



<http://kawarthalakesmha.ca>

Kawartha Lakes Minor Hockey Partnership Questions and Answers

1.	<p>Q. If the Partnership is approved, where will my Local League child be playing?</p> <p>A. One of the primary goals of this Partnership is to maintain the same high-quality Local League experience for our community based recreational teams. This means that the Local League Teams continue to play in the Three County Local League out of their community arenas as part of their traditional Local League Lindsay MHA and Kawartha MHA teams. For the approximately 70% of Members playing at the Local League level, there will no change in the program created by the formation of KLMHA.</p>
2.	<p>Q. If the Partnership is approved, where will my Rep child be playing?</p> <p>A. The new Kawartha Lakes Minor Hockey Association will be working towards a fair and balanced allocation of Rep Teams amongst the current CoKL arenas available to both associations (Ops, Omemee and Lindsay, so that both communities in this partnership share in being able to host Rep Team games and practices. The specific assignment of ice time for Rep Teams will depend upon ice scheduling availability, the size of the ice pad, and the age/division of the particular team.</p>
3.	<p>Q. Will the new Kawartha Lakes Rep Teams have a new logo and colours?</p> <p>A. Yes</p>
4.	<p>Q. How will the new Rep Team logo and colours be selected?</p> <p>A. Both Local Associations believe that the Kawartha Lakes MHA Rep Program should have a new logo, the team name and colours that are distinct from the traditional team identities and colours used by the Local League Teams. The new Rep Program will invite Members to submit their ideas to the new Association for consideration, before making a decision.</p>
5.	<p>Q. How will the Partnership affect player registration costs?</p> <p>A. We currently anticipate that changes to player registration costs will be minimal in nature. As it stands now, the annual registration costs between the two Local Associations are comparable to each other. However, efforts will be made to ensure costs are consistent between the associations and their respective Local League programs. The two Associations have agreed to work closely with one another in order to standardize ice time and program requirements for the Local League teams in order to help ensure that registration costs remain consistent between the Associations, and that</p>

	players from all areas in the Kawartha Lakes partnership have comparable ice time and opportunities
6.	<p>Q. How will the Partnership affect ice time?</p> <p>A. No the partnership will not affect ice time. Both Three County for LL and Lakeshore Hockey League for Rep will provide the guidelines for League play.</p>
7.	<p>Q. With a larger pool of kids potentially interested in Rep hockey, how will the Partnership impact the ability of certain players to make a team?</p> <p>A. Ultimately, the goal of any Rep Program is to ice the most competitive teams possible at each age division. Over the past several years, both Kawartha Coyotes and Lindsay Muskies have mainly due to available Player numbers struggled to ice competitive Rep teams in every age division. Rep teams in both Associations have often been smaller in number than would normally be typical. In addition, both Associations have been forced to collapse Rep teams in various age divisions where insufficient numbers have not made a viable team possible. Overall, we believe that this Partnership will help to create more options for players, and not less – and those opportunities will be of a better quality. The available Rep teams will be more stable in terms of numbers, and more competitive on the ice, which will provide for a better-quality and enjoyable hockey experience for all players. We will be able to have robust Rep Teams at both a Major and Minor level in all age divisions with a healthy roster of kids, instead of teams that have been cut too small due to low numbers, or which must rely on underage AP players to help teams get by.</p>
8.	<p>Q. Will some players who previously made a Rep team be playing Local League under this model?</p> <p>A. the impact of this Partnership on individual players is difficult to predict. Ultimately, a great deal will depend upon the level of interest and player numbers for the Rep Program going forward. The main focus is to provide a fair opportunity for all players to succeed, have fun and develop at a level appropriate to their skills. Neither Association can do this when they must worry about stable player numbers and teams collapsing at various levels every year due to low enrollment. The ability to try-out for age appropriate teams (Major/Minor) may in fact be of benefit to those Players who could not make Rep teams in the past due to the abundance of older Players at that division.</p>
9.	<p>Q. If players are not successful at making the “A” Level Rep Teams, will other development opportunities be available?</p> <p>A. We don’t want to rule out any development options for players, however at the same time, we cannot make any guarantees. As with every minor hockey decision, everything will depend upon the number of players in a particular age division, and the level of interest in more competitive hockey opportunities. In situations where there are birth years with significant player numbers and where there is a significant interest in more competitive hockey opportunities, the new “Kawartha Lakes” Association will be able to consider a potential “AE” level Rep Team, to help provide additional development options to players who were not successful in making the Major/Minor “A” Teams.</p>

