



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

OMHA Hockey Mission Statement:

To promote RESPECT, SPORTSMANSHIP, and SKILL DEVELOPMENT through a collective obligation with parents, players, coaches and volunteers. We are committed to creating a positive hockey experience in an enjoyable and safe environment.

Vision

Okotoks Minor Hockey wants to be the leader in fostering an environment where anyone can enjoy the game of hockey in a SAFE, FUN, and SPORTSMANLIKE manner.

AGM MINUTES- May 22, 2024

Called to Order: 7:31PM

Welcome

Reports

Roll call of Officers and Directors

Officers and Directors in Attendance

Geoff Stewart
Jenn Zaffino
Lindsay Graw
~~Jenny Sekulich~~
~~Troy Tangedal~~
Rebecca Streit
Jennifer Dustow
~~Amy Snyder~~
Michelle Barratt

~~Jeremy Gough~~
Amanda Germain
Jamie Steer
Dhara Rogers
Geoff Rollins
~~Brenda Honish~~
~~Orinda McCann~~
~~Raeanne Tangedal~~
Kat Johnston

~~Joe McCormick~~
Jenn Gauthier
Blair Scott
Daron Dumanski
~~Nadine Neufeld~~
Jamie Whalley
Candice Wyma
~~Crystal Crawford~~
Dan Laplante

Total in Attendance (59)

Members in Attendance (51): Jason Adamek, Gabe Amyotte, Leanne Anderson, Melissa Au, Andrew Bell, Louise Byer, Stephanie Coish, Mark Coish, Adam Coulliard, Charlene Crooks, Jamie Dupuis, Konrad Berg, Kristopher Foucault, Jenn Gauthier, Shaun Gauthier, Duane Gervais, Josh Harding, Randy Herrmann, Pat Jefferson, Kat Johnston, Tyson Jones, Kirsty Judd, Crystal Krauss, David Kromm, Daniele Laflamme, Dan Laplante, Sarah Lindquist, Kevin Knibbs, Kathy McElroy, Danielle McGregor, Michelle Meade, Kelly Miller, Allison Nordlund, Robbie Robins, Dhara Rogers, Geoff Rollins, Amie Roy, Jeff Ryan, Leanne Ryan, Blair Scott, Rebecca Streit, Geoff Stewart, Shannon Taylor, Avani Maleshri- Vdovine, Artem Vdovine, Marty Webber, Blake Weigel, Jamie Whalley, Candice Wyma, Jessy Yasinski, Jenn Zaffino

Non-Members in Attendance (8): Michelle Barratt, Matt MacKenzie, Lindsay Graw, Jamie Steer, Amanda Germain, Daron Dumanski, Greg Schmidt, Ref Representative



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President's Report- Geoff Stewart

- Acknowledgements
