

## LOR Regulations for 2005-2006 Hockey Season

The following regulations were approved by the OHF Board of Directors on March 20, 2005. Effective as of March 20, 2005 these "Lake Ontario Region" regulations will replace current regulations E 37-E 54 of the 2004-2005 OHF Handbook and the LOR Guidelines.

### Lake Ontario Region (Regulations E37-E81)

E37 The "Lake Ontario Region" is an area or geographic subdivision that is made up of the following: GTHL (Toronto, Mississauga and Vaughan), and the surrounding OMHA area including Oakville, Brampton, Richmond Hill, Pickering, Ajax and Markham (see Markham Programs Regulation E67-69) which is the perimeter.

### IMPORTS

E38 The import quota system applies only to teams in an area known as the "Lake Ontario Region". It does not apply to other minor hockey programs outside this area.

E39 An import is a player that registers for a minor hockey program in the Lake Ontario Region for which, as per Hockey Canada and OHF regulations, he is deemed to be a non-resident (Hockey Canada Regulation F3-5 and OHF Regulation E17). That is, the player would not be eligible for that team in ordinary circumstances as he is not within the area from which that team may draw its players.

E40 Any player resident in an OMHA centre/zone who is eligible by waiver or otherwise for the "Lake Ontario Region" is a non-import to any "Lake Ontario Region" OMHA centre/zone.

E41 A player remains an import as long as he registers with a non-residential team. He does not lose his import status after one, two, three etc. years as an import with a team.

E42 The final date to register players as imports is December 15<sup>th</sup> or the first business day following, if such date falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

E43 A team registering an import shall place on the face of the player's Registration Certificate the word "IMPORT" and the player's certificate shall be further validated as such by the Member Partner and the OHF to be considered registered as defined in OHF Regulation F1.

E44 If an import player has not been identified as an import by the team in accordance with OHF Regulation E43 and is registered by the Member Partner and the OHF as a non-import player and is subsequently designated an "import" by the Member Partner or OHF, such player shall be deemed to be registered on the date of designation.

E45 If, as a result of such designation or a team has signed more than the allotted number of import players, the priority of registration as determined by the OHF Regulation E44 shall prevail and import players must be released in reverse order of registration. Example: the last player designated, as an import would be the first to be released. If two or more players are designated on the same day, then players shall be released in reverse order based on the date of their original registration. This release order would continue until the team has reached its proper import quota.

### QUOTAS FOR 2005-2006

E46 Teams may only register a total allotment of imports under the following guidelines:

- a) **for AAA no more than five (5) imports;**
- b) **for AA and A teams, no more than three (3) imports.**

E47 Teams in the "Lake Ontario Region" may have registered at any one time, no more than the allowed import number for that team.

E48 If a team registers too many imports, the players shall be released in reverse order of when their card was approved by the member partner until the team complies with the proper quota. That is, the last player whose card was approved would be the first released.

E49 AAA, AA, A clubs or teams in the Lake Ontario Region shall submit, through their Member Partner, a Current Team List to the OHF:

- a) on October 15<sup>th</sup> of each playing season, all registered players for the current season with notation of Import players;

- b) on January 15<sup>th</sup>, clubs will submit, through their Member Partner, on the appropriate form, any further changes to their team list making its Current Team List final.

### **TRY-OUTS (also see OHF Regulation G1)**

E50 A player who was registered with an OMHA team for any particular season MUST obtain an LOR Permission to Skate form in order to be able to try-out with a GTHL team for the next season. This form must come from the OMHA Centre / AAA Zone with whom the player was registered.

E51 A player who was registered with a GTHL team for any particular season MUST obtain an LOR Permission to Skate form in order to be able to try-out with an OMHA team for the next season. This form must come from the club / organization with whom the player was registered.

E52 An LOR Permission to Skate Form cannot be withheld for a player registered below Minor Bantam, except for extenuating circumstances such as outstanding equipment or fees from the previous season. Permission to skate cannot be issued retroactively.

E53 Players in the "Lake Ontario Region" who are registered at Minor Bantam and up are NOT granted an automatic LOR Permission to Skate Form. The club / organization that they are registered with can deny such permission, as the player remains a member of such team until he or she is released.

E54 Players who were registered in the GTHL who wish to try-out with another GTHL Club for the following season must comply with GTHL regulations.

E55 OMHA LOR resident players who were registered in the OMHA who wish to try-out with another OMHA team for the following season within the "Lake Ontario Region" must obtain the necessary LOR Permission to Skate Form to be able to do so.

E56 If a player has difficulty obtaining the necessary LOR Permission to Skate Form from his or her Association/Club, it can be obtained from the Association/Club's OHF Member Partner (GTHL or OMHA, as the case may be) or from the OHF office.

E57 Any player who resides outside the "Lake Ontario Region" is not eligible to try-out with any team in the "Lake Ontario Region", as they do not meet eligibility requirements to be able to register within the "Lake Ontario Region". The only exceptions to this are:

- a) players who have an OHF AAA Waiver Form (in this case, when the form indicates that the "Lake Ontario Region" or a AAA team in the "Lake Ontario Region" is an adjacent centre, a player is eligible in compliance with E36 b to participate in try outs and does not require the LOR Permission to Skate Form, as long as the player presents the OHF AAA Waiver Form at try-outs); and
- b) those players who have continuously resided outside the "Lake Ontario Region" and have been continuously registered in the GTHL since and including the 1996-97 season.

