

OHF/OHL Under-16 Program of Excellence - Frequently Asked Questions

Prior to contacting the OHF or OHL office with an inquiry, please read the following as your question(s) may be answered below.

General Questions

Who is responsible for operating the program?

The individuals responsible for the day-to-day activities necessary for the program's operation are the OHF's Coordinator, Hockey Development and the OHL's Manager of Hockey and Education Services. These individuals are the contact for the public.

What method of communication will be used to inform applicants and registered players/staff of pertinent information?

The primary method of communication will be email as it is most convenient when dealing with a large number of individuals.

Communication will occur at the following times:

- **When an application is submitted** – an email will be sent to the email address listed on the application form to confirm that the application form has been received.
- **When player/staff registration has been completed** – an email will be sent to all players and staff informing them of whether or not they have been registered for the program.
- **When player payment has been submitted** – an email will be sent confirming that payment has been received.
- **A few weeks prior to each program** – an update will be sent to players confirming details.
- **Once the program has concluded** – an email will be sent to parents/families asking them to provide feedback.

If I participate in this program, am I automatically accepted for the Under-17 Program of Excellence?

The OHF/OHL Under-16 Program of Excellence has no bearing on registration or application for the Under-17 Program of Excellence. If you participate in this program, you must still follow the necessary steps to apply for the Under-17 Program of Excellence next year. The purpose of the Under-16 program is not to stream/select players or identify talent and it is not designed to identify players for participation in the Under-17 program. Similarly, players will not be excluded from the Under-17 program solely based on the fact that they did not participate in the Under-16 program.

How much does the program cost?

\$400 per player. No cost to staff.

What is the payment policy?

All players must have submitted the program fee by the deadline date as specified in the registration notification email. Any player who does not submit the fee by the deadline will have his spot filled by another player. Players who fill open spots must submit payment by a date as specified by the OHF's Coordinator, Hockey Development. If payment is not submitted by this date, the player's spot will be filled by another player. All players, including last minute replacements, must pay the registration fee by the day prior to the commencement of the program. Any player who has not submitted the fee by this time will be ineligible to participate. The only exception to this is if a player is asked to attend the program the day prior to the start of the program. This player may pay the day of the program, but the fees must be received when the player registers. If fees are not submitted at registration, the player is ineligible to participate.

What is the refund policy if a player who has paid is unable to participate?

Refunds will be given by cheque only and dates cheques will be issued will depend on the cheque processing schedule of the OHF office. Any refunds granted within 10 days of the program will not be processed until the week following the program at the earliest.

Until 10 days prior to each program, any player who submits payment and is unable to participate will have his fee refunded less a \$25 administration fee.

From 10 days prior to the program until two days prior to the program beginning, a player's fee will only be refunded if the OHF is able to fill the vacant spot. From two days prior to the program until it begins, no refund will be given.

Program	Refund of \$375 if Withdrawal date is:	Refund of \$375 <u>only if spot is filled</u> if withdrawal date is between:	No refund if withdrawal is anytime/day after:
Kitchener	Before Apr. 12 at 4:00 p.m.	Apr. 13-Apr. 21 at 4:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m. on Apr. 21
Oshawa	Before Apr. 26 at 4:00 p.m.	Apr. 27-May 5 at 4:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m. on May 5
Sudbury	Before Apr. 26 at 4:00 p.m.	Apr. 27-May 5 at 4:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m. on May 5
Barrie	Before May 3 at 4:00 p.m.	May 4-May 12 at 4:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m. on May 12
Windsor	Before May 3 at 4:00 p.m.	May 4-May 12 at 4:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m. on May 12

What will players receive?

All meals, snacks, and accommodations for the duration of the program.
A t-shirt and shorts.
A jersey and socks.

What will staff receive?

All meals, snacks, and accommodations for the duration of the program.
A track suit.

Are players/staff responsible for their own meals?

All meals will be provided for those involved in the program.

Are players/staff responsible for their own accommodations?

All accommodations will be provided for those involved in the program. All participating players, coaches, trainers and staff stay in residence together for the duration of the program. Players will be grouped in double occupancy at random. Players are not permitted to leave the residence at any point unless they are with a staff member.

Where do the players/staff stay?

The players and staff will stay at a residence of a college or university or at a hotel if necessary.

Once player registration has been determined, additional information will be sent to each player via email.

I live in the area where the program is taking place; can I stay at home?

