

It is with deep regret that I am unable to attend tonight. Thank you all for attending our 2019 Annual General Meeting. The 2018-2019 Airdrie Minor hockey season could be summed up by calling it the year of many changes. AMHA tried out some new things and some of the ideas were successful and some were not, but all brought about change that will help us become a stronger association in the future.

Our number of players in AMHA continues to increase. Last season we had 1642 players. We began our season with our evaluations and we faced some very challenging days, but as always we had lots of members stepping up to help smooth out the rough spots. Team creation was a struggle for some divisions and we have plans to make that better for 2019/20. Our Kick-Off-Week was a great success with a BBQ and a Parent Social and coaching clinics. AMHA is looking forward to continuing with our Kick-Off week for the 2019-2020 season.

AMHA hosted practices and games for Team India and our association and our community came together to provide some great accommodations, dinners and events for Team India and the experience it provided for our members was one we won't forget.

Our Midget AA Female team and our Atom Female teams collected a whopping 1015 Turkeys to donate to the food bank before Christmas. These Turkeys fed thousands of families in need and AMHA could not be more proud of the players and their families with this amazing effort. As always the association stepped up to help in the community. The formation of our Community Engagement Committee will see AMHA get more involved in the community in the form parades and larger association based fundraisers that will look to help hold costs and keep them as low as possible.

AMHA ran a Bauer First Shift Program this year which offers 6 weeks of ice time for brand new hockey players at a very reasonable price and low commitment. The Bauer First Shift group proved to be extremely organized and efficient and set up a great first night for the new players to receive all their brand new gear. Our own volunteer instructors ran the 6-week sessions and all players had a great experience.

We were proud to host Graduating Midget Ceremonies again this year and had 65 players who will move on to other hockey and life-related endeavors. We wish them all well and we hope all the graduating midgets consider coming to AMHA to help with coaching or even take on AMHA board positions.

Our teams brought home 10 banners and Mayor Peter Brown joined us for our Banner Celebration where we accepted the banners from our winning teams and celebrated with some on-ice fun and some cake.

In the spring of 2018 AMHA ran an Introduction to Floorball day and this Spring 2019, we have started our first Spring Floorball League. Floorball was invented in Gothenburg, Sweden and was played for fun in schools. It has since evolved with formal rules and specific equipment. Floorball gives our athletes an opportunity to be multi sport athletes while playing a sport that

has many similarities to hockey and actually helps to improve aspects of their hockey game. The emphasis is on fun and we have approximately 120 players registered from ages 6 to 14.

We just had our Volunteer appreciation night with comedian Tim Lowing. All members in attendance had a fun evening with swag bags and raffle prizes and some laughs and good times spent with our AMHA family.

We created a new logo for re-branding this season and will be expanding that logo with a slightly modified version for our AA and Competitive teams. I can announce that the Classic Jersey Version was the most well-liked choice with the straight lightning bolt and the straight lettering choices. AMHA will be ordering all new jerseys for our members from Novice to Midget for the 2019-2020 season. Yes, it is time to replace our jerseys...

AMHA continues to be financially responsible and a financial report will be given later in the meeting. Some great coaching tools were purchased this season and have been used by all teams.

Our female division sent out a year-end survey and based on its results, AMHA will not be merging with Cochrane for the 2019-2020 season. Results of the survey also showed that members wanted to make cuts to the female teams to keep the stream competitive. Players have been or will be given the following options should they not make a female travel team:

1. Play coed city league hockey in the RHL.
2. Request a one year release from AMHA to join another association with a female stream.
3. Play on a younger age division if room on the team, open only to first-year players in their age division.

We have made a very conscious effort to continue the creation of several working committees that are becoming leaders of change to help continue to make AMHA a leader in minor hockey. Some committees that are currently operating are the ACAA Committee (Airdrie Cochrane Athletic Association), Evaluations, Goaltenders, Player Development and Community Engagement.

Airdrie Cochrane Athletic Association - ACAA had another successful year. The committee was tasked with hiring 3 new coaches at the end of last season. The teams all saw success on and off the ice. The ACAA hosted its first Year End Banquet that with all 3 teams together that was met with pleasure from the participants. The group is working hard to pull all the teams together and is also in the process of making some branding changes in an effort to become more unified.

Evaluations Committee - Our 2018/19 evaluations have been reviewed and are being re-worked for 2019-2020 by our NEW Evaluations Committee and they have met several times already. I can tell you we will be bringing in a paid contractor to run our Time Trial Skates and the company is very familiar with our NEW equipment. We will be going back to the separated

evaluation process where players will choose which level they would like to begin to be evaluated. AA will begin first and then Competitive and then RHL or City League. Some of the good ideas that came out of the evaluations last season will be adopted, like the War Room for the evaluators to consult on evaluation scores and the parity skates for RHL and City League. We will be returning to a draft style system for selecting teams for our RHL and City Teams. We are looking at other improvements to ensure that we have qualified evaluators assigned prior to the evaluations skate where possible.

Goaltender Committee - The GC will formulate and recommend to AMHA for approval, development policies, rules and regulations consistent with the rules and regulations of Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada. The group has held 2 meetings and have begun reviewing the AMHA Goalie Evaluation Process along with Goalie development for 2019/20.

Player Development Committee - The Player Development Committee has only met once and hasn't completed the creation of the committee at this time. At meeting 1 it was determined that the development that was offered this past season was not very successful not because of the offering or the quality of training but because of the lack of participation due to the timing of the sessions. We will be looking at going back to a model of developing our coaches. We would also like to look at bringing some skilled coaching that can be delivered at team practices for future seasons.

Community Engagement - This committee will be forming in early May. The purpose of this committee will be to help create better AMHA exposure in the community by getting involved in Community Events (Parades, Children's Festival or Home and Garden etc.). The creation of AMHA Events (Volunteer Appreciation, Season Kick-Off Pub Night, BBQ's, Pancake Breakfast) and also look at the creation of some Association based fundraisers (Skate A-thon, Golf Tournament, Bowl A-thon)? Why? To help keep the costs of Minor Hockey down and more affordable for our membership. The city of Airdrie has increased our ice costs by 17% for the upcoming season and the board has agreed to hold costs for next season so we will need to do some fundraisers in order to help continue to maintain the current costs.

Hockey Canada has now sent out the new Intro to Hockey Guidelines and all associations in Canada will be using the ½ ice model for players 5 to 8 years old in initiation and novice. We have heard that Hockey Canada is working on an Atom Pathway program. It will not have ½ ice hockey, and really is likely going to be very similar to the program we run now, but may have some date restrictions on start and end dates.

AMHA will be continuing our Dryland programs. Most of our members have indicated that dryland is desired. We will be working with our dryland providers to improve our offerings and have more age-appropriate programming for the older players(weight training/physical training and more hockey focused training at the younger age groups.

I wanted to end by saying that the game of hockey is ever changing, players are more talented, faster and smarter. We are being met by challenges every day that are changing the landscape of Minor Hockey. AMHA hopes to be open-minded and accepting of change and be forward thinking and innovative. We may not always choose the right path every time, but we will learn and grow and continue to make it our mandate to create the best possible environment for our

athletes. I can assure you that our board members spend countless hours volunteering and truly do care about every player, coach, official and family member in AMHA. I would like to invite all AMHA members to become a working part of our membership and help us with a theme for 2019-2020 of a "Shared Vision" The more we share and help each other as a team, the more success we will have.

I would like to leave you with a few quotes:

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?" - Martin Luther King Jr.

Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more - H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Change is the only constant in life - Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher