

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
2022-2023 MINOR HOCKEY SEASON**

xxx, 2022

BETWEEN:

DELHI MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

“DELHI MINOR HOCKEY”

AND

NORFOLK MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

“NORFOLK MINOR HOCKEY”

collectively, the “Parties”

WHEREAS:

- A. Norfolk Minor Hockey is an OMHA category “A” association governed by a Memorandum of Agreement entered into between the Port Dover Minor Hockey Association, the Simcoe & District Minor Hockey Association, and the Waterford & District Minor Hockey Association, which individually (local league teams) and collectively (representative teams) offer minor hockey programming for the benefit of children in their communities within Norfolk County, Ontario;
- B. Delhi Minor Hockey is an OMHA category “C” association which offers local league and representative minor hockey programming for the benefit of children in and around the town of Delhi, also located within Norfolk County, Ontario;
- C. The Parties agree to cooperate for the 2022-2023 season to offer joint representative hockey programming (A and below), and optionally (subject to local league association approval) select local league development programming, through Norfolk Minor Hockey and under the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Norfolk Minor Hockey Operations Manual and relevant/applicable sections of the Norfolk Minor Hockey Memorandum of Agreement;
- D. The Parties’ agree further to work together throughout the 2022-2023 season (hereinafter referred to as the MOU period which is further defined as the date of this MOU approval to June 1, 2023) to fully consider and, if supported through the Parties’ successful 2022-2023 cooperative efforts, support Delhi Minor Hockey becoming a formal party to the Norfolk Minor Hockey Memorandum of Agreement;
- E. The Parties have entered into this Memorandum of Understanding to record their mutual agreements and intentions regarding the manner in which the affairs of the 2022-2023 minor hockey season shall be conducted, for the mutual benefit of the Parties and their collective members;
- F. This Memorandum of Understanding shall only apply to the 2022-2023 hockey season. Should either party fail to ratify the introduction of Delhi Minor Hockey into the Norfolk Minor Hockey Memorandum of Agreement by June 1, 2023, the cooperation outlined within this Memorandum of Understanding shall expire and both parties will revert back to their pre-existing, independent operations;
- G. The terms of this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the approval of the OMHA board of directors, the board of directors of each of the Parties, and member approval of each of the

Parties, if necessary, in accordance with the provisions of each association's By-laws, as applicable.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants and agreements set forth herein, the Parties agree as follows:

GOVERNANCE

1. Norfolk Minor Hockey will increase its total number of Directors from twelve (12) to sixteen (16), during the period of the approved MOU with the additional four Director positions reserved for representatives of Delhi Minor Hockey, to be appointed by Delhi Minor Hockey's board. Such appointees must be members of Delhi Minor Hockey's board (as the other board members must be members of their respective local league association boards);
2. Delhi Minor Hockey's four appointed Directors shall have full and equal voting rights, as they pertain to the governance of Norfolk Minor Hockey's 2022-2023 season programming, however these Board directors will be restricted from voting on matters that financially bind Norfolk Minor Hockey beyond the effective MOU period;
3. A representative of Delhi Minor Hockey will be appointed to each Norfolk Hockey Committee, including the Rep Operations Committee, the Coach Selection Committee, the Tryout Committee and the Player Development Committee;
4. The MOU period can be extended by mutual agreement of the Executive Boards of each party to the MOU however such extension shall only be used if/where there is productive and positive movement towards an intended amalgamation of Delhi Minor Hockey with Norfolk Minor Hockey and no such extension will be sought for the simple pleasure of carrying this MOU agreement into the 2023-2024 season.

PLAYER RIGHTS

5. Norfolk Minor Hockey and Delhi Minor Hockey will maintain their existing centre points for the 2022-2023 season;
6. Norfolk Minor Hockey and Delhi Minor Hockey will retain their existing and respective player rights however, for the 2022-2023 season all Delhi players will be 'shared' within Norfolk Minor Hockey within the Hockey Canada Registration (HCR) system for the MOU period;

7. All Delhi Minor Hockey members and Norfolk Minor Hockey members will have equal opportunity to try out for, and be selected for, Norfolk Minor Hockey representative teams without any non-resident player (NRP) restrictions for the MOU period;
8. During the 2022-2023 season, the Parties will enter discussions with neighbouring minor hockey associations to establish agreed boundaries in the event Delhi Minor Hockey enters the Norfolk Minor Hockey Memorandum of Agreement during the MOU period. Such boundaries will be selected to ensure the Parties can continue to serve their current membership and geographic coverage however the Parties respect that defined boundaries are subject to OMHA approval;
9. For greater certainty, should the MOU expire on June 1, 2023, the pre-existing association centre points and player rep rights will continue going forward, with no adjustment (i.e. no changes from pre-MOU affiliations);

