

# 2023 Ayr Rockets Annual General Meeting Minutes



North Dumfries Community Centre - Seniors Lounge  
June 7, 2023 7:00 PM

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## Attendees

**Board Members:** Amy Hodgson (Chair), Becca Perriman, Karen Tiffin, Regis Dugal, Heather Simpson, Leah Mattingley

**Organization Members:** Steve Hodgson, Justine Gawel, Angie Fitz-Henry, Tasha Godfrey, Nicole Proceviat, Erik King, Ryan Godfrey, Allan Proceviat, Stacey LeBlanc, Geoff Day, Jeff Sayles, Patrick Read, Kate MacLeod & John Holman

## Call to Order - Amy @ 7:04pm

Good Evening and welcome to the 22-23 Ayr Rockets Annual General Meeting. Throughout the meeting if you have any questions pertinent to the material being presented please raise your hand and the appropriate Director will answer your question to the best of their ability.

## Approval of Minutes from Rockets 2022 Annual General Meeting - Amy

- Motion - Becca Perriman
- Second - Heather Simpson

## 2022-2023 Financial Report - Leah

### a. Total Income this year: \$140,653.86

- Registration, Tryouts & Rep Fees - \$91,813
- Sponsorships - \$1,500 - Ayr Financial
- Raffle Tickets & Other Fundraising - \$7,665.51
- Tournament Income - \$ 19,475.00
- Grants - \$16,000 Waterloo Region Community Foundation
- Rink Boards - \$4,200

### b. Total Expenses this year: \$159,223.73

- Ice Costs - \$93,859.33
- Equipment Expense - \$9,342.25 (new boards for U9, grant covered this)
- Fundraising Costs - \$847.78
- Cost of CC Payments - \$1,561.89
- Officials - \$7,366.50
- Timekeepers - \$3,483.50
- Ice Scheduling & Officials Scheduling - \$1,300
- OWHA & League Fees - \$13,571
- Awards - \$878.01
- Development - \$6,610.45
- Tournament Costs - \$14,608.15
- Rink Board Expenses - \$1,944.73

- Coaching Clinics & Trainers Expenses - \$ 1,549.30
  - Rocket Logo on Ice - \$387.64
  - Bank Fees - \$34.98
  - Website & RAMP - \$420
  - Hall Rental - \$335.45 (photo night, fundamental party)
  - Admin Supplies - \$409.93 (chqs, stamps, lottery chqs, printer ink, envelopes, etc.)
  - Accounting / Legal - \$587.60
  - Other Expenses - \$125.24
- c. End of Year = Loss of \$18,569.87**
- d. Current Bank Account Balance - \$101,232.63**
- e. Motion to Pass 22-23 Financial Report:
- i. Motion - Steve Hodgson
  - ii. Second - Allan Proceviat

**Proposed 2023-2024 Budget - Leah**

- a. See attached Proposed Budget
- b. Rep Fee Changes - \$375 to \$575
- c. Motion to Pass Budget:
  - Motion - Nicole Proceviat
  - Second - Tasha Godfrey

**Registrar’s Report - Karen**

- a. This season our Registration ending was 121 players which was on par over the past few years.
- b. We are expecting an increase in Registration for next season even with our 16 player graduating class as we have put work into marketing and expanding our programs. We will be increasing from 9 teams to 10 teams.
  - Import Rule Changes
  - Come Try Hockey Event
  - Postcards
  - Community Growth
- c. We have asked all rep players to be registered by August 1st to complete and submit rosters for approval by the OWHHA before August 15 as no games can be played until rosters are approved, historically this has taken a few weeks.

Age	22/23	23/24
FUN	12	10
U9	16	16
U11	27	23
U13	14	26
U15	8	31
U18	44	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>134</b>

**Manual of Operations & Constitution Amendments - Becca**

- a. **Manual of Operations:**
  - **Current:** Sponsorship Page 13
    - Team-specific sponsorships are not allowed within the ARGHA
  - **Change:** Sponsorship

- To offset increased fees for teams, propose permitting team-specific sponsorships with the following guidelines:

- a. Team-specific sponsorships are permitted within the ARGHA, provided the sponsor is not on the Do Not Solicit (DNS) List. The DNS list will be maintained by the Director of Sponsorships and provided to team managers at the beginning of each season.
- b. Any voluntary sponsorships from sources related to the DNS list will be submitted to the Director of Sponsorships for review prior to acceptance.
- c. Team-specific sponsorships may be subject to review by the Director of Sponsorships and/or the ARGHA Board of Directors. Upon request, the Team Manager will provide a list of sponsors and amounts accepted.