	<p>However, our primary focus should always be on icing viable and competitive “A” level teams first and foremost, and not watering down Teams with too many additional options in a way that undermines the ability to provide the Players and Members with the high level of quality hockey they are expecting.</p>
10.	<p>Q. Will Local League players from both Kawartha Coyotes and Lindsay Muskies be eligible to be an Affiliated Player “AP” to the KLMH Rep Team?</p> <p>A. Yes – that is one of the advantages of this Partnership Model. Residency eligible Players from both Local League organizations will be eligible for AP opportunities</p>
11.	<p>Q. Will Teams have to play in a different loop</p> <p>A. Yes and No. The Local League teams will continue in their normal Three County Local League and the Rep Teams will begin to play in the Lakeshore Hockey League.</p>
12.	<p>Q. Will there be a fixed number of Kawartha MHA Players or Lindsay MHA Players on each Rep Team?</p> <p>A. No. It is not realistic to set fixed player numbers from either Association. Our focus is to pick the best players possible for the Rep teams so that those teams will be able to compete at the highest level possible. Realistically, our approach has been to establish a fair and consistent Tryout Process that will help ensure that all players from both Associations are getting a fair opportunity to make each Team. We believe that players from both Associations have an equal opportunity at making these teams and the KLMA Board comprised of both associations (KMHA/LMHA) will be working hard to ensure that there is a fair and equal opportunity for everyone to succeed.</p>
13.	<p>Q. How will Local League Coaches be selected?</p> <p>A. The Kawartha MHA and Lindsay MHA Local Leagues will continue to select their Local League Coaches independently, as they have done in the past.</p>
14.	<p>Q. How will Rep Coaches be selected?</p> <p>A. For the new Kawartha Lakes MHA Rep Hockey Teams, both associations have created a mutually agreed to framework of a new Coaching Selection Policy that takes the strongest elements from the previous Kawartha MHA process and the Lindsay MHA process. The focus is to choose the best Coaches possible, while providing a fair opportunity to both Kawartha Coyotes and Lindsay Muskies applicants. The Coaching Selection Committee will have equal representation from both Associations and will involve the OMHA Coach Mentor to help lead interviews and the selection process. The criteria used will consider prior coaching experience, credentials, a formal panel interview and previous coaching reviews and assessments. We believe that this will provide all candidates with a fair opportunity for Coaching positions regardless of which Association they came from.</p>
15.	<p>Q. Will Coaches be allowed to select their Bench Staff before Tryouts are finished?</p> <p>A. No. Both associations have created a mutually agreed to framework of a new Coaching Selection Policy that ensures parents with players participating in Tryouts not be on the ice during the Tryout process – to ensure that no player receives preferential treatment. Once the Coaches and the Evaluation Panel assess players and final decisions have been made, the Bench Staff will be selected. All Coaches and Members of Bench Staff will be subject to approval and ratification by the new</p>