An integral part of the program is the experience to stay with your entire team in residence and have a roommate.

Are players/staff responsible for their own transportation?

Players and staff are responsible for their own transportation to and from the program. All in-program transportation – i.e. from the arena to residence – will be provided via buses.

Are parents/families allowed to watch on ice sessions and attend seminars?

Yes – all seminars and on ice sessions are open to parents and families and they are encouraged to attend.

*Application Process Questions***Who is eligible to apply for the 2010 Program?**

Players - All male players who were born in 1995 and are carded to a team registered within the OHF in the season for which they are applying to participate in the program are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to players who are playing at the AAA level. Players are only eligible to participate in the program once.

Coaches – Any coach currently registered within the OHF who is coaching a team within the OHF in 2009-10 or will be coaching a team within the OHF in 2010-11. Coaches must be NCCP and Speak Out certified.

Trainers – Any trainer currently registered within the OHF who is the trainer for a team within the OHF in the 2009-10 season. Trainers must be HTCP and Speak Out Certified.

Will participating in this Program affect my NCAA Eligibility?

No – participating in this program does not affect a player's eligibility to play in the NCAA since it is a user-pay program.

What is the application process?

All players and staff are required to complete and submit an online application form. Any individual whose application form contains false/incorrect information will be ineligible.

Please print or save a copy of your application form for your records.

The OHF or OHL will not be responsible for any malfunctions of the application system.

Can players/staff apply for any of the programs?

Players/staff will be asked to rank the programs in order of preference on the application form. There is an "N/A" field which is to be used if players are unable to attend the program. Preferences will be taken into account when registering players/staff for the program. While all efforts will be made to register players/staff in the program that is their first choice, it may not be possible based on the number of applications.

When does the OHF start accepting applications?

December 15, 2009

When is the deadline to submit an application?

February 15, 2010

I forgot to submit my application. Is it possible to submit it after the deadline?

No – all applications must be received by the deadline.

There is incorrect or incomplete information on my application form, who do I contact?

Please send an email to: u16@ohf.on.ca

I submitted my application form; how do I know it was received?

All individuals who submitted an application form will receive an email confirmation. If you did not receive an email confirmation, please send an email to: u16@ohf.on.ca.

*Registration Questions***When will I know whether I have been registered for the program?**

Players and staff will be contacted via email at a date which is to be determined. Some players/staff may be contacted at a later date if those registered are unable to participate.

Players will be required to confirm their registration by submitting payment by the deadline date, which will be determined once the application period closes.

How is payment submitted?

Payment for all players must be submitted online via credit card. A link to the payment page will be included in the information package sent out to registered players.

I am attempting to pay, but I get an error. Who do I contact?

Please be sure that all information entered is exactly as it appears on the player application form. If there is a mistake on the application form (i.e. Name, Date of Birth, misspelling, etc) then the same mistake must be made when entering payment information in order for the database to recognize the player.

If you still receive an error, please send an email to: u16@ohf.on.ca.

Once players/staff are registered, how do they obtain information about the program?

An information package will be attached to the email that will be sent notifying them that they are registered.

Will only those who have been registered be contacted or will all applicants be contacted?

All applicants will be notified via email whether or not they have been registered.

What is the player registration process?

Players - A random lottery selection process will be used to determine which players are registered. Players will be grouped and a certain amount of players will be chosen from each group. There are parameters in place to ensure that each participating OHF Member Partner (ALLIANCE, GTHL, NOHA, OMHA) has a certain number of players participating in the program.

Coaches and Trainers – Staff will be selected in consultation with Member Partner staff and references as deemed necessary.

Can I get on a standby list if I do not get registered?

There is no standby list. Selections to replace registered players/staff who are unable to participate will be done the same way as the original registration process.

I have been registered for the program, but am unable to participate; who do I contact?

Please contact Ryan Berg (416-426-7038) or Matt Rabideau (416-299-8700 ext. 321) immediately.

I am registered for one of the programs but would like to switch into another program. Am I able to?

Requests will be considered at the discretion of the OHF's Coordinator, Hockey Development and the OHL's Manager of Hockey and Education Services.

