



## TOWN HALL

### Questions and Answers

#### The Basics

**Q. Is this a merger?**

A. No, this is a Shared Boundaries Pilot program. (Same as the Flamborough/Dundas and Huskies/Stoney Creek pilot programs instituted last year)

**Q. Is the OMHA making us do this pilot?**

A. No, this pilot was brought to the boards of Ancaster and Glanbrook for consideration by the OMHA. It was built to address the issues within the City of Hamilton that had been under discussion for the past 2+ years, affecting all of the organizations in the city. It was an answer to the other centres in Hamilton that wanted to join together.

**Q. What other centres around us have done this?**

A. Flamborough/Dundas, and the Hamilton Huskies/Stoney Creek all moved forward with a similar pilot last year (for this current hockey season). All four of those associations moved forward with a board vote. The associations of Grimsby, Smithville and Beamsville are moving forward (with what appears to be a full amalgamation) as well for next season.

**Q. How does this effect House League?**

A. House League will not change at either home centre (Ancaster residents will play in Ancaster, Glanbrook residents will play in Glanbrook).

**Q. Is it difficult to pull out of this if deemed unsuccessful after the 2 years?**

A. No, both centres would be able to go back to their original format.

**Q. Why are we just hearing about this now (past month)?**

A. This was brought forward in April 2018 before both associations' AGM (and board application windows) and is has been brought up in emails and on both websites since this year's hockey season started in September.

**Q. Are we mixing finances?**

A. No, both centres will run their finances separately.

**Q. Why can't we keep the old Ancaster and Glanbrook jerseys? Why a need for combined jersey?**

A. We feel that having our teams mesh as one is important, and avoid the case of an "Us" and "Them" (Unified).

**Q. What is the measuring stick for the success of the Pilot program?**

A. We expect to see a development towards competitive teams, and solid participation in the rep program across both organizations. We will seek input from our members as we proceed throughout this Pilot Program.

**Q. What if 80% of the membership want to squash the pilot program?**

A. In accordance with the Pilot Program brought to the boards of Ancaster and Glanbrook by the OMHA – the decision to implement the Pilot was a Board of Directors' vote. While there have been mixed reviews the boards believe this to be in the best interest of the league as it relates to sustainability and longevity and there have been no indications of the members at large opposing the pilot in great numbers. We will be seeking out feedback from our memberships over both the implementation process as well as the hockey seasons ahead. The boards are elected bodies that seek to represent the best interests of their membership and protect the long term health of the associations. There are current board opportunities and upcoming positions and members are encouraged to consider these opportunities to help shape the future of hockey in Ancaster.

**Q. Is there a vote after the pilot is done?**

A. The initial decision to move forward with the Pilot Program was made by a board vote by each organization. The decision to continue into the second year of the Pilot Program will also be made by a board vote – with feedback from members of both organizations. When the Pilot has run to its completion, the respective boards at the time will need to decide whether to



make the connection between the organizations permanent (membership vote required), or to separate the rep programs back to their original state (no vote needed).

**Q. How is the new committee being determined? Can membership vote who they want on it?**

A. The new Glancaster Sub-committee will be made up of members of both executive boards (AMHL/GMHA). Board po and anybody can run for open board positions yearly.

**Q. Why are we not only using two age groups as a pilot rather than the entire organization?**

A. That was not an option under the proposed OMHA pilot.

## Costs

**Q. How do the costs for Double-A, and costs for the new Pilot Program compare to current costs paid by our Rep players in either Glanbrook or Ancaster?**

A. We have reviewed the *current* costs of the rep programs in Glanbrook and Ancaster and found that they are very similar (within a few hundred dollars). In preparing a budget for the upcoming combined Pilot season, we believe we should be able to hold the costs for all rep teams (AA, A, and AE) in line with the current level. We are hoping to include the cost for a warm-up suit and pant covers in the overall team budget to mitigate the costs to our families. The only variable outside of our control will be the ice cost set by the City of Hamilton.

**Q. Are parents responsible for the costs of new tracksuits, jerseys, gloves, helmets, etc.?**

A. We are hoping to include the cost for a warm-up suit and pant covers in the overall team budget.

**Q. What will the colour of helmets/gloves? (Why not black they are cheaper and more options according to parent asking)**

A. The helmet and glove colours will be blue. We will be using a local supplier that will give all Glancaster players a discount on a variety of blue helmets and gloves.



## Geography

**Q. How does it work in terms of where teams play out of, and what arenas we will be using in Hamilton?**

A. Currently, Ancaster and Glanbrook use mainly 4 rinks – Spring Valley, Morgan Firestone, and Glanbrook. Both centres also make use of other ice across the city (Coronation, Mountain, Mohawk 4Pad, and Stoney Creek). All rep teams will play and practice out of a balanced rotation of all our rinks as evenly as possible. We are working with the City of Hamilton to streamline our collective ice package – reducing or eliminating travel down to the Stoney Creek arena is our priority.

**Q. Does this mean that kids playing AA in other centers will have to come back Glanaster if they belong to one of the two catchments?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Why would we only be allowed two NRP spots?**

A. This was a stipulation OMHA used on all Shared Boundaries Pilot programs.

## Competitiveness

**Q. Will every age group field AA/A/AE or could it be a combination of different levels?**

A. The goal of Glanaster would be to field a team in every category at each age group.

**Q. Are we able to lobby the OMHA to move a team down a level if deemed that they will not be competitive (ie: two losing A teams may not make a good/winning AA team)?**

A. There is a process that the centre can apply to the OMHA for a team to move up or down a category. There is no guarantee that an application would be accepted, but this is definitely an option.

**Q. Does everyone have to try out at AA and go through cuts?**

A. Yes, as we will be running a unified rep program - all players need to try out for the highest level first.



**Q. When will we know more about plans for Tyke/Novice age groups?**

A. OMHA is waiting to hear from OHF and HC. They hope by Spring of 2019.

## Player and Coach Selection and Evaluation

**Q. When will the coaching applications open?**

A. January 2019

**Q. Who will be deciding on coaching positions?**

A. We will have an independent board interview all applicants and they will recommend their candidates to the Glancaster sub-committee.

**Q. Who will be picking the teams?**

A. The teams will be picked by coaches who will follow a process using independent evaluators, and league evaluators every step of the tryout progression.

**Q. Rumor: will there will be 5 players from Ancaster, 5 from Glanbrook and 5 misc per team?**

A. That is not true. The best players – as determined by all elements of the tryouts and evaluations - will make each team.

