board of Directors may, at its discretion accept or refuse applications for OBHF League Membership.

A team may become a member of the OBHF by submitting an application to the Membership Committee/Board/Executive of an OBHF League. The League may, at their discretion, accept or refuse such application.

An individual may become a member of the OBHF by submitting an application to the Membership Committee/Board/Executive of an OBHF League. The League may, at their discretion, accept or refuse such application.

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The OBHF Board of Directors shall by resolution establish a "Membership Committee," which will be chaired by the OBHF President. The number of members of such committee shall be fixed from time to time by resolution. It shall be the responsibility of the Membership Committee to approve or disapprove applications for membership of all classes, upon such criteria as from time to time the Board of Directors may establish.

Any applicant who is not approved for membership by the Membership Committee shall have the right to appeal to the OBHF Board of Directors, such appeal to be by way of notice in writing directed to the President, setting out the grounds for appeal. The appeal shall be heard by the OBHF Board at its next regular meeting, but in no case not later than four months from the date of receipt of the notice of intention to appeal. At the hearing of such appeal, the applicant shall have the right to be present or represented in person and to make such representations as it or he/she feels appropriate. The President shall have the right to be present at the meeting, but shall not have the right to vote on the appeal

## **REGISTRATION**

Registration within the OBHF must be administered by the OBHF Board of Directors. The following are the minimum requirements for a registration program:

### Individual

- a. approved for membership by their League;
- b. meet all OBHF and League standards;
- c. not under suspension by the OBHF, CBHA, ISBHF or Member League(s); (d) provide the following information as required:
  - i. surname and given names
  - ii. address, including apartment number and postal code
  - iii. telephone number and email address
  - iv. date of birth
  - v. signature
  - vi. any changes to this information
- d. complete waiver (s) if required.

### Teams

- a. have a Manager/Team Representative;
- b. meet all League deadlines;
- c. meet all OBHF and/or League standards;
- d. provide the following information:
  - i. team name
  - ii. team officials data
  - iii. any changes to the team.

### Leagues

- a. meet all OBHF deadlines;
- b. meet all OBHF/CBHA Standards;
- c. provide an up-to-date Executive list, player registration forms and databases to the OBHF as required.
- d. If a League does not have an identification card procedure in place, it is required that the League use their provincial drivers license for identification.
- e. The following shall constitute registration violations and shall result in the guilty party(s) being automatically suspended from participating in Ball Hockey within the jurisdiction of the OBHF, for a minimum of one (1) year:
  - i. any individual guilty of falsifying an OBHF and/or League registration document;
  - ii. any individual having had knowledge that the above had been falsified and knowing, willfully concealed this knowledge from the OBHF and/or League Executive(s);
  - iii. any individual competing under an assumed name;
  - iv. any Team Official or Executive member proven guilty of having been party to, or having knowledge of and having willfully concealed such registration violations, shall be liable to a minimum suspension of three (3) years in any capacity within the OBHF and/or Leagues. This penalty shall be final, and there shall be no appeal entertained.
- f. OBHF formatted excel spread sheets shall be submitted to the OBHF by all leagues to confirm eligibility at OBHF Provincial Championships, CBHA Championships, tournaments and clinics, to provide statistical data and compile a mailing list.
- g. OBHF formatted excel spreadsheets must be submitted to the OBHF Office by June 1 (Minors), July 3 (Women), July 12 (Men). The names that appear on the registration form shall be considered the team's final roster, unless specific amendments are allowed by a League's registration procedures. Only names submitted by midnight of the above dates are allowed to play in OBHF Provincials.

## **OPERATION OF MEMBER LEAGUES**

All OBHF Member Leagues will be assigned to geographic regions/centers to administer and govern their leagues in accordance with OBHF member guidelines, and understand all programming the Member League or their Board Members operate must be sanctioned by the OBHF.

Within each geographic region/center each OBHF Member League will be assigned one or more of the following divisions to administer ball hockey:

- Minors (boys only or co-ed) under age 18
- Girls (girls only) under age 18
- Women (over age 18)
- Men (over age 18)

OBHF Members shall have the right to administer ball hockey in the region/center assigned to their League providing the Member League is in good standing with the OBHF (Please see OBHF Bylaw 2.15 and 2.16 for information on what constitutes good standing). If a Member League is not in good standing, suspension or termination procedures described in OBHF Bylaw 2.10 and 2.11 will apply.

No new league applying for membership in the OBHF will be granted membership if an existing OBHF Member League in good standing already administers ball hockey within that geographic region in that division (minors, girls, women, men). The OBHF Membership Committee may, at their discretion, accept or refuse applications based on geographic and divisional conflict.

OBHF Members in good standing who already operate in one or more divisions have until August 31<sup>st</sup> each year to register additional divisions (i.e. minors, girls, women, men) within their geographic region/centre. If an OBHF Member registers a new division by August 31<sup>st</sup>, they must develop a program the following year (September 1-August 31) and indicate their intention to do so as part of their yearly membership renewal.

As of September 1<sup>st</sup> if an existing OBHF Member League does not indicate they will be operating in a particular division within their geographic region/centre in the following year (September 1 – August 31) then applications for new membership in these divisions will be considered by the OBHF Membership Committee.

## **VOTING AT MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

Members have the following voting rights at all meetings of the Members:

- a) Full Members that have 85 registered individual participant members or more and has operated for a minimum of one full season (spring/summer or fall/winter) have one vote each.
- b) Director Members have one vote each.
- c) Team Members do not have a vote.
- d) Individual Members do not have a vote.

For detailed information on voting procedures see OBHF Bylaw 3.14 – 3.21.

## **TRANSFER, SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

For detailed information on the transfer, suspension or termination of membership please refer to OBHF Bylaws 2.9 – 2.14.

**Approved by the OBHF Membership at the OBHF AGM November 20, 2021**