- **Current:** Team Selection – Page 32

- Each player must meet a minimum tryout attendance requirement of ice sessions within the designated tryout period unless medically exempt to be eligible for team selection. If a player has a conflict and cannot attend two or more tryouts, this will be brought forward by the coach for approval by the CTSC. Acceptance of the exception must be unanimous by the CTSC and presented for review at the next executive meeting.

- **Change:** Removal of tryout attendance requirements

- Reasoning - To assist representative teams with low registration numbers in achieving viability, propose removing the minimum ice session attendance requirement

- **Current:** Roster Sizes – Page 33

- 'Newly Released by the OWHA 3 weeks ago'

- **Change:** Remove as no longer newly released

- **Current:** Import Players – Page 33

- The purpose of allowing restricted numbers of import players is to coincide with supporting a feeder system that will encourage and promote new registration to maintain growth of the association

- The number of imports allowed per team shall be as follows:

DIVISION REGISTRATION NUMBERS IMPORT ALLOWANCE

20 Registrants and under - Maximum 6 imports

26 – 21 Registrants - Maximum 4 imports

27 Registrants and over - Maximum 2 imports

- In order to be placed on a Representative team, the Import player must be assessed by all evaluators as having a skill level in the top one-third of all players trying out, per position.

- Exceptions to the number of imports accepted may be granted in the event registration numbers will not sustain both representative and local league level teams in the same age division. Such an exception will be granted by the Board of Directors.

- **Change:** The purpose of allowing import players is to coincide with supporting a feeder system that will encourage and promote new registration to maintain growth of the association.

- **Current:** Permission to Skate (PTS)

- **Change:** Permission to Tryout (PTT)

#### **b. Constitution Updates:**

In recent years the Rockets have had a hard time recruiting executive members and retaining them to serve in Vice President and President roles. Propose the following amendments to allow continued service:

- **Current:** The position of President can only be held by a person for 2 consecutive years.

- **Change:** The position of President requires a minimum term of 2 consecutive years.

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- **Current:** The maximum term of Officers will be 5 years, with the exception of anyone who sits as the President, who could add one additional term as Past President.

- **Change:** The maximum term of each Office shall be 5 years. The minimum term for a President is 2 years.

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- **Current:** By-law Number 3 contains the entire Manual of Operations

- **Change:** By-law Number 3 shall state - The ARGHA Board of Directors shall maintain a Manual of Operations document, which will guide the day-to-day operations of the ARGHA. The Manual of Operations will be regularly reviewed and updated by the Board to ensure it remains a current document and will be available to the Membership via the association

website. Changes and updates made over the course of the season will be presented at the AGM for Membership review.

**c. Motion to Pass Amendments:**

- Motion - John Holman
- Second - Nicole Proceviat

## **President's Remarks - Amy**

Thank you to everyone who joined us to hear our year in review.

Many of our Rockets teams had lots of success this season and we are proud of them. We ran our First Annual Ayr Rockets Winter Blast and thanks to Crystal Simpson it was very successful with many positive emails and comments about the weekend. We look forward to holding our Second Annual in 2024.

Fundamentals was very successful this season and utilised Flow Power Skating for half of their sessions which the girls loved Brian Romany. We look forward to expanding this program this upcoming season with potentially adding a second weekly ice time in conjunction with the Ayr Flames.

U9 had a fantastic season playing in 3 tournaments, including one hotel, which is always an athlete favourite and two KGLL Championship games to round out their season. Earlier this season we received a grant from the Waterloo Region Community Foundation to purchase half ice boards. We sourced and purchased these locally from Riley Sports and they were delivered in April. These will benefit and develop this program going forward and they will be utilised by Ayr Rockets and Ayr Flames.

