

## **AMALGAMATIONS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **Why Amalgamations are happening?**

With the registration in hockey declining across Canada, some smaller centers have had challenges forming the same number of competitive teams. We have seen that in our region of Ontario as well. This has left the Leagues with smaller numbers of teams to compete with, and less opportunity for young Athletes to play at the level they should be playing.

Amalgamation can mean:

- Most importantly - children enjoying playing hockey with peers, children learning and developing at an appropriate level.
- All players playing at a level that is appropriate for their capability. Single age divisions are typically seen.
- 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..

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Why amalgamate with our neighbouring centers?**

As each center's demographics and registrations continue to change, we're looking for ways to offer the best solutions that will allow hockey to continue to thrive in our communities. If we simply wait and see, Ayr will not have a League to play in potentially at a competitive level. 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.

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

One of the primary goals of a partnership would be to maintain the same high quality Local League experience for our community-based recreational teams. This means that the Local League Teams continue to play out of their community arenas as part of their traditional Local League teams under Ayr Flames, Ayr Minor Hockey.

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

The New Minor Hockey Association would work towards a fair and balanced allocation of Rep Teams amongst the centers, so that all communities share in being able to host Rep Team games and practices. 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.

**What League will a new Representative Association play in?** TBD in consultation with OMHA

**Would the amalgamated centers have a new name?**

Yes, centers would work together to form a new Association and name.

**What would the new association be called?**

If voted on and approved, a subcommittee will be created to handle the submission of ideas for names and logos. Centers would be very open to having the membership make recommendations which can be considered.

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

Yes, the amalgamated center will have a Board comprised of hopefully an equal number of Directors from each center, and possibly other members as needed.

**Is an amalgamation happening automatically?**

No. The decision to amalgamate or not to amalgamate is the responsibility of each voting member of both, the other center(s), and Ayr Minor Hockey.

**How does amalgamation happen?**

Both the other center(s), and Ayr Minor Hockey Association would need a majority vote of 67% or greater from their respective members to proceed with the amalgamation. This would happen at either an AGM, or Special Resolution Meeting of the members.

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

That depends on several factors from both Associations including when the vote was passed. We would potentially aim to be officially amalgamated for the start of the 2024-2025 season.

**If the vote is no then what happens?**

If either organization has less than the required yes votes (67% of the vote) then the AMHA will continue as it is now.

**Who can vote?**

One vote is allowed per registered family unit that has a player whose home center is Ayr. 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 centers for a period of time during the season.

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

TBD

**What if I am in a right of choice (ROC) area according to the new center point?**

Right of choice (ROC) 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.

**How will coaches be selected?**

Initially coaches will be selected by a committee comprised of people from each center, until such time the boards are completely integrated together.

**How will rep teams be selected?**

The teams will be selected by the Coach plus unbiased, independent evaluators. But all of this would be decided on by both boards.

**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 to provide the best quality application.