

New to Coaching? FAQ

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Getting Ready to Coach

What qualifications do I need to coach?

Generally speaking, you will need to take the appropriate level coaching course and clinic from the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders, Making Ethical Decisions and the OMHA Gender Identity and Expression course. Requirements are

division and category dependent and do change over time so you will need to check at <https://www.omha.net/coach> for an exact answer.

Are certifications from other sports transferable?

Yes. If you have already completed NCCP courses or Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders you can transfer those certificates.

Do I need to renew certifications?

Currently, OMHA does not require that you renew Respect in Sport or Gender Identity and Expression.

The Rowan's Law Resource Review and Acknowledgment must be completed annually (by all coaches, other bench staff and players).

For OMHA coaching courses, once the coaching course and clinic have been completed you are considered "TRAINED" for that level. This "TRAINED" status does not expire. If you have undergone the formal evaluation process by OMHA then you are considered "CERTIFIED". The "CERTIFIED" status carries a 5 year expiry.

To renew your "CERTIFIED" status you will need to complete a defined number of Professional Development points through the Hockey Canada Certification Maintenance Program. The number of points you need depends on the level and can be found at:

<https://www.omha.net/coach>

When do I need "TRAINED" or "CERTIFIED"?

This will depend on the category you are coaching. Generally speaking, you only need the "CERTIFIED" status if you are coaching Representative hockey.

Can I use my older division coaching course for a younger division?

For U9 and younger: Only a Coach 1 (Intro to Coach) is acceptable. Coaches holding only a Coach 2 and Development 1 status are not able to coach a U9 or under team.

D1 CERTIFIED - Any age rep, any age LL

D1 TRAINED - U10/U11 rep, any age LL

C2 CERTIFIED - U10/U11 rep, any age LL

C2 TRAINED - any age LL

Is there a cost to volunteer?

Your time is the most valuable asset and thank you for paying it forward to the association. In terms of monetary costs, upon completion of the required course(s), receipts can be submitted to the treasurer for reimbursement. Any other expenses, other than course fees, must be submitted to the Georgian Shores MHA Executive for pre-approval. .

General Definitions and Operations

What is bench staff?

We often refer to all team positions filled by adult volunteers as “bench staff”. However, it should be remembered that the *only* people (other than rostered players) who are allowed on the bench during a game are the ones who have been assigned an official OMHA status and appear on your roster. These can include a head coach, assistant coaches, trainers and managers. On game day you may have up to five (5) rostered team officials on the bench; of which there must be at least one head coach and one trainer.

Who assigns the other team officials?

The head coach usually asks for volunteers for the assistant coach, trainer, manager positions. Some of these positions will require in-person and/or online training. It is always a good idea to have as many team officials as the parents on your team are willing to volunteer.

Team Activities

What are tournaments/jamborees?

Tournaments are full-ice competitions available to U10 and older divisions (and U9 after their transition from half ice to full ice). Jamborees are cross ice or half ice events that focus on skills and fun rather than on competition and are available to U7 and U8 teams. Teams may choose to register in OMHA sanctioned tournaments or jamborees.

<https://www.omha.net/findatournament>

Away Tournaments/Jamborees are optional and are an additional commitment and expense and that the team should agree to together.

Georgian Shores also hosts home tournaments or jamborees for our U8 and older teams. Teams are given free registration to these events and are expected to fulfill volunteer hours towards the organization and execution of these events. They are much anticipated by players and families and a great fundraiser for our association (the proceeds go towards offsetting player registration costs and operating costs for the association). (Exception: U18 may or may not be included in a home tournament as time allows).

Miscellaneous

Can I be absent from a game?

If you are lucky enough to have an assistant coach who is also qualified to be a head coach on your team roster then the assistant coach can fill in. Coaches from other rostered teams can also substitute in as long as they hold the appropriate qualifications for your team's division and category. Your substitute should ensure that they have a copy of their team roster (especially at an away game or tournament).

Is there more information than this?

Probably. A good place to start would be to read through your team's league constitution and rules. Your convenor can send you a copy or you can find them online on the league's page.

If you have suggestions for general items that can be added to this faq, please let the executive know.

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If you have ideas or suggestions for specialized faqs (e.g. Coaching, using GameSheet Inc, finding a tournament, trainer faq, team manager faq), please reach out!