

Clarington Minor Hockey Association (CMHA) — Organizational Overview



The **Clarington Minor Hockey Association (CMHA)**, home of the **Clarington Toros**, is a registered **not-for-profit organization** operating under the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (**ONCA**). CMHA is a sanctioned “**BB**”, “**C**”, “**A**”, and “**AA**” hockey centre within the **Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA)** system, and is committed to providing structured, safe, and developmentally appropriate hockey opportunities for youth in the Clarington region.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to develop young athletes both on and off the ice by fostering an environment that promotes growth, discipline, sportsmanship, and excellence through minor hockey.

Core Objectives

1. **Advance players** to the next level of competition whether within minor hockey or beyond.
2. **Foster enjoyment and long-term participation** in the sport of hockey.
3. **Build character, accountability, and life skills** through teamwork and structured competition.

Governing Bodies

The CMHA operates under the oversight and compliance of the following governing bodies:

- **Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA):**
Primary governing body for CMHA operations, regulations, player movement, team certifications, and discipline.
- **Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF):**
Governs all OMHA-affiliated organizations in Ontario and enforces provincial policy, insurance standards, and dispute processes.
- **Hockey Canada:**
The national authority responsible for rulebooks, player development models, certification pathways, and Safe Sport policies.
- **Municipal and Regional Authorities:**
CMHA is subject to local facility use agreements, municipal regulations, and public health requirements affecting team operations and participant safety.
- **Rowan’s Law (Province of Ontario):**
CMHA enforces mandatory concussion education, removal-from-sport, and return-to-play protocols in accordance with provincial legislation.

Organizational Structure and Compliance

As a not-for-profit corporation, CMHA is governed by its **Constitution and By-Laws**, and is fully compliant with the **Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)**. The **CMHA Executive Committee** is responsible for ensuring that all operational decisions align with these standards. Amendments to policies require majority approval at Executive meetings, while changes to the Constitution or By-Laws must be ratified at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Purpose of This Policy Document

This manual serves to:

- Define the rules, roles, and expectations for all CMHA participants.
- Promote transparency, fairness, and consistency in how decisions are made.
- Serve as a reference point for accountability, governance, and dispute resolution.
- Support the positive development of players, coaches, staff, volunteers, and families.

Inclusivity in Terminology

All references to “players” in this document are understood to include “goalies” unless explicitly stated otherwise. This ensures equal treatment, opportunity, and development support for all athletes, regardless of their position.

Regulatory References & Governing Policies

The Clarington Minor Hockey Association (CMHA) operates within a framework of provincial and national standards to ensure the safety, fairness, and inclusivity of all programming. The following external references are critical to understanding the rules, expectations, and legal obligations that govern our operations. These documents represent binding policies from Hockey Canada, the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), and the Province of Ontario, and they are fully integrated into CMHA’s own policies and procedures. Where applicable, CMHA supplements these baseline standards with additional internal protocols to meet the needs of our local hockey community.

1. Hockey Canada Dressing Room Policy

- Governs privacy, supervision (*Rule of Two*), minimum attire, no recording, and prohibits hazing, bullying, and violence in dressing room environments
<https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Hockey-Programs/Safety/Downloads/dressing-room-policy-e.pdf>

2. Ontario Dressing Room Policy (OHF)

- Applies as of **February 1, 2024**; ensures safe, inclusive, and equitable access to dressing rooms regardless of gender identity or needs, with minimum attire rules and confidentiality protections <https://ohf.on.ca/media/dkamwsth/ontario-dressing-room-policy.pdf>

3. OHF/OH Canada Code of Conduct Policies

- Covers player, staff, parent, and volunteer behavior; includes harassment, bullying, abuse, discrimination, progressive discipline, and minimum suspensions for infractions <https://www.ohf.on.ca/rules-and-regulations/code-of-conduct/>

4. Concussion/Head Injury Policy (Rowan's Law)

- Mandatory concussion education, injury removal and return-to-play protocols, and documentation in line with Ontario legislation. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/rowans-law-concussion-safety>

7. Privacy & Confidentiality Policy

- Enforced via OHF Privacy Policy, Hockey Canada, and Ontario Human Rights Code compliance (confidentiality protections, privacy of personal/sensitive info) <https://www.ohf.on.ca/privacy-policy/>

8. OHF Minimum Suspension & Discipline Lists

- Strike-first policy: CMHA must enforce OHF's minimum suspensions and may add supplemental discipline but never reduce it <https://www.ohf.on.ca/rules-and-regulations/minimum-suspension-list/>

9. OHF Playing Regulations & Bylaws

- Includes all OHF Handbook regulations (e.g. registration, eligibility, roster sizes, appeals, etc.), binding for members <https://www.ohf.on.ca/rules-and-regulations/by-laws-and-policies/>

10. Hockey Canada Safe Sport / Harassment & Maltreatment Standards

- Zero tolerance for harassment, abuse, maltreatment; mandatory reporting; governed via Hockey Canada's SafeSport and OMHA procedures. <https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/hockey-programs/safety>

11. OHF Screening Policy (ImageOntario)

- Mandatory Criminal Records Checks or Vulnerable Sector Screening for all staff and volunteers <https://www.ohf.on.ca/risk-management/vulnerable-sector-checks-vsc/>

12. Respect in Sport & Gender Identity/Expression

- Certification required for coaches, team officials, and others; policies on inclusion, misgendering, and respecting pronouns . <https://www.ohf.on.ca/coaches/respect-in-sport/>