

Greater Toronto Hockey League Update (GTHL)

While the PHA continues to work through the guidelines and approval process with the OHF, the PHA Board of Directors will be providing information as it becomes available to us through the PHA website, twitter and facebook.

Updated February 7, 2018

On Monday February 5, as per the OHF process to move to the GTHL, the PHA board met with members of the GTHL board of directors. The meeting was positive and we discussed many of the issues and requirements to move the PHA to the GTHL. We went over the process as set out by the OHF, as well as procedural requirements and rules the GTHL uses as part of their League rules. There are many differences with how the GTHL operates, all of which we believe are an asset to our association. The GTHL was very welcoming and transparent in the meeting and we appreciated the time they took to discuss the process.

Next up – On February 15, 2018 the OMHA must advise the OHF if they support the Pickering request to move to the GTHL. The GTHL must also submit a letter of support to the OHF. On March 3, 2018 the PHA must present their case to the OHF Board of Directors.

Updated January 30, 2018

On Sunday Jan. 28, as per the OHF process to move to the GTHL, the PHA board met with members of the OMHA board of directors. The meeting was positive and we discussed many of the issues we are experiencing with our association. We thank the OMHA for taking the time to meet with us to discuss these issues. Next up is a meeting with the GTHL executive to be held on February 5, 2018. An update will be provided following that meeting. The PHA board wishes to thank our membership for the patience, understanding and outpouring of support during this process.

Updated Jan 15, 2018

This past weekend the PHA conducted interviews with prospective coaching candidates and several questions came up regarding the PHA move (if approved) to the GTHL. While the vast majority of our association members are in favor of the move as discussed (and the passing of several resolutions with respect to moving) in our past AGM's, there are still questions mainly on logistics with respect to our move. Here are a few questions and answers from this past weekend.

When will the OHF make their decision?

A decision is expected sometime in Early-March with play beginning for the 2018-2019 seasons

How does game Scheduling work in the GTHL

Currently the GTHL schedules their games approx. 3 weeks out. Schedules are pretty consistent with some changes, but generally if your game night is Tuesday's it will remain mostly Tuesday throughout the year.

How will current import or LOR players that are currently playing in Pickering, be affected

We don't expect any changes. Imports will remain imports and LOR players will remain LOR players

How will this affect our Select Teams?

No change at Select level, players will still play in House League as well. The GTHL does have a more formal and organized select program.

How does will this affect the AAA tryouts

Please contact Raiders AAA for more information.

Will Pickering Still have AA and A Teams?

Yes, and we fully expect our teams to be more competitive. We will be on a more even playing field with the

teams in the loop. The GTHL does not have closed centers as in the OMHA.

Can we expect players to return and play in Pickering?

Since we began this journey we have received an outpouring of support and comments from people who indicated they would return to Pickering if our teams played in the GTHL.

Previous FAQ:

Do I have to drive to the West end of Toronto?

Our Teams will play in the Eastern Division of the GTHL. Basically East of Yonge Street.

What about the away games?

Our teams will be playing in the Eastern division of the GTHL. A good percentage of our away games will be 5 to 15 minutes from the Pickering/ Toronto border, in Scarborough.

Where will our Home games be played?

Our Home games and Practices will still be in Pickering. Don Beer or the Recreation Center. No Change

Will the travel really be better?

Our study and presentation to the OHF clearly shows that on average our members will save approx 40% less in travel time and save approx 49% in fuel costs.

What level will our teams play?

Our teams will compete at the AA and A levels. There is no AE hockey in the GTHL, however there is a formal tiered Select League.

How many games do you play in the GTHL-

All Divisions teams play 36 regular season games finishing in mid-February instead of January. Playoffs can go to the end of March.

Is it true there is no body contact at 'A' level hockey?

Yes, the GTHL has adopted a policy of Non-Contact, regardless of age group at the 'A' level.

I hear the cost in the GTHL is a bit more expensive?

There are differences in the cost, however when you take everything in to account, including more games, travel costs, travel time, etc they are pretty close to the same. The GTHL does things differently than the OMHA so the costs are spread out as well as paid differently and will depend on the age group and team you're playing for.

House League is not affected by the move!

If you have any questions regarding the GTHL please submit them to leo@pickeringhockey.com and every so often we will publish the most commonly asked questions with the best information we have at the time.