



ONTARIO MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All OMHA Centres
OMHA Board of Directors

FROM: Richard Ropchan
Executive Director

CC: OMHA Board, Convenors

DATE: October 19, 2015

SUBJECT: Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Ice Hockey and Michigan Amateur Youth Hockey League (MAYHL)

In May 2009, Hockey Canada released bulletin A0945 regarding “Leagues Operating Outside the Auspices of Hockey Canada”. This bulletin emphasized the goals of Hockey Canada and its Member Branches in offering the best development programs worldwide. Hockey Canada’s focus is on investment of significant resources in the development of players, officials coaches and administrators country-wide. In addition, Hockey Canada clearly states its opposition to these outlaw leagues and imposes appropriate sanctions for any individual or Association who (knowingly or unknowingly) participates in or allows participation of these outside leagues in any Hockey Canada/Branch/CHL sanctioned tournament or event.

Some recent publications have announced a partnership of two such outside organizations; the Canadian Independent Hockey Federation (CIHF) and the US based Amateur Athletic Association (AAU). The CIHF operates teams in the Toronto, Golden Horseshoe, Oxford County, Waterloo and Orillia areas. The AAU has branches in Texas, Illinois and most recently Michigan and is actively recruiting teams. Both organizations claim to offer sanctioned competition levels ranging from House League through to Rep (B – AAA), as well as international tournaments.

Individuals and Associations must note that each of these organizations, as well as their cross-border alliance operate outside of the auspices of both Hockey Canada and Hockey USA. As per Hockey Canada Bulletin # A0945 these type of organizations often “operate in a vacuum, with no consideration to the impact of their programs on minor, junior, senior, adult recreational hockey, female hockey, officiating development, coaching development or administrator development in Canada.





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These outlaw leagues instead choose to utilize the resources already developed by Hockey Canada and its member Branches....Further they offer the lure of 'Rep' or 'Junior' level competition when this clearly is not the case."

Recently, the Michigan Amateur Youth Hockey League (MAYHL), a member of the AAU has been active in promoting its teams and making application to participate in OMHA sanctioned tournaments.

All Centres must take caution, as a tournament host, that they do not accept entry applications from any team associated with the AAU or MAYHL. In addition, OMHA teams may not participate in tournaments hosted by the AAU or any of its member branches. Please be fully aware that these organizations and leagues are not recognized by Hockey Canada or Hockey USA.

Sincerely,

ONTARIO MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Richard Ropchan
Executive Director