E58 Teams will require presentation of and need to attach any required LOR Permission to Skate Form or OHF AAA Waiver to the Hockey Canada Registration Certificates for validation. Teams who fail to do so will be subject to the following penalties:

- a) A ten (10) game suspension to the Head Coach of the offending team
- b) A fine of \$500
- c) The automatic voiding of the player's registration with the offending team. Such player will not be eligible to register with the offending team or play as an affiliate player with the offending team for that season.

### **RELEASES**

E59 Players registered in the "Lake Ontario Region" at Minor Bantam and up will require a written Release from their current club to be eligible to try-out and register with another club in the "Lake Ontario Region" for the upcoming season.

E60 In order to retain a player requiring a written release. the Association/Club with which the player is registered must offer the player a Registration Certificate or a letter stating his/her opportunity to sign a Registration Certificate for the upcoming season which must be sent by:

- a) Registered mail postmarked by May 31<sup>st</sup>
- b) Courier date stamped by May 31<sup>st</sup>; or
- c) Personal service by May 31<sup>st</sup> to be verified by sworn affidavit(s) of the deliverer and a witness to the delivery.

E61 If a player decides not to "show up" for tryouts, the team still has an obligation to offer the player a card for the year. If the player is not offered a card by May 31<sup>st</sup>, the player is automatically released. The purpose of this is to protect both the player and the club. If there are "differences" between the player and club that cannot be worked out, there is the right to appeal for a release.

E62 For Peewee and below, players who reside within the "Lake Ontario Region" will not require a release at the end of the season to change clubs.

E63 No player registered in the "Lake Ontario Region", can be released by his or her team after November 15<sup>th</sup> of the current season.

E64 If a player's residential program does not offer a team or teams at his age division (e.g. minor year) then that person can register elsewhere in the "Lake Ontario Region" at his age division (in the above example, that same minor year) as a non-import without the requirement of a written release only if he has fully participated in at least a majority of that team's tryout sessions. (Note: If a player has not so participated and the team is not formed, he will be eligible to register elsewhere in the "Lake Ontario Region" but must do so as an import.). He returns to his residential program at the end of the season as a released player. The same principle applies to a player in his major year of an age division. This relief does not apply at the midget age division when the residential program offers either a minor or combined Midget program.

E65 After the December 15<sup>th</sup> import signing deadline, if a team within the Lake Ontario Region folds, the Imports will be allowed to sign under the following circumstances.

- a) The organization that the player is signed with has the first opportunity to provide him a position to play at the same level and category or higher.
- b) If they cannot provide an opportunity under (a) then if the player has resolved all financial obligations with the organization he may sign elsewhere in the LOR as an import.

E66 A player who is a resident of a home centre which is an extension of an LOR AAA Zone (i.e. Caledon, Nobleking, Oak Ridges and Stouffville), and registered for any division from Minor Bantam and up may return to his home centre at the end of any season without a release. Such player returning without a release is NOT allowed to affiliate to a Junior Hockey Team or to another AAA Zone.

### **MARKHAM PROGRAMS**

E67 Markham is unique in the "Lake Ontario Region", as there are GTHL clubs (Islanders / Markham Islanders) and an OMHA club (Waxers) that operate in the same residential community. The GTHL and OMHA both offer AAA, AA and A programs. The status of Markham residents new to "Lake Ontario Region" Rep hockey is noted as follows:

- a) If a Markham resident, new to "Lake Ontario Region" Rep hockey, signs with the Markham Waxers and moves to the GTHL (except the Islanders / Markham Islanders), the player becomes an import. If the player subsequently moves to another GTHL team (except the Islanders / Markham Islanders), that player would be and, subject to point c) below, would remain an import to GTHL teams.
- b) If a Markham resident, new to "Lake Ontario Region" Rep hockey, signs with the Islanders / Markham Islanders or any other GTHL team, he is a non-import within the GTHL and he would be and, subject to point 'c' below, would remain an import to OMHA centres in the "Lake Ontario Region", except the Markham Waxers (the player's home centre for OMHA purposes).
- c) If such a player noted in point a) or b) above returns to a Markham team, he becomes for the future a non-import to that team's Member Partner (e.g. Waxers – OMHA; Islanders / Markham Islanders - GTHL) and an import to the other Markham team's Member Partner.

E68 In terms of the import quota for these programs the following will apply:

- a) Movement between the GTHL and Markham GTHL clubs shall not affect quotas. For example, a player from Mississauga would not be an import to the Markham GTHL club.
- b) Markham resident players may choose to register with either Markham club, without an effect on their import quota.
- c) Markham resident players registered with a non-Markham GTHL club as non-imports will continue as such, if they sign with a GTHL club.
- d) Markham resident players registered with the Markham OMHA club, shall be imports if they register with a non-Markham GTHL club.
- e) Markham resident players registered in the GTHL who sign with any other club in the "Lake Ontario Region" Perimeter area, will be considered imports.
- f) Markham residents are non-imports to both Markham GTHL and Markham OMHA, no matter where they were registered the previous year.