U11LL did skill development with Snipe Academy, played in four tournaments and got silver in their KGLL Championship game on April 1st. This team learned so much this season, including gaining a full time goalie and had lots of fun winning as a team. U11B started the season with no goalie and unsure what the season looked like. Through strong dedication and lots of ups and downs they finished strong making OWHL Southern Playoffs and Top 8 at the OWHA Provincial Championships.

U13BB persevered through injuries, 6 tournaments, league play and battled to the end in their provincial playdown games. Their best tournaments of the year were the Ayr Winter Blast earning a silver medal and the Brampton Easter tournament where they played as a team and had tons of fun.

U15LL was the little team that could. They started the season with 5 players playing up an age category and no goalie. This team rotated goalies all season long and ended up winning gold at Cambridge New Years Challenge, Ayr Rockets Winter Blast and the KGLL Championship. These gold medals were hard earned and these girls built friendships that will last a lifetime.

U18LL also started the season with no goalie, but with some digging found the new kid in town. They played as a team and ended their season with a wild weekend playing in the St Catharines tournament and the KGLL finals, both ending in silver medals! U18BB was ranked #1 in Canada for the majority of the season. This team won championships in North York Stormfest, Sarnia Silver Stick and Niagara Rapids Fall Classic. They took home silver in Nepean and finished top 8 at the OWHA Provincial Championships. Both of our U18 teams had large graduating classes, U18BB with 10 and U18LL with 6. Many of these players have played for the Ayr Rockets since U11 and we are proud of each one of them and excited to hear what the future holds for them.

This spring our Board of Directors made a decision to spend some money on marketing by sending out flyers to residents of Ayr, Drumbo, St George, Plattsville and through school distribution in Paris. This was done leading up to our Come Try Hockey event on May 6th. This event was very successful bringing 18 new skaters to the ice, some of which have already signed up to be a Rocket this coming season! We have also already grown our projected 8 player U15 program to over 30 players for this upcoming season.

We ran Spring Tryouts this year for all of our teams and we had 117 players attend with 72 making our 5 rep teams. We are currently in conversation with Ayr Flames to discuss our Fundamentals programming as they had 16 girls registered last season in U9 and below. This would allow our Fundamentals program to hit the ice twice per week, doubling their ice time.

All of our coaches for the 2023-2024 season have been selected and all of our rep team rosters are set. We are eager to hit the ice this fall!

In 2023-2024 we are excited to be welcoming new members to our Board of Directors. This past season we had 3 vacant positions and it made for a lot of work spread out amongst very few. I appreciate all of the dedication and hard work our 2022-2023 Board of Directors put into this season for our athletes, teams and organization. Many of our members underestimate the work day in and day out it takes to provide the best programming for our entire organization.

### Membership Questions:

- John Holman - Why was U13LL and U15LL merged this season?
  - Meeting in March 2022 a parents meeting was called for all parents potentially playing U13 in the 2022-2023 season. 16 families attended this meeting and the only family missing was the D'Agostino family, who did not respond. The Holman family elected not to participate in hockey for either the 2020-21 or 2021-22 seasons as they believed the pandemic had limited our programs, despite our registration numbers holding strong.
  - All families in attendance voted on two options:
    - a) Rep Team and those who do not make this team will play U15LL
    - b) LL team if players remain.
  - Results were 15 votes for A and 1 for B.
  - At the time we had sufficient numbers to run U15LL with no concerns and the U15 parents were not contacted.
- This team won 2 tournaments plus the KGLL Championship.
- Kate MacLeod expressed her distress regarding the team dynamic and lack of communication about the merged program prior to the season beginning.
- **Board response** - At the time the decision on the U13 team was made, the U15 team was expected to have sufficient players for an LL program. As such, there was no need to contact anyone regarding the team numbers, until we reached September, and the registrations did not align to projections for the season. In September, the MacLeod family reached out to the board regarding the U18B team, but did not formally detail any concerns or feedback regarding the U15LL team.. As well, it is noted that the decision to merge the U13 and U15 LL players was not taken lightly. The Board considered the dressing room dynamic, but were confident that the older players had the characteristics of leaders and would be supportive of the younger players during this season.
- Holman recommended we separate the new hockey players in their own learn to skate program before allowing them to play LL or alternatively, tier our LL program.
- **Board Response** - Given the low enrollment in this age group, this is not a viable option both with players and ice availability.
- Jeff Sayles complained about the Rep vs LL and lack of LL representation on the Board of Directors, but has repeatedly declined vacant board positions when offered. He has requested the board consider a 'Director at Large' position.
- **Board Response** - given that we have struggled to create a full board for the last 2 years, we cannot add additional board members who do not have a designated workload to support us. If we reach a point where board positions are full and we still have interest in board membership, we would be willing to review updating our Constitution and adding additional Director at Large positions. Further, while the 2022-23 season saw the Board have a majority of 'Rep' parents - prior to the 2022-23 season the board was composed of 10 members, of whom 5 represented the interests of LL players.
- Jeff Sayles voted for U13 Rep during the parents meeting as he had a daughter in that age division. His older child played on the U15LL team this season.
- Patrick Read voiced his disagreement with the way the teams were structured, however, was present and voted for the U13 Rep team. During the 2022-23 season, he was a coach with the U13 Rep team.
- The parent group appeared to acknowledge that the decision made by the Board, to offer hockey, on a combined U15LL team was better than closing the U15 and U13 LL programs entirely - this would have resulted in the 10 LL players not having an Ayr team to play for in the past season.

