

# Amalgamation Townhall

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# Amalgamation Agreement

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- Aylmer Minor Hockey, Belmont Minor Hockey and OMHA have reached a full agreement on a hybrid amalgamation
  - Representative hockey to be operated under East Elgin Minor Hockey
  - Aylmer and Belmont will continue to operate separate local league organizations
  - Belmont membership vote scheduled for Nov 17
  - Aylmer membership vote schedule for Nov 18

# Why Amalgamate

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- OMHA and OHF have altered the hockey landscape to cater to higher caliber hockey
- Starting for the 2023 season Aylmer and Belmont are now surrounded by three “A” centers capable of drawing NRP’s from our centers
- There are now a combined total of 9 available NRP spots open in each division (U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U18) between these A centers (54 total)

# Why Amalgamate

- AMHA and BMHA lost a total of 30 players for the 2023/2024 season
- 2022/2023 player losses in parenthesis
- NRP losses went from 6 to 19
- Expect these numbers to increase in future years

	Aylmer	Belmont
NRP Losses	10 (2)	9 (4)
AAA Losses	6 (7)	2 (3)
ROC Losses	2	1
Total	18	12

# Teams Promoted to A

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- Dorchester
- South Oxford (Tillsonburg and Ingersoll)
- St.Marys
- Strathroy
- Mt.Brydges
- Haldimand (Caledonia, Hagersville, Cayuga, Dunnville)
- Norfolk (Simcoe, Port Dover, Waterford)
- New Hamburg
- St.Thomas (existing)

# Why Amalgamate

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- If Belmont failed to field rep teams in U15 and U18 in 2023/2024, any players that play two years in a row in Dorchester would be able to permanently stay in Dorchester
  - It would take 2-5 years to fully recover from this affect if amalgamation was delayed
- If Aylmer did not begin the process with Belmont now, Belmont would be forced to partner with another association, possibly leaving Aylmer on the outside and on our own
- Aylmer will not be able to field competitive rep teams for very much longer on our own

# Amalgamation Benefits / Drawbacks

Benefits	Drawbacks
Maintain competitive rep teams	Loss of local representative team identity
Players will be placed with same ability players	Some traditional rep players may bounce between rep and local league
Local league teams could become stronger	Players will need to travel to either Belmont or Aylmer for ice
Flexibility of having three ice pads	Belmont players will have to play Southern Counties
Possible next step to becoming an A center and stopping NRP losses	

# History

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- Aylmer and Belmont have been discussing amalgamation possibilities in earnest for the past 24 months
  - Discussion revolving around the challenges of hosting competitive rep teams at certain divisions with stagnant enrollment and more kids leaving for AAA or on NRP cards
- Intent was to explore flexible options that would allow us to keep the best of what we now have in terms of the Hometown Hockey experience
  - Maintain community spirit, while cooperating at a higher level to benefit the Rep Program where both center's have future potential to struggle



# History

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- Aylmer and Belmont were close to being able to hold a membership vote for amalgamation in advance of a March 2023 OMHA meeting but boundary issues delayed the vote
- OMHA approved a one-year shared boundary pilot between AMHA and BMHA to help minimize impact of the additional NRP loses
- Allowed the memberships to continue to negotiate boundaries with OMHA and allow both centers the opportunity to “trial” amalgamation before a membership vote and a long-term commitment

# Current State - Shared Boundary Pilot

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- Representative teams combined of Aylmer and Belmont players (62 Aylmer players and 34 Belmont players)
- Playing under the banner of East Elgin Minor Hockey Association
- New logo, colour scheme and association name selected
- Tryouts with independent evaluators
- Shared boundary committee continues to evaluate the pilot

# How is East Elgin Performing?

	2022 - 2023		2023-2024
	Aylmer	Belmont	East Elgin
U11B	No team	No team	2nd out of 10
U11C	2nd out of 15	13th of 17	3rd out of 6
U13	8th out of 11	16th of 18(C)	1st out of 9
U15	5th out of 13	No team	1st out of 11
U18	7th out of 15	No team	1st out of 10

# Differences between Shared Pilot and Amalgamation

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- Members will notice no difference
- Formal board will be created
- Separate bank account created
- Formal East Elgin Minor Hockey Non Profit Corporation to be created
- Hockey operations will run very similarly to how the current shared pilot has operated

# Amalgamation Administration

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- A new “East Elgin Minor Hockey Association” bylaw document has been finalized and agreed upon by the amalgamation committees
  - With OMHA for final approval
- A committee of an equal number of Aylmer and Belmont members will be setup to administer the shared boundary agreement
  - 6 Aylmer and 6 Belmont members with rotating positions
- AMHA and BMHA will continue to operate independent local league teams – NOTHING CHANGES FOR LOCAL LEAGUE

# Amalgamation Administration

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- AMHA and BMHA local boards will remain unchanged after amalgamation
- Representative teams will play in the Southern Counties league as dictated by the OMHA Competition Committee
- A Coach selection committee will be represented by an equal number of Aylmer and Belmont members with the committee chair holding the tiebreaker
- Tryouts will be evaluated by an independent third-party evaluators

# Boundaries

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- Amalgamated territory is very similar to existing territory
- Hard boundary established for Aylmer and Belmont
- Right of choice areas defined by new center point
  - Intersection of Lyons Line and Imperial Road
- Any player that finds themselves outside the new EEMH territory and has played for AMHA or BMHA can be grandfathered in

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=18kgypCCqPU6UsR0kr7KggscQh4T3dal&usp=sharing>

# Other Amalgamations

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- Tillsonburg and Ingersoll – South Oxford Minor Hockey
- Caledonia, Hagersville, Cayuga and Dunnville – Haldimand MH
- Simcoe, Waterford and Port Dover – Norfolk Minor Hockey
- Lucan, Ilderton and Parkhill – in negotiations
- Paris, Ayr, Burford and St. George – voting this month
- Langton, Norwich and Delhi – voting this month
- Dorchester and St.Marys – in negotiations
- \*Belmont, Aylmer and Dorchester
- \*Aylmer, Belmont and South-Oxford



# General Voting Process

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- No Proxy votes, you must be present to submit your vote
- ID required
- NRP and AAA members are eligible to vote
- OMHA has been invited to monitor the voting
  - AMHA is waiting for confirmation from OMHA if they will attend
  - There is no requirement to have a third-party witness

# General Voting Process

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- Voting list will be compiled using data from the HCR Spordle Account.
- Please ensure your information is up-to-date and that both parents/guardians names are included.
- Step-by-step instructions on how to update this will be sent out
- Please have this completed by November 14.

# Aylmer Voting Process

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- Aylmer vote will take place Nov 18 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the EECC Blueline room
- Each member parent will be eligible to cast one (1) vote regardless of the number of players in the family
- For two household families the primary parents are the eligible voters
- Non-parent rostered team staff are eligible to vote
- NRPs and AAA player families are eligible to vote

# Belmont Voting Process

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- Belmont Minor Hockey membership vote shall take place on Friday November 17 from 5pm to 9pm at Belmont Arena.
- Each parent/guardian of a member under the age of 18 is entitled a single vote each. Each parent is only entitled to a single vote regardless of how many children they have enrolled.
- Coaches, managers, trainers, board members and lifetime members also get a vote.
- NRPs and AAA families are eligible to vote

# Questions Discussion