

Thanks to those of you who submitted comments and feedback regarding CMHA on last season's coach evaluation forms.

Please note, the questions below were copied verbatim to retain the message context. Please excuse grammatical errors or omissions.

You Asked, We Answered!

Q: The team selection process wasn't fair.

A: CMHA is committed to transparency in the selection process. This season, we will host an optional parent meeting prior to tryouts, where any questions or concerns can be discussed. Watch the website for date and time.

Q: Lobby the OMHA to remove the 3-player maximum for Collingwood's single A (rep?) teams. (Maybe it's a Cwood rule and not an OMHA??) All kids should be allowed to play at the level they're able to/want to - they shouldn't have equal access to development and not be discriminated against because they don't reside within the town limits of their "home" "A" Center. For example, if the 4 top players at Collingwood's single A evaluation try-outs are from Clearview, I believe that currently the 4th kid is refused a spot on the team even though they ranked above any of the Collingwood-based kids. How does that promote equal access to development?

A: These rules are put in place through the OMHA. All minor hockey centers in Ontario are classified based on a number of factors within their designated boundary. CMHA is classified as "C" within the OMHA based on size and registration numbers. The classifications are AAA, AA, A, B, C, D, meaning the A and above centers have a larger population to pull from, it does not solely correlate to the talent level - there are other factors in determining an A, AA or AAA center. Teams competing in A & AA have the option (not mandatory) of taking 3 Non-Resident Player's (NRP) on their roster at U12 and above. This doesn't necessarily mean it's 3 players from Clearview. NRP's can be any player from any center outside the host center. Every year the OMHA holds its annual meeting/conference in the spring and different rules are discussed and voted on. The NRP rules can change year by year. Please reach out to your OMHA representative, Dale Lighheart, for more information.

Q: We need more skill development for Rep. level players/ There need to be more coaching clinics/ There are not enough on ice programs for the younger kids/there is too much focus on Rep.

A: To answer all of these concerns, over the past two seasons, CMHA has actively increased the Player Development budget to the maximum it has ever been. Over these years each and every team has had extra opportunities for power skating, hitting clinics and development in addition to specialized sessions for all of our goalies each month.

Player Development will continue to source new opportunities for both Local and Rep. level teams within the current allocated budget.

Every CMHA team is allowed to allocate personal fundraising or sponsorship money to invest in extra development (on or off the ice) in order to address their team specific needs for the season.

Coaching clinics are, (and have been) communicated to coaches on a regular basis, as well as publicly posted to the website.

Q: More communication through email/ We are not on Facebook regularly and updates don't always show up on newsfeed/ I don't use Facebook so I don't get the information.

A: Communicating with you is our top priority for the 2023/2024 season! The Executive is working on a solution to a group email for important reminders. In the interim, **Subscribing to Organization News Articles** will ensure you are included in all updates posted to the website and Facebook page.

To do this, follow these steps:

Visit www.clearviewminorhockey.com or desktop or mobile.

1. Click "Subscribe" at the bottom of the home page.
2. Click "Email Notifications"
3. Enter your email address
4. Choose the items you would like to subscribe to.

Q: We need more player involved fundraisers such as dances/ Why don't we participate in the parades?

A: Your fundraising committee is working hard over the summer to obtain sponsorships and plan many exciting events. Stay tuned as more information becomes available on these events and how you can sign up to complete your bond hours and help out.

In the past, individual teams have participated in parades based on parent and player interest and equipment availability (wagon, truck/tractor, décor etc.,) If you would like to coordinate a float for the Association, please directly contact Vice President Robert Kinghan for further consideration. As this is not a fundraising activity, we would require volunteers to fully execute this.

Q: More ice time for Rep. / Practice weekdays in the early morning for Rep.

A: Stayner and Creemore arenas are run by - and ice time is allocated by -The Township of Clearview. CMHA pays for every hour of ice time we use from your registration fees. Both the arenas are used by many other community groups throughout the year and the ice time is not exclusive or prioritized to CMHA. New last season, increased the ice time was available for Rep. practices, which also increased Rep. fees. CMHA is committed to ensure we are getting full use of the ice times available and allocated to us by the Township.

Q: Increase the fundraising and sponsorship opportunities.

A: New for 2023/2024! Team limits on fundraising dollar amounts will be lifted.

20% of total fundraising (per team) to remain with the Association.

Q: Move Rep tryouts to spring to have the opportunity of fundraising throughout the summer months/ We should do end of season try outs for the following Rep. year while kids are in hockey mode.

A: For some background, AAA, AA and A centers (e.g., Grey Bruce Highlanders AAA, Barrie AAA/AA, Alliston AA, Collingwood A) are not permitted to host tryouts until a predetermined time after the hockey season is over (rules in place by the OMHA).

Centers below A status (e.g., Clearview, who are designated as "C") must then follow suit and wait until those tryouts have closed to host our own. Therefore: if Clearview wanted to attempt try outs earlier in the season, it would have to be after all these try outs at the A+ centers. This past season,

Collingwood tryouts were held the week of May 7th, and final decisions did not follow until after that week. Stayner and Creemore ice was already removed a month before this (April 3rd Creemore, April 14th Stayner). Removal of ice is out of the hands of CMHA. As mentioned above, we do not own rights to the arena(s). The date ice is removed is determined solely by the Township of Clearview based on a number of factors.

If Clearview decided to run try outs at a different center that does still have ice in the spring, this could be very costly for our organization and families as the ice cost would need to be added to both registration and tryout fees.

Each fall there is an allotted time given for fall tryouts before the season starts, depicted by OMHA. You can click here for additional information: https://www.omha.net/news_article/show/1263493

Q: Why did one team not assign awards at the year-end banquet?

A: The Executive is committed to a solution to this scenario before the year end awards are given out in 2024.

Q: The U7 age group can manage half ice come January & it's unfortunate that they aren't allowed.

A: These rules are put in place by the OMHA, an association that lays out the rules/resources for all organizations in Ontario for hockey. The U7 pathway (or any other pathway) cannot be altered by CMHA. Click here for the U7 pathway: <https://www.omha.net/u9andbelow>

There are rules of operations, coach resources, officiating resources, and player development here: <https://www.omha.net/>

Q: The association could provide more guidance for coaches, especially when starting out. Perhaps create a handbook for coaching staff and team managers for what is expected of them.

A: All CMHA coaches are provided with a handbook, OMHA coaching links and all other information pertinent to their responsibilities and the age groups they coach, when they are assigned to their team early fall. We encourage you to communicate with the Head Coach Henry Barton if there are any concerns about your specific coach.

As always, you are welcome to approach the appropriate Executive member with specific questions or concerns. You can find contact info under the "About Us" section of the website.