



## OSHL Changes for 2026-2027 Season FAQ

You may have heard that some things are changing within the Ohio Scholastic Hockey League (OSHL), and we want to make sure families have clear, accurate information. The league has adopted updated Policies and Procedures for the 2026-27 season that will guide how teams, players, and organizations operate moving forward. While much of what families are used to remains the same, there are several important updates that affect tryouts, player movement, and overall flexibility for players. This FAQ is designed to explain those changes in plain language and help parents and players understand what to expect this season and beyond.

### **Do players still have to play for a team based on their school district / boundary?**

No. Players are no longer restricted by school district boundaries. **New** players may try out for any OSHL organization, regardless of where they live or attend school. Once a player is selected and accepts a roster spot, both the player and the organization are mutually committed to one another which may only be ended through a formal release process.

### **Can current OSHL players move freely between teams under the new rules?**

No. These changes are primarily intended for new players entering the OSHL. Existing players remain committed to their current organization unless they are formally released. The removal of player boundaries does not automatically open player movement for returning players; all existing commitments remain in place.

### **Can a player try out for more than one OSHL team?**

Yes, if a player is not selected by their first-choice organization, they may try out for another OSHL team or ask to be placed in the OSHL Player Pool, where the league will help find a fit.

### **What will the league do to prevent players from moving and loading up on one team?**

The removal of player boundaries is intended to provide added flexibility for families and OSHL organizations, not to undermine existing teams. The league will continue to enforce rules limiting player movement and releases. No OSHL team may accept more than two released players from any other OSHL organization; releases of this nature are expected to be rare and limited to special circumstances consistent with the league's intent. OSHL will continue to review the impact of these changes each season and adjust as needed.

### **Are teams moving?**

No. Teams will continue to represent and operate within their established geographic areas across the state, preserving their local identity and community ties.

### **Our upperclassman (Junior or Senior) did not make their Varsity team. Now what?**

Varsity cuts with organizations were previously routed automatically to JV or the player pool. Starting this year, Junior and Senior players cut from varsity (especially if they played varsity the prior year) are free to try out for another OSHL organization or may request placement in the player pool if they so choose.

