



**Respect in Hockey**  
Learn it. Live it. Pass it on.

June 12, 2013

## **The OMHA Wants More Respect in the Minor Hockey**

Committed to creating a positive hockey experience

Richmond Hill (ON) Tuesday, June 04, 2013 – ‘Respect’ is a concept that receives considerable attention in both minor hockey and in community sport and was a discussion point this past weekend at the Ontario minor Hockey Association’s (OMHA) 79<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

Moving forward as leaders in the game, the OMHA Board of Directors announced the OMHA will move to become a complete ‘Respect’ integrated association effective the 2014-2015 season.

Currently, all Team Officials – Coaches, Trainers and Team Managers - in the OMHA are required to complete the Respect in Sport - Activity Leader Program or Speak Out! certification, which includes education in the areas of risk management, bullying, harassment and abuse prevention.

Effective August 31, 2014, in addition to Team Officials, the OMHA will require all On-ice Volunteers, On-Ice Officials and Parents to take the appropriate ‘Respect’ education.

At least one parent or guardian of each player registered in minor hockey in the OMHA will be required to complete the Respect in Sport - Parent Program as a condition of participation. The one-hour online course is a proactive, educational program that empowers parents with the tools to ensure the game is enjoyable and respectful for themselves, their children and all other stakeholders in the game.

On-ice Officials and On-ice volunteers will be required to complete the Respect in Sport - Activity Leader Program or Speak Out! certification.

Additional implementation support and resources will be forthcoming to OMHA member associations.

As the game of hockey continues to evolve it is the responsibility of us all to change with it – but more importantly, to be the agents for positive change. Ultimately, we seek to provide the very best programming, as well as a safe and enjoyable environment in which to enjoy all the positive opportunities our great game has to offer

“This program encourages positive behaviour, effective communication, and provides parents with valuable tools which can only enhance the enjoyment of our great game for all stakeholders,” commented OMHA Director, Development Programs, Ian Taylor. “Value-added programming such as this is one component of the OMHA’s ongoing commitment to our membership to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for all participants.”

The OMHA supports all Member Associations in encouraging all parents to take advantage of this online educational tool. Program completion will be automatically updated in the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR). The program will also form part of a new OMHA initiative dedicated to resources for parents.

“It sets a standard of appropriate rules for everyone. And, it empowers good parents to be better,” said Wayne McNeil, cofounder of Respect in Sport.

For more information & course registration visit our Parents Resources page – [click here](#)

For more information on the OMHA’s Development Programs - [click here](#)

## **About the Ontario Minor Hockey Association**

### **About Respect in Sport**

Respect in Sport is Canada's only on-line bullying, abuse, harassment and neglect prevention program for coaches and community leaders. Founded in 2004 by partners Wayne McNeil and former NHL hockey player Sheldon Kennedy, Respect in Sport has been developed in consultation with the Canadian Red Cross to protect youth, inform leaders, and mitigate an organization's liability. Respect in Sport is an ideal solution for organizations looking for cost-effective, consistent and empowering programs which can easily be delivered to your entire membership.

[www.respectinsport.com](http://www.respectinsport.com)

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