E69 The Islanders / Markham Islanders and Markham Waxers programs have entered into an agreement which is filed with OHF, GTHL and OMHA Offices.

### **VAUGHAN PROGRAMS**

E70 All Vaughan resident players are members of the GTHL, whether they play on Vaughan teams or on non-Vaughan teams. Vaughan resident players are imports to any "Lake Ontario Region" Perimeter team.

### **MIDGET AAA QUOTAS**

E71 The "Lake Ontario Region" Midget AAA team's quota would be the higher of:

- a) the normal quota number of 5; and
- b) the total of the returning import from Minor Midget and first year Midget. However, this higher number produced by b) could be filled only by that organization's returning/graduating imports.

E72 For example, if a Midget team potentially has 3 returning second year Midget imports and 4 Bantam imports graduating to the Midget team, it could sign all 7 as imports. However, if any of those players are released or go elsewhere (Midget/Juvenile/Junior/Major Junior), the number will decrease accordingly: if 1 leaves, the quota number will be 6; if 2 leave the quota number will be 5. Thus, the team cannot sign any new imports until its returning/graduating imports, from both Bantam and Midget, fall below the basic quota number of 5.

E73 The result is that an organization won't have to cut a player loose simply because it has to "cut imports", but on the other hand, it won't be able to add any new imports unless it has fallen below the usual quota figure. While it does allow for some stability for some players, we are confident that, given the amount of movement at this level, it will have no significant impact on the overall picture.

### **THE EXTENDED BOUNDARIES OF THE "LAKE ONTARIO REGION" AAA ZONES OF RICHMOND HILL AND MARKHAM**

E74 The "Lake Ontario Region" has extended boundaries from the normal association boundaries. This is due to the AAA zones of Richmond Hill and Markham, which are both "Lake Ontario Region" areas, but who, for AAA programs only, have players eligible in other centres as part of their AAA zone. The extended areas are as follows:

- a) The area of NobleKing Minor Hockey, the area of the Town of Caledon Minor Hockey Association, and the area of the Oak Ridges Minor Hockey Association are all part of the Richmond Hill AAA zone. Players from these areas as part of the Richmond Hill AAA zone are imports to AAA GTHL teams and are non-imports to OMHA perimeter centres of the "Lake Ontario Region" at AAA only.
- b) The area of Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association is part of the OMHA Markham AAA Zone. Players from this area as part of the Markham OMHA AAA zone are imports to AAA GTHL teams and are non-imports to OMHA perimeter centres of the "Lake Ontario Region" at AAA only.

### **COACHING MOVEMENT**

E75 A person who is registered as a Team Official in one season may not, without the written consent of the Association / Club with which such person is registered as a Team Official, be registered or appear on the bench in the immediately following season as a Team Official for a Team in the immediately higher age division or sub-division (where applicable) of another Association / Club. Such written consent must be signed by an Association / Club Official and provided to the GTHL, OMHA and OHF Offices. An Association / Club may withhold its consent in its sole and absolute discretion. A Team Official may appeal to the Member Partner of the team that is withholding the consent. Reports of any team officials who may be in violation of this policy should be immediately reported to the GTHL, OMHA or OHF office as soon as possible.

### **IMPORT PLAYERS USED AS AFFILIATED PLAYERS IN THE LOR**

E76 Subject to the following, a team may dress as Affiliated Players (AP's) both non-imports and imports, even if that means that the team is dressing more imports than its quota for any particular game.

E77 An import can dress for no more than five games as an AP after January 10, unless the higher division/category team has fewer registered imports than its quota. In that case, upon dressing for his sixth game, that import, as with any other AP, would under Hockey Canada regulations automatically become a member of that higher team and no longer be allowed to compete for the balance of the season in the division or category for which he is registered. (HC Reg. E 35 (a). OHF Regulation D5)

E78 If an import is dressed for more than five games as an AP after January 10 by a team whose quota is full (even if the number of imports dressed for any particular game is within the quota), that team will default such additional games and pay a fine to be determined by the Member Partner. Furthermore, the player is not allowed to compete for the balance of the season in the division or category for which he is registered. (HC Reg. E 35 (a). OHF Regulation D5)

E79 If a team legitimately loses an import (e.g. through a season-ending injury or illness, or withdrawal), it can apply to the OHF for relief to replace that player with an affiliated import with the understanding that HC Regulation E 35 (a) and OHF Regulation D5 applies.

E80 The GTHL or OMHA, as the case may be, has the right to intervene, and, if necessary, discipline or penalize any of its teams which, on the basis of a formal complaint, is found to be using an import as an AP on a continual or regular basis so as to cause any player, either import or non-import, on the immediately higher category/division team to be inactive for unreasonable periods of time.

E81 To assist teams in complying with the above, and to assist in the statistical analysis of the arrangements for the "Lake Ontario Region", an import player dressing for his affiliated team shall be designated as "AP(I)" on the game sheet. No designation is required on a game sheet for an import playing for his registered team.