

**Proposed Norfolk-Delhi Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Information Supplemental**

Norfolk Minor Hockey was formed based on the shared priority of maximizing player fun and development. While early partnership discussions envisioned a true Norfolk Minor Hockey organization (comprised of Simcoe, Waterford, Port Dover, Delhi and Langton), Norfolk Minor Hockey advanced into reality in 2020 through a partnership of Simcoe, Waterford and Port Dover minor hockey associations. Our inaugural 2021-2022 season saw the delivery of very competitive “A” level representative hockey, strong local league team programming, and high-value, professionally-delivered development programs.

Our experience to date has been excellent, but of course we would like to take another step forward and improve our hockey programming structure...

Norfolk Minor Hockey has determined that our programming needs to be enhanced with mid-range hockey programming and teams between “A level” rep hockey and local league hockey. This would ensure our players have a hockey programming structure that equally scales with player progress – providing an option that continues our desire of matching players of comparable skill level – where they will have the most fun, and where their development will continue to be promoted.

While Norfolk Hockey sees the need to offer mid-range “B” level programming to our current membership, a partnership with Delhi minor hockey, or a similar neighboring organization, would provide improved players numbers to confidently deliver an improved hockey program; allowing for ‘A’, ‘B’, local league (including select) opportunities for all members. The Norfolk Minor Hockey proposed Memorandum of Understanding has been put forward to Delhi Minor Hockey as a best effort initiative to bring this improved hockey programming opportunity into reality for the 2022-2023 (yes –this year) hockey season

What would this mean to players of both organizations? Find some details below (please consult the MOU document for further details):

**GOVERNANCE**

The Delhi Minor Hockey board would nominate representatives to sit on the Norfolk Hockey board for the 2022-2023 season. The Norfolk Hockey board is comprised of an equal number of representatives from each local league association partner (currently Port Dover, Simcoe, Waterford). Delhi would also be an equal partner for the season.

The Port Dover, Simcoe and Waterford minor hockey associations would be unaffected. In the same way, the Delhi Minor Hockey board would continue and would be responsible for running the Delhi Rockets’ local league program in Delhi.

## **LOCAL LEAGUE HOCKEY**

### **Now**

Port Dover, Simcoe, Waterford and Delhi local league players play on their respective local league teams, out of their local arenas.

### **Under the MOU**

No change to local league teams. Each local league association would continue running their local league teams, out of their local arena.

Delhi local league players (like Port Dover, Simcoe and Waterford) would gain the opportunity to AP to a Norfolk Knights' team (currently this is not an option).

Norfolk Hockey currently provides its local league players will have the option (but not the obligation) to participate in season-long skills, skating and goalie development sessions. These sessions would continue, but would now also be offered to Delhi local league players.

## **REPRESENTATIVE HOCKEY**

### **Now**

Norfolk Minor Hockey has offered "A" level teams. All Norfolk (Simcoe, Port Dover, Waterford) players can try out for these teams, beginning at the U10 age for this upcoming season.

Delhi players cannot tryout for the Norfolk "A" teams until their U12 year.

Once Delhi players reach their U12 year they may try out for a Norfolk "A" team, however they can only do so as a "Non-Resident Player (NRP)" which restricts their opportunity to play within Norfolk Minor Hockey as only three NRP players are permitted per team.

### **Under the MOU**

Delhi players could try out on an equal basis with other Norfolk players for the Norfolk "A", and can join the Norfolk teams as early as the U10 year (the first year of representative hockey starting 2022-2023). Delhi players would no longer be considered NRP's.

The resulting improved membership numbers would improve Norfolk Minor Hockey's ability to offer mid-range "B" level hockey programming. All Norfolk members (including Delhi should they join) would have an equal opportunity to participate in our "B" level hockey program.

Norfolk "A" and "B" teams would play out of Norfolk arenas. While Norfolk games were mostly played out of Talbot Gardens this last year, the Norfolk board intends on changing this for 2022-2023 so that Norfolk Minor Hockey games are played in all Norfolk arenas and intermingled with the local hockey

programs operating out of those arenas. Under the MOU, this would include playing Norfolk Minor Hockey games/practices in Delhi.

Rep teams and players will have the opportunity to participate in season-long skills, skating and goalie development programs (currently offered by Norfolk).

Norfolk Hockey firmly believes that this proposed Memorandum of Understanding will serve to further the Norfolk Hockey program for the benefit of all hockey players by building on the success of the "A" program; providing a much needed and desired competitive "B" program; continuing to protect and preserve our core home town proud local league programs, and expand upon our much-praised player and goalie development programs. This is the real win – as, once again, playing on the "right fit" team, with teammates of comparable ability, maximizes fun and development.