

Norfolk / Six Nations Minor Hockey Partnership

Questions and Answers

Q. Which Associations form Norfolk Minor Hockey?

- A.** Port Dover, Simcoe and Waterford Minor Hockey Associations are the current Norfolk Minor Hockey partners. Each has an equal number of Norfolk Minor Hockey board members.

It is proposed that Six Nations Minor Hockey become a fourth partner. Six Nations Minor Hockey will be provided an equal number of Norfolk Minor Hockey board positions. This way, all minor hockey associations have an equal voice.

Q. What are the benefits of Six Nations joining Norfolk Minor Hockey?

- A.** Norfolk Minor Hockey currently manages a joint Rep hockey program for players from Port Dover, Simcoe, and Waterford minor hockey associations. With Six Nations as a fourth partner, this will help players from all associations in the following ways:

Six Nations Players

Local League Players – Six Nations Minor Hockey will continue to run Six Nations Local League hockey programming. Players will play in Six Nations as Six Nations Blackhawks. There will be no changes to core Local League programming.

However, by joining Norfolk Minor Hockey, Six Nations Local League players will have access to weekly skills and skating development programs offered by Norfolk Minor Hockey and run by expert instructors. In addition, Norfolk Minor Hockey offers a special goalie development program instructed by On Point Goaltending. These programs are in addition to regular team ice times and have proven to be very successful.

Six Nations Local League players will also have the opportunity to AP (affiliate) to Norfolk Minor Hockey rep teams and can participate in Norfolk Minor Hockey select teams.

Rep Players – Six Nations players will have the opportunity to try out for Norfolk “A” and “BB/C” rep teams. They will not be NRP’s (Non-Resident Players) and will therefore have an equal opportunity to make the Norfolk teams, thereby

ensuring they are playing at the right competitive level. All Norfolk Rep teams also have dedicated skills and skating (with expert skating instruction) ice times, and Norfolk Rep goalies can participate in the On Point Goaltender development sessions.

Norfolk Minor Hockey Players

Norfolk Minor Hockey will be further strengthened by partnering with Six Nations. It is Norfolk Minor Hockey's priority to continue offering "A" and "BB/C" programs, and possibly Select teams as well. Adding the additional player numbers and talent from Six Nations will help ensure this comprehensive hockey program offering – from "A" to Local League teams – will be maintained and will be strong.

Q. Who would run the Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association?

A. The Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association's Board is comprised of an equal number of Directors elected by each Local Association, which would now include Six Nations. As such, each Local Association will have equal say in the management and oversight of Norfolk Minor Hockey.

Q. At what level would the Norfolk Minor Hockey Rep teams compete?

A. Norfolk currently offers "A" and "BB/C" rep hockey teams, with the Local League associations running their respective Local League programs. It is possible that Select teams may be added in the future with the addition of Six Nations.

Q. Would Six Nations Minor Hockey continue to exist?

A. Yes. Six Nations will continue to exist and manage Six Nations Local League hockey programs. They will also work cooperatively with the Norfolk County Minor Hockey Association to share resources and align programming where it makes sense to do so.

Q. If Six Nations joins Norfolk Minor Hockey, where will Six Nations' Local League players be playing?

A. One of the primary goals of this Partnership is 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. For Members playing at the Local League level, there will be little to no program change.

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

A. The Norfolk Minor Hockey Association's primary arenas for practices and games are in Port Dover, Simcoe and Waterford. Six Nations will also be added as a primary location for Norfolk rep team ice times.

Q. How will the Partnership affect player registration costs?

A. Norfolk Minor Hockey registration costs will not change with the addition of Six Nations Minor Hockey players. Registration costs for rep programming varies depending on age and whether it is an "A" or "BB/C" team and are comparable to similar programs offered by other associations.

Port Dover, Simcoe and Waterford minor hockey associations attempt to offer similar programming at the same price; however each has the discretion to set their own registration prices. It is recognized that Six Nations has different ice rental rates and other unique characteristics. As such, Six Nations Minor Hockey will have full discretion to set Six Nations Local League registration costs at the amounts right for its members. Joining Norfolk Minor Hockey will therefore not change Six Nations Local League hockey cost.

Q. With a larger pool of kids potentially interested in Rep hockey, how will the Partnership impact the ability of certain players to make a team?

A. Ultimately, the goal of any Rep Program is to ice the most competitive teams possible at each age division. With Six Nations joining Norfolk Minor Hockey, making each team may be a more competitive process, however the ultimate goal is to have players playing with teammates of similar ability. This maximizes fun and development of all players. With Norfolk Minor Hockey having teams at the "A" and "BB/C" rep levels, and possibly Select teams, we are confident this comprehensive program will have a great team for every player

Q. Will some players who previously made a Rep team be playing Local League under this model?

A. Perhaps – but the impact of this Partnership on individual players is difficult to predict. The main focus is to provide a fair opportunity for all players to succeed, have fun and develop at a level appropriate to their skill. No Association can do this when they have to worry about stable player numbers and teams collapsing at various levels every year due to low enrollment.

Q. Will Local League players be eligible to be an Affiliated Player “AP” to a Norfolk Hockey Rep Team?

A. Yes – players from Local League organizations will be eligible for AP opportunities.

Q. What League do Norfolk Teams play in?

A. Norfolk “A” teams play in the Shamrock League, while the “BB/C” teams play in Southern Counties. This is expected to continue.

Q. How will the Partnership impact “AAA” Player Affiliation?

A. There will be no impact to AAA Affiliation.

Q. How will Local League Coaches be selected?

A. The Local Associations will continue to select their Local League Coaches independently, as they have done in the past. Six Nations Minor Hockey will therefore continue to select Six Nations Local League coaches.

Q. How will Rep Coaches be selected?

A. Norfolk Minor Hockey is focused on picking the best Coaches possible, while providing a fair opportunity to all applicants. The Coach Selection Committee has representation from each Local Association, and a Six Nations representative will be added to help lead interviews and the selection process.

Q. How do we know the Rep team player selection will be fair?

A. While Norfolk Minor Hockey coaches select their team, selections must be approved by the Rep Hockey Committee, which has representatives from each association. Six Nations will also have a representative on this committee.

The Rep Hockey Committee also has independent evaluators oversee and score all players trying out for each team. These scores are reviewed, shared with the coaches, and the Rep Hockey Committee ensures that each player is fairly evaluated and given an equal opportunity to make each Rep team.