- John Holman proceeded to recommend a Local League Director be appointed to ensure representation for LL players on the Board. When it was proposed that such a director could be elected immediately from attendees at the AGM, Holman was quick to request that the position be circulated to the broader membership to look for people interested in taking on such a role. After discussion, it was determined that the Board would expand the role of Parent Reps on teams, and these representatives would attend a biannual or quarterly meeting to bring forward feedback, questions and concerns from the parent group.

**Motion to Dissolve 2022-2023 Board of Directors:**

- Motion: Justine Gawel
- Second: Tasha Godfrey

**Election for 2022-2023 Board of Directors:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Person Nominated</b>	<b>Voted or Acclaimed</b>
President	Amy Hodgson	Acclaimed
Vice President	Becca Perriman	Acclaimed
Secretary	Heather Simpson	Acclaimed
Registrar	Karen Tiffin	Acclaimed
Treasurer	Leah Mattingley	Acclaimed
Coach & Player Dev	Regis Dugal	Acclaimed
Fundraising	Tasha Godfrey	Acclaimed
Sponsorship	Angie Fitz-Henry	Acclaimed
Conflict Resolution	Dave MacMillan	Acclaimed
Tournaments	Erik King	Acclaimed
Web/Comms	Justine Gawel	Acclaimed
Scheduler	Amy Hodgson	Acclaimed

**Meeting Adjourned - Amy @ 9:00pm**

## Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

based on 2022-2023 Budget & Actual & Budgeting Spreadsheet

<b>Income</b>	<b>Proposed 2023-2024</b>
Registrations (115 x \$675 + 20 x \$350)	84,625.00
Rep Fees (\$575 x 71)	41,400.00
Tryout Fees- Spring (117 x \$65)	7,605.00
Sponsorships	7,500.00
Rink Boards	4,200.00
Raffle Tickets (135 x \$50)	6,750.00
Other Fundraising (50/50, Chase the Ace, etc.)	1,000.00
Grants	3,000.00
Donations	
Tournament Income	26,400.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>182,480.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Proposed 2023-2024</b>
Ice Costs	96,000.00
Equipment	1,500.00
Fundraising	2,000.00
Credit Card Fees	1,800.00
Referees	8,000.00
Timekeepers	3,700.00
Ice Scheduler / Official Scheduler	1,300.00
OWHA Fees	11,700.00
League Fees	3,180.00
OWHA Provincials	6,000.00
Awards	1,000.00
Development Player	7,000.00
Goalie Development	2,500.00
Marketing	3,500.00
Tournament	18,000.00
Jerseys	1,500.00
Rink Boards	1,500.00
Coaches/Trainers	1,200.00
Ice Logo	775.00
Misc	200.00
Bank Fees	50.00
Depreciation	
NDCC Hall Rental	210.00
Legal / Bookkeeping Fees	500.00
Postal Box	200.00
Admin Supplies	500.00 [1]
Website - RAMP	500.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>174,315.00</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>8,165.00</b>