TEAM STRUCTURE & COSTS

10. Norfolk Minor Hockey is entitled to offer “A and below” category representative teams. Norfolk Minor Hockey did not offer representative programming below A level in the 2021-2022 season due to limited player numbers/ability. Norfolk Minor Hockey is focused on increasing its membership in an effort to improve the range of hockey programming it can provide to its members and recognizes the value of doing so.
11. This MOU provides the vehicle whereby the time limited cooperative arrangement between Norfolk Minor Hockey and Delhi Minor Hockey will serve to provide an improved overall collective membership number which should allow for improved access to A level programming for Delhi Minor Hockey and provide both Parties an improved B level program for all its members.
12. While dependant on the Norfolk Board’s assessment of player numbers and ability, it is the full intention and expectation of the parties to also offer Norfolk Minor Hockey “B” teams for the 2022-2023 season.
13. It is a priority of the Parties that Norfolk teams will play games in all partner arenas. The Parties will work together regarding ice scheduling, first ensuring each local league association’s programming requirements are satisfied, and then to incorporate Norfolk Hockey programming throughout all centres;
14. The “A” and “B” teams will play in the OMHA leagues designated by the OMHA;
15. It is recognized that the primary cost of hockey registration is the cost of ice time. It is noted that the player cost of “A” hockey is higher due to the additional ice time provided to “A” teams and the cost

to buy player jerseys. Norfolk Hockey does not anticipate any significant changes to “A” team player costs from the 2021-2022 season.

16. The player cost for playing on a Norfolk “B” team will be determined after team budgets are completed. It is anticipated that ice allocations, and therefore player costs, will be in line with prior “B” hockey programs offered by Delhi/Port Dover/Simcoe/Waterford minor hockey associations.
17. Norfolk “B” teams will dawn the Norfolk Knights player apparel and players will be required to cover the cost of player jerseys.
18. Notwithstanding the intension of controlling costs set out in 16 above, the Parties acknowledge that it can only control ice time allocation per team and both Parties respect that the Municipality of Norfolk County has significantly increased its ice rental rates for the 2022-2023 season which in turn will drive up membership costs even if team ice time allocations reflect historical levels.
19. The Parties agree that local league teams will practice and host home teams at their respective home arena and will dawn their home association player apparel as has been the tradition to this point in time. If/where local league ice demands exceed the capacity of their home arena, local leagues are permitted to host practices and home games at other ice centers however to the best of the Parties’ abilities this would be only in exceptional situations.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

20. During the 2021-2022 season Norfolk Hockey provided all Norfolk “A” teams dedicated skating, skills, and goalie development programs. It is anticipated that these team offerings will be provided again in the 2022-2023 season to all Norfolk “A” teams;
21. The goalie development program was open to all goalies from Norfolk Hockey, as well as partner local league association teams. For the 2022-2023 season, Delhi Minor Hockey local league goalies will be included in the goalie development sessions;
22. Norfolk Hockey also organized weekly skills and skating development sessions which were offered, on an optional basis, to all local league association players. For the 2022-2023 season these sessions will also be made available to all Delhi Minor Hockey local league players.
23. The cost of the local league development sessions was built into the registration costs for all players, across all divisions/levels and incorporated into their respective registration fees. There was no additional cost for members (post registration) to participate in the development program. This was very well received and resulted in a high participation rate. Norfolk Hockey anticipates using the same costing model for the 2022-2023 season and Delhi Minor Hockey will be assigned its share of such costs;

24. The Norfolk Hockey Board will consider and decide whether Norfolk “B” teams will have team-dedicated development sessions or whether such teams will be given an opportunity to participate on an optional basis (i.e. like the local league development program);

LOCAL LEAGUE MATTERS

25. Delhi Minor Hockey will continue to independently operate its local league program and membership registration system through the Hockey Canada Registration (HCR) system;
26. Local league programs will be run out of each association’s local rink. The only exception would be local league player participation in the Norfolk Minor Hockey player and goalie development programs;
27. Local league players from Delhi will be eligible to AP to Norfolk Knights teams;
28. Delhi, Waterford, Port Dover and Simcoe Minor Hockey will agree on the local league registration costs for all centres for U9 and above. For Programming U8 and below, each individual centre is free to set their own registration costs. There should be a material difference in the program offering (ie differences in the amount of ice or players per ice time) to ensure that one LL centre does not poach from other member centres by offering a discounted program.

SPONSORSHIPS & FUNDRAISING

29. Delhi Minor Hockey can continue to operate its independent sponsorship and fundraising programs as currently does the local associations of Waterford, Simcoe and Port Dover;
30. In addition to any independent programs, sponsors will also be offered Norfolk Knights sponsorship opportunities. Norfolk Minor Hockey was very successful in its sponsorship program in the 2021-2022 season. This program included the requirement that all Norfolk Knights sponsors must be “multi-association sponsors”, which required a portion of the Norfolk sponsorship contributions to be shared with each local league association. Delhi Hockey will therefore also receive sponsorship support through Norfolk Minor Hockey’s “multi-association” sponsorship program.

ASSOCIATION COST

31. It is recognized that Port Dover/Simcoe/Waterford minor hockey associations loaned funds to Norfolk Minor Hockey to provide the financing required to start Norfolk Minor Hockey;
32. As Norfolk Minor Hockey is now operational, no further start-up or operational funding is required. As such, there is no cost to Delhi Minor Hockey to enter this MOU.