The following is an outline of the OHF/OHL Under-16 Program of Excellence roster change policy:

- Any player who is unable to participate in the program shall be replaced by a player from the same Member Partner if possible.
- If a player is unable to attend the program to which he was assigned, he may be moved into another program if space is available.
- Players wishing to switch programs will be accommodated only if there is a corresponding request from another player.
- Players will only be able to switch programs until 10 days prior to the start of the first program.
 - For example, Player A requests to be switched from the Oshawa program to the Kitchener program and Player B requests to be switched from the Kitchener program to the Oshawa program. Player A can then be switched to the Kitchener program and Player B can be switched to the Oshawa program.
 - Using the above example, if either Player A's or Player B's request comes within 10 days of the program, it cannot be accommodated.
 - If a player requests a change and there is no player that wishes to switch programs, the player must confirm his participation in the program a minimum of 10 days prior to the start of the program for which he is registered (by submitting payment). If he does not confirm his participation, his spot at the program will be filled with another player.
- Players wishing to switch programs who are unable to attend the program to which they were assigned will be placed on a waiting list.
- Players who are unable to participate in a program due to injury or extenuating circumstances (i.e. a death in the family or family emergency) will be given priority when switching to other programs. The OHF's Coordinator, Hockey Development and the OHL's Manager of Hockey and Education Services will use their discretion when determining whether or not a situation encompasses extenuating circumstances.
- In the event that a space in the program becomes available, priority will be given to players who were registered for a program but are unable to participate before additional players will be considered.

I have been assigned to a team, but would like to switch to another team. Am I able to?

Players wishing to switch teams will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the OHF's Coordinator, Hockey Development and the OHL's Manager of Hockey and Education Services. Switching teams will only be considered where conflicts of interest exist.

I have registered on the day of the program. Can I switch rooms/roommates?

No – all players must remain in the room assigned to them. If there is a specific issue with a roommate, players are asked to discuss the issue with their coaches, who will in turn discuss the issue with the administration staff.

I have been registered for the program and have allergies and/or dietary restrictions; who should I contact?

Please contact Ryan Berg at rberg@ohf.on.ca or (416) 426-7038.

Program Operations

How are the games structured?

Each game shall be played under the same guidelines. On-ice game operations are subject to change, but until further notice, key points of the on-ice game operations include:

- All games are to be officiated by OHF Officials and penalties are to be enforced as per Hockey Canada's Official Playing Rules.
- All games will have a five minute warm-up, three 15-minute stop time periods with a three player shoot out if the game is tied at the conclusion of the third period.
- The ice will be flooded between the second and third periods of each game.

How are officials selected?

Officials will be selected in consultation with the OHF Referee-in-Chief and Member Partner Referee-in-Chief, who may contact appropriate Minor Hockey Association personnel as necessary.

How many players are on a team?

20 – 12 forwards, six defencemen, two goaltenders

Who coaches the teams?

Each team will be coached by OHL and OHF personnel.

Who will be the team's trainer?

Each team will have an OHF trainer.

What is the players' curfew?

10:00 p.m. – Room Check

10:30 p.m. – Lights Out

What is the dress code?

Players are expected to wear the t-shirt and shorts that will be provided to them when participating in program events. Players should bring extra clothing –i.e. t-shirt and shorts – to wear when not on the ice. The dress code is casual. Hats are not allowed during any program events. Hats are only allowed during downtime at the residence.

Who supervises the players?

The program staff – coaches, trainers, and administration staff – will supervise the players.

What equipment do players require?

All players must follow the equipment regulations as set out by their respective Member Partners. Players must wear full protective equipment at all times while on the ice and in the bench area. Players will be supplied with a jersey and socks which they can keep at the conclusion of the program.

I am listed on the roster at the incorrect forward position. Who can I contact to change this?

All forwards might not be listed at their “natural” position. When you arrive at the program, please let your coach know. Although every effort will be made to ensure that each player is able to play his natural position, it may not be possible.

What are players'/coaches' personal requirements?

All players and staff should bring the following:

- Health Card – please keep it with you for the duration of the program.
- Your own CSA approved equipment including full facemask and throat protector, hockey sticks and your own tape.
- Running shoes for off-ice workouts.
- Personal hygiene items, including soap and shampoo.
- Towels for your own personal use (i.e. to shower after practice). Linen and pillows will be supplied, but you may bring your own.

What are trainers' requirements?

Exact trainers' requirements will be determined closer to the program date; for further information please email u16@ohf.on.ca.

Any question or situation not answered/described above will be handled at the discretion of the OHF's Coordinator, Hockey Development or the OHL's Manager of Hockey and Education Services.

For more information, please contact:

Ryan Berg
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Ontario Hockey Federation
Phone: (416) 426-7038
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