

ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

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GTHL Postponed Season Clarifications

The Ontario Hockey Federation's Board of Directors has taken the following direction as a response to the Greater Toronto Hockey League's decision to pause activities until January 1, 2021 pending further advice from health authorities.

The decisions listed below have been made with the health and safety of all participants at the forefront. Any questions regarding any of the following information should be directed to the OHF Office.

For clarification, the GTHL Jurisdiction includes the City of Toronto, the City of Mississauga and the City of Vaughan (being the area bounded by Lake Ontario on the south and a line north along the Rouge River and continuing north along the Little Rouge River and further north along the Pickering Town Line, west along Steeles Avenue, north along Yonge Street, west along Highway 7, north along Bathurst Street, with a northern boundary one concession lot north of a straight line between Bathurst and Albion Road (Highway 50) based on the majority of the King Vaughan Side Road, south along Albion Road (Highway 50), west along Steeles Avenue, south along Indian Line Road, west along the northern boundary of the City of Mississauga [as of June 25, 2005] and south along the western boundary of the City of Mississauga to Lake Ontario).

All programs within the GTHL jurisdiction must comply with the direction of the GTHL unless otherwise determined by the GTHL.

OHF Non-Sanctioned League Policy

The OHF Non-Sanctioned League Policy remains in effect for any participant that is not a resident within the GTHL Jurisdiction and where they have Hockey Canada programming provided through an OHF Member (Alliance, NOHA, OHA, OHL, OMHA, OWHA).

GTHL Resident Players, Coaches and On-Ice Officials Non-Sanctioned Leagues

In no way is the OHF endorsing or promoting the participation in non-sanctioned programming. Parents may enroll their child into programming of their choice. The OHF Non-Sanctioned League policy is put in place to ensure that individuals that are loyal to Hockey Canada Sanctioned programming are not displaced by individuals that choose other options for programming and wish to return. As such with the decision of the GTHL to postpone operations based on COVID 19 the following is the application of the OHF Non-Sanctioned League Policy for GTHL Bench Staff, On-Ice Officials and resident players.

That players that reside in the jurisdiction of the GTHL and those players that are resident of Markham and were registered for GTHL programming for 2020-2021, and are not registered with any other Hockey Canada program, or where programming has not been made available, will not be subject to the September 30 date for return to GTHL programming but rather the date at which GTHL programming returns, if they participate in a league that is complying with the Ontario Government Regulations, their Public Health Unit or any amendment made thereto by the Ontario Government or a Public Health Unit.

Bench staff registered to a GTHL program for 2020-2021, and are not registered with any other Hockey Canada program, will not be subject to the September 30 date for return to GTHL programming but rather the date at which GTHL programming returns, if they participate in a league that is complying with the Ontario Government Regulations, their Public Health Unit or any amendment made thereto by the Ontario Government or a Public Health Unit.

On-ice Officials registered to the GTHL for 2020-2021, and are not registered with any other Hockey Canada program, will not be subject to the September 30 date for return to GTHL programming but rather the date at which GTHL programming returns, if they participate in a league that is complying with the Ontario Government Regulations, their Public Health Unit or any amendment made thereto by the Ontario Government or a Public Health Unit.

GTHL Registered Players Options

AAA Waiver Players

Players that are registered with the GTHL for the 2020-2021 season on a AAA Waiver during the period that the GTHL is not operating programming have the following options:

1. To sit out and wait for programming to return in the GTHL; or
2. To return to their primary AAA zone/center or primary association, if there is space, and participate for the 2020-2021 season with the option for the 2021-2022 season to return to the GTHL under the AAA Waiver protocols that they had availed themselves of, for the 2020-2021 season. If their primary AAA zone/centre does not have programming then such players would operate in accordance with the application of the OHF Non-Sanctioned League Policy for GTHL resident players.

Example: Cambridge Resident on AAA Waiver in GTHL in 2019-2020 year. May return to Cambridge for AAA programming for the 2020-2021 season. For the 2021-2022 season they may return to the 2019-2020 Club that they participated with in the GTHL or stay in Cambridge or follow the AAA Waiver process.

NON-GTHL Resident LOR Players

Players that are registered with the GTHL for the 2020-2021 season based on LOR Regulations during the period that the GTHL is not operating programming have the following options:

1. To sit out and wait for programming to return in the GTHL; or
2. To return to their residential LOR Perimeter Minor Hockey Association if there is space and participate for the 2020-2021 season with the option for the 2021-2022 season to return to the GTHL under the LOR Regulations that they had availed themselves of, for the 2020-2021 season or the LOR Regulations that would be in place for the 2021-2022 season whichever is less restrictive. If their residential LOR Perimeter Minor Hockey Association does not have programming at a similar category as they were registered in the GTHL then such players would operate in accordance with the application of the OHF Non-Sanctioned League Policy for GTHL resident players.

Female Players Residential to GTHL Jurisdiction

Female Players that are registered with the GTHL for the 2020-2021 season have the following options:

1. To sit out and wait for programming to return in the GTHL;
2. To register within the OWHA if there is space and participate for the 2020-2021 season with the option for the 2021-2022 season to return to the GTHL.

While this direction is to be followed until the GTHL endorses sanctioned programming, the OHF Board of Directors reserve the right to revisit the outlined decisions at any time. Players that are considering participating in non-sanctioned leagues during the GTHL postponement of programming should be aware that if the GTHL returns at an earlier date or programming is offered under Hockey Canada for High-Performance athletes that they may have to decide between programs after registration.