	Kawartha Lakes MHA Board. The new Association will be strongly encouraging Coaches to select members of Bench Staff from across both communities (where possible), to help ensure that no association dominates the management of a particular Team.
16.	Q. How will the Partnership impact “AAA” Player Affiliation?
	A. For the time being, there will be no impact to AAA Zone affiliations. Players who are resident within the traditional Central Ontario Wolves (COWHA) boundaries will affiliate with COWHA.
17.	Q. If the Partnership is approved, when will Coaching Selection take place?
	A. The negotiating committees from both Associations will work hard to finalize the Coaching Selection Process for the 2020-2021 season and work out the remaining administrative details. If the Partnership is approved, the application process for Rep Coaches will open in January of 2020, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Coaching Selection Committee will be comprised of an equal number of members from both Associations, along with the OMHA Coach Mentor.
18.	Q. If the Partnership is approved, when will Rep Tryouts occur?
	A. We will follow the recommendations from the OMHA and tryouts will be at the end of August, beginning of April/May in 2020
19.	Q. If a decision is made to ice an additional AE Team at a particular age group, how will those players be selected?
	A. Players interested in a potential Rep Hockey opportunity will be required to participate in the regular Tryout Process at their registered age division. All players participating in Tryouts will be evaluated and assessed, so that in the event that a particular age division has the necessary player numbers and talent pool to warrant a separate AE Team, the Tryout evaluations can be used for the purposes of subsequent player selections, should the Association be in a position to ice additional Teams beyond the Major and Minor “A” Level.
20.	Q. How will the Partnership affect player movement rights?
	A. As always, players at the recreational Local League level can play wherever they want, without residential restrictions. For Rep Hockey players, the new “Kawartha Lakes” Minor Hockey Association would be classified as an “A” level Rep Hockey Program for the purposes of player movement rules. This means that players looking for more competitive hockey options will continue to have access to “Permission to Skate” requests for “AAA” Tryouts and can also request a Non-Resident Passport (NRP) in order to participate in a “AA” Tryout. However, OMHA Regulations will not allow NRP’s to be issued for players looking to move laterally from one “A” Program to another “A” Program
21.	Q. Will the OMHA Borders for Kawartha Lakes Minor Hockey be impacted?
	A. Not in any significant way. The existing borders of Kawartha MHA and Lindsay MHA are being combined, to create a new boundary for Kawartha Lakes Minor Hockey.
22.	Q. How will the Partnership impact the ability of Rep Teams to qualify for OMHA playoffs?
	A. No change. All Lakeshore teams will participate in OMHA Playdowns.
23.	Q. What other centres used this model?
	A. Many smaller centres from across the province have joined or are considering joining partnerships to create higher level hockey opportunities for their REP players and to find efficiencies for all players and their organizations. Recently Schomberg and Noble King partnered to create a partnership.

24.	Q. Do you foresee more centres joining us in the future?
	A. This is difficult to predict; however, this could be a very appealing situation for other CoKL minor hockey associations. Any additional centres will not join the partnership until after the initial partnership has been approved.
25.	Q. Will there be NRP's at the A level?
	A. The OMHA does not permit NRP below the Minor Peewee division. Acceptance of Peewee and above NRP's will be voted on by the board.
26.	Q. With this model, will we lose the small-town feel?
	A. For all Local League players very little will change as players will continue to play for the Kawartha MHA and Lindsay MHA. Local League teams will play in their current arenas. Albeit different, the small-town feel will remain intact. Many players already go to school together or compete as "Kawartha Lakes" in baseball, soccer and basketball. Further, it would be the hope that wearing the new colours and logo of the "Kawartha Lakes" would be an honour as they would be playing REP hockey against much larger centres.
27.	Q. Will there be enough registrations for Local League if we have A and AE teams?
	A. The goal of the partnership is to ensure the provision of the Local League in both KMHA and LMHA. The number of Players participating at the "A" Major and Minor divisions should not impact Local League numbers. The forming of AE teams would be based on both numbers, the interest of the Players and approval of the KLMHA Board.
28.	Q. Where do the 600 registrations come from?
	A. Currently Kawartha MHA and Lindsay LMHA would have a combined total of approximately of 600 registrations.
29.	Q. Could this draw the AA, AAA and NRP's back to our area?
	A. It is hard to predict but, yes, when discussing players Peewee and up, this could very well bring NRP players back to our area
30.	Q. What are the minimum and maximum number of memberships for an A centre?
	A. OHF/OMHA has no set min. or max. number of memberships for an A centre.
31.	Q. What are the other centres that only have A level?
	A. Orillia, Georgina, Quinte West
32.	Q. Will this centre be challenged enough?
	A. The Lakeshore Hockey League - https://lakeshorehockeyleague.net (Whitby, Oshawa, Pickering, Ajax, Belleville, Clarington, Kingston, North Durham, Northumberland, Quinte West and Peterborough) is a highly competitive loop, one where the Kawartha Lakes teams will be challenged yet able to compete.
33.	Q. In terms of finances, will the money be taken from the current centres?
	A. Initially both Centres will be contributing to the start-up of KLMHA. After that time registration fees etc. will follow the residency compliant Players who participate in KLMHA. Players participating in Local League play will have their fees stay with either KMHA or LMHA dependent upon which Centre they chose to play LL for.
34.	Q. What arenas will be used?
	A. Current CoKL arenas will continue to be utilized (Ops, Omemee and Lindsay Recreation Complex)

END OF Q&A
September 9, 2019