

## **Director of Intermediate Programming 2025/2026**

The 2025/26 season was faced with more challenges for Halifax and its members to start play. Declining numbers in 14 & 16 led to difficult decisions to ensure players found the best opportunity to play ringette.

Halifax pursued the decision to form competitive teams in U14 and U16 Tier 1. A combined effort from neighbouring associations HCL (U14) and NC (U16) welcomed those players, who chose Tier 2 or were not selected through evaluations, onto their teams creating a positive ringette experience throughout the season. Many of these players benefited from more competitive rosters and balanced league play than previously available.

U14 T1 improved throughout their season. Battling until the very end of provincials for the opportunity to represent NS at Easterns.

U16 T1 finished 3rd overall in provincial standings. Their season was highlighted with a gold medal in Shediac Tournament in Dec.

The U19 athletes faced challenges also. Too many players and no immediate goaltender made for tricky rosters from game to game. Players started the season rotating games and playing goal. Eventually goaltending was resolved with a full time participant.

All of our players continue to show up and play with heart and determination regardless of the obstacles facing them.

As we move forward a lack of available coaching candidates is troubling. Many rec teams depend solely on parent volunteers to guide teams through the season. While competitive teams usually attract prospective coaching candidates, U19 this past season were initially held back with a lack of available coaches until willing parents were suitably qualified.

Ongoing number issues at 14 and 16 will again bring difficulties to start the 26/27 season. Though growth in our younger ages is promising, focusing on building the base numbers of HHRA will be beneficial in years to come.

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Director of Intermediate programming