



AREAS OF EMPHASIS 2011-2012

Ontario Women's Hockey Association

MISSION STATEMENT

*Through a provincially unified, collective voice,
the OWHA promotes, provides and develops opportunities
for girls and women to play female hockey in Ontario.*

We are all very fortunate to have the privilege of personal involvement in hockey whether it is as a player, coach, official, volunteer or supporter. In order to maximize the experience, it is important for everyone to understand the game, the rules, the regulations and the responsibilities. Much information is available on the OWHA web site, through local and provincial contacts and from the OWHA office. The OWHA Handbook and other documents are posted on the OWHA website. It is the responsibility of team management to be aware of all pertinent information and to inform team members, parents and others as appropriate.

To assist with the positive experience for the 2011-2012 season the OWHA Executive Committee has identified a few specific areas of emphasis:

- All OWHA registered participants are bound by the OWHA Rules, Regulations, Policies, Procedures and Code of Conduct.
- OWHA registered participants are covered by Hockey Canada insurance while participating in OWHA sanctioned activities. All on-ice and/or on-bench participants **MUST** be eligible and registered on an official OWHA roster before participation.
- No OWHA team will be permitted to play any female Ontario hockey team that is not registered with the OWHA. It is the responsibility of the team's management to ensure that every game and/or scrimmage against other female teams is in accordance with this mandate.
- OWHA registered teams wishing to play against female teams from outside Ontario **MUST** receive written approval from the OWHA.
- OWHA registered teams are not permitted to play against any "male" team. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the OWHA Executive Committee.
- Every individual who goes on the ice and/or on the bench with a team at a game or practice **MUST** be registered with the OWHA. As an example, this includes power skating instructors.
- Suspensions – minimum suspensions **MUST** be followed. Teams, associations, leagues and tournaments do not have the authority to lessen these suspensions. All suspendable offences **MUST** be reported to the OWHA office.
- Teams require OWHA Executive Committee approval to participate in a league.
- Tampering – Once a player is signed with a team, she requires a player release before going to another team. Asking a player to join your team, tryout or participate with your team when she is currently a member of another team is tampering and is not permitted.

- Players from outside Ontario – There are important requirements for players who transfer in to Ontario from other provinces and countries. These players **MUST NOT** be allowed on the ice until you are certain the proper approvals and fees are in place.
- The OWHa Respect Speak Out Policy must be followed.
- Speak Out! – All bench, on-ice and dressing room staff **MUST** attend a Speak Out Clinics or complete Respect In Sport Online in order to work with an OWHa team. The only exception to this is for Senior Recreational & Masters teams where this is a recommendation only.
- Vulnerable Sector Search/Criminal Record Checks and screened monitors are required. The two-deep rule is important in person as well as on the phone, emails and texting.
- All female hockey teams in Canada must play and practice with no intentional body checking.
- For female hockey in Ontario, mouth guards are recommended, but not mandatory
- For female hockey in Ontario, goaltenders are required to wear BNQ throat protectors. Neck protectors are optional.
- Zippered pants are legal if zipped
- Important Hockey Canada information (See Section “A”)
- OWHa Rule ONE (II) (B) Team officials **MUST** wear properly fastened helmets on ice. There will be one warning followed by a 2 game suspension.
- Multiple suspensions will not be tolerated. Suspendable actions and violations of the OWHa Code of Conduct will not be tolerated.
- Selection and monitoring of coaches and team staff is a priority. There is no excuse for violation of the OWHa Code of Conduct.
- Bullying, Cyber-bullying and derogatory comments posted on Facebook, blogs and circulated through email are not acceptable and are deemed to be in violation of the OWHa Code of Conduct. Teams and associations and the OWHa Discipline Committee will take a strong stance against this dangerous behaviour that is disrespectful to the entire membership of the OWHa.
- PAWSITIVE – The Ontario Women's Hockey Association is an organization built on a foundation of respect and team work. The key to its success is the flexibility with a focus on empowerment and providing good people with the tools to do good things for all participants in Ontario and in female hockey.

HOCKEY CANADA RULES EMPHASIS IMPORTANT CHANGE

2011/12

in female hockey, a minor penalty shall be assessed for all accidental hits to the head, while a double minor penalty, or a major and game misconduct at the discretion of the referee based on the degree of violence of impact, shall be assessed for any intentional contact to the head;

- a major penalty and a game misconduct, or match penalty, shall be assessed to any player who injures an opponent under this rule.