

OWHA URGENT ACTION ITEM – January 28, 2022

To: OWA Associations with registered competitive teams as of December 31, 2021
OWHA Independent registered competitive teams as of December 31, 2021

RE: OWA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

ACTION: DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE: Monday, January 31, 2022, 11:00 p.m.

OVERVIEW

- 1) On January 31, 2022, hockey practices and games are permitted to resume in the Province of Ontario
- 2) The 2022 OWHA Provincial Championships are currently scheduled for April 7th to 10th
- 3) Ice is currently blocked at multiple facilities
- 4) The event was cancelled for the last 2 years due to the pandemic
- 5) The pandemic is still active and, if we move forward, the event could be cancelled at any time before or during the event
- 6) We are committed to facing the risks and challenges and move forward with plans to hold a provincial championship that is adapted to health and safety requirements
- 7) The physical and mental health of participants is of primary importance.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Teams commit, in writing, to participation in playdowns and provincials by Monday, January 31, 2022 - DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE: Monday, January 31, 2022, 11:00 p.m.
- 2) Playdowns commence as soon as possible AFTER Thursday, February 3, 2022

OWHA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

COMMITMENT

Send email to all OWHA registered competitive teams ASAP advising:

- Provincial Championships are currently scheduled for OWHA U9, U11, U13, U15, U18, U22 and Senior Divisions
- We require a commitment to the event and playdowns
- The entry fee for U22 Elite and U18 AA teams is \$1,200.00 per team. The entry fee for other teams is \$1,000.00 and is payable no later than Tuesday, February 15, 2022. The fee is refundable ONLY if the team does not qualify through playdowns or is required to withdraw due to COVID-19.
- We urge associations/teams to ensure players and parents are in agreement and make a full commitment to attending playdowns and provincials before making the commitment
- If the team withdraws after its January 31st commitment, the provincial fee will still be due and will NOT be refunded
- It is understood that teams and players may be required to drop out due to COVID-19. These teams may receive a partial or full refund, at the sole discretion of the OWHA
- These actions are being taking to ensure accountability of each team for the benefit of all teams

ROSTER

- Player rosters are “frozen” as of December 31, 2021
- Staff may be added
- Rosters will be pulled from RAMP
- No players may be added and no pick-up players permitted for playdowns or Provincials for any reason, including COVID-19
- All teams must have at least one (1) registered and playing goaltender
- In extenuating circumstances only, OWHA will address a request for the use of an emergency goaltender

NUMBER OF TEAMS

- Based on health and safety, divisions/categories will be kept to a minimum
- The absolute maximum number of teams in any division/category will be 20
- Preferred division/categories are 8 or 16 teams.

PLAYDOWNS

- Playdowns are to commence AFTER Thursday, February 3, 2022 and are to be completed no later than Sunday, March 13, 2022
- Teams may use one (1) game to count in both league and playdown statistics with approval of both OWHA and the person responsible for the league
- Each group **MUST** designate a person responsible for ensuring the playdown operates efficiently, keep records and report the outcome to the OWHA office.
- Due to a critical shortage of officials in many areas, playdown games in all divisions and categories will be scheduled with two (2) qualified on-ice officials.
- Playdowns will be limited to as few games as possible and will be as follows:
 - 2 teams – 2 games with a tie breaker. There will be no third game
 - 3 teams – a single round robin with a tie breaker
 - 4 teams - a single round robin with a tie breaker
 - 5 teams – a single round robin with a tie breaker
 - 6 teams – divide teams geographically and have a 2 x 3 team single round robin. If only 1 of 6 teams move on, the 2 winners play a single game to determine a winner. If 2 teams move on, the two winners advance
 - 7 teams – divide teams geographically into a 3 and a 4-team grouping and play as per the 6-team formula
 - 8 teams – divide teams geographically into 2 x 4 teams and play as per the 6 and 7 team formula
 - 9 teams – divide teams geographically into 3 groups of 3 and play a single round robin. The 3 winners would play a single round robin
 - 10 teams – divide teams geographically into 2 groups of 3 and 1 group of 4. There will be a single round robin of the winners to determine who advances
 - 11 teams – divide teams geographically into 1 group of 3 and 2 groups of 4 and play as in the 10-team formula
 - 12 teams – divide teams geographically into 4 groups of 3 and play a single round robin. The top 4 teams play a single round robin

ON-ICE OFFICIALS

- Games may be officiated with a 2-official system in both OWHA Playdowns and Provincials.
- Some games may have 3 officials

GAME SHEETS

- If hard copy game sheets are used, labels from RAMP will be used and no signatures are required.

REGISTRATION DESK

- 1 person per team is required to check in prior to the team's 1st game

SOUVENIRS

- There will be on-line souvenirs only

PROGRAM

- There will no program or hand-outs.
- All materials will be transmitted electronically

MEDALS

- Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be handed to the team staff for presentation to their team

DISCIPLINE

- OWHA discipline is in place
- Any participant under suspension is not permitted in the facility
- OWHA will suspend and/or remove a participant and/or team for violation of COVID-19 protocols at any time including, but not limited to playdowns and provincials.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- All COVID-19 protocols are in place including but not limited to:
 - Active Screening
 - Masks
 - QR codes for vaccinations
 - Capacity limits
 - Entry and exit times of facilities
 - Physical Distancing

VOLUNTEERS

- Volunteers for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday are required at all facilities.
- Each association, especially in the geographic area of the provincials, is urged to provide a minimum of one (1) volunteer so the event can take place.
- OWHA requires a minimum of three (3) volunteers in every facility at all times, commencing one (1) hour before the start of the first game until ½ hour after the completion of the last game.

- An experienced, screened volunteer who makes a commitment to a 10 hour shift on Friday, Saturday and Sunday will have costs covered for travel and accommodation (based on double occupancy) and receive a per diem for meals.

COMMUNICATION

- All communication is to be done via phone or electronically where possible
- In-person communication must be done with physical distancing and masking protocols in place

CANCELLATION

- Teams are committing with the understanding that the event may, in whole or in part, be cancelled at any time.
- **NO team** will be re-imbursed for any costs it incurs for travel, accommodation or for any other costs if the event is cancelled at any time.

NOTE: The OWHA reserves the right to interpret and update the material above.