

## ORO-ORILLIA AMALGAMATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### **Why Amalgamate?**

Amalgamation means: All players play at a level that is appropriate for their capability. Rep and LL teams at all age divisions with appropriately placed players.

- Greater opportunities for improvement and expanding capabilities of players at the local level.
- Increased ability for organization to host specialized development clinics (e.g., goalie clinics, power skating, skills and drills)
- Larger pool of parent volunteers for tournament hosting, coaching clinics, & certification clinics.

**Most importantly** - children enjoying playing hockey with peers, and children learning and developing at an appropriate level. This is a pilot project, meaning it is a 1-year trial to see if we are interested in a full amalgamation.

### **What will the new association be called?**

If the vote is yes, a subcommittee will be created to handle the submission of ideas for names and logos. Both centres are very open to having the membership make recommendations which can be considered.

### **Is amalgamation happening automatically?**

No. The decision to amalgamate or not to amalgamate is the responsibility of each voting member of both Oro and Orillia Minor Hockey.

### **How does amalgamation happen?**

Both Oro and Orillia Minor Hockey Association would need a majority vote of 67% or greater from their respective members to proceed with the amalgamation.

### **If the vote is yes to amalgamate, when does it start?**

We would aim to be officially pilot amalgamated for the start of the 2024-2025 season.

### **Who can vote?**

One vote is allowed per registered family unit that has a player whose home centre is Oro or Orillia.

In the case of a split family only the parent at the registered address of the player can vote.

### **Where will my player have practice?**

Throughout a season teams will have to rotate which arena they practice and have games at. Depending on the number of teams in an age division, each team would take turns playing in both centres for a period of time during the season.

**What will the centre point be for the new organization?**

TBD- Ideally a location that does not affect the hard Barrie/ Oro Boundary line

**What if I am in a right of choice area according to the new centre point?**

Right of choice will open up for any member within the designated area to re-sign or leave the new organization. Once a right of choice player signs onto the organization they are considered a life time member.

**If the Partnership is approved, where will my Rep child be playing?**

The New Minor Hockey Association will be working towards allocating location of practices based on available ice. 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. This could involve Rep teams being based out of a specific arena for the season, or a rotation of ice times among the facilities throughout the season.

**If the Partnership is approved, where will my Local League/ House League child be playing?**

One of the primary goals of this Partnership is to maintain the same high quality Local League/ House League experience for our community based recreational teams. This means that the Local League and House League Teams continue to play out of their community arenas as part of their traditional Local League and House League teams. Skaters from Oro LL wishing to participate in House League will be able to, and Orillia HL skaters wishing to participate in Local League will be able to.

**Will representative play York Simcoe or Georgian Bay?**

AA and A and BB (if applicable) will be entered into the YS loop. C will remain in the GB loop.

**Why amalgamate with our neighbouring centres?**

As each centres demographics continue to change; we're looking for ways to offer the best solutions that will allow hockey to continue to thrive in our communities. Amalgamation would help each association offer a hockey program that maximizes player development and fun in part by fielding teams comprised of players with consistent ability at every level.

**Will the new centre have its own Board of Directors?**

Yes, the amalgamated centre will have a Board comprised of an equal number of Directors from each centre.

**How will coaches be selected?**

Initially coaches will be selected by the Board committee comprised of people from each centre, until such time the boards are completely integrated together, at which time a coach selection committee will select qualified coaches.

**How will rep teams be selected?**

The teams will be selected by the Coach plus unbiased, independent evaluators.

**Will there be a fixed number of Players from each Association on each Rep team?**

No, it is not realistic to set fixed player numbers from each Association. Player selection will be based on player ability/skill. This ensures consistency in talent/skill amongst selected player groups and provides for strong/competitive team structures that are fun and exciting to play within.

**When will we find out if the Amalgamation is approved?**

The proposed Amalgamation will eventually be presented to the OMHA when all the requirements are completed so we can provide the best quality application.

**Why a pilot project, which pretty much is an amalgamation to all effects is going to be implemented without any membership consultation?**

The pilot project is being used to allow the membership to see what an amalgamation would feel and look like. The talk of amalgamation was very well received, and the two boards are just trying to do what is best to try to save small town hockey.

**Will new uniforms be needed?**

New uniforms will be necessary for the newly created AA teams, but A will remain using Orillia Terrier jerseys, and C will remain using Oro Thunder jerseys. HL and LL to remain as is.

**What is the difference between the pilot and the original amalgamation plan?**

The difference between the pilot and the original amalgamation is that nothing is set in stone and if the members of either association vote it down, then we will both revert back to pre-pilot status. It essentially allows for both associations' members to see and feel what an amalgamation would be like.

**Are the coaches now going to have to be a mix of Orillia and Oro parents? How will the coaches be fairly chosen without bias? If an Oro coach is chosen, how will you guarantee that a team is picked without bias for Oro?**

Coaches will be selected by the new board of the organization consisting of equal Oro and Orillia members. Team tryouts will have independent evaluators to aid the discussions of who is on each team.

**What are the benefits/drawbacks to each MHA player/teams to enter the pilot project?**

The benefits of the MHA players/teams entering into this pilot would be that those that make the Rep teams would be a part of a higher skilled team because the combination of both associations will allow for the best players to play and represent the pilot project teams, the potential drawbacks would be those that may have been one of the last few to make a rep team in their MHA may not make the combined AA team but they will be able to play with like skilled players at the A, C, LL or HL level.

**Who do I contact with any other questions?**

IF you have any additional questions not covered here, please contact:

Oro Minor Hockey - [secretary@orominorhockey.ca](mailto:secretary@orominorhockey.ca)

Orillia Minor Hockey – [vicepresident@orilliahockey.com](mailto:vicepresident@orilliahockey.com)

We will do our best to provide as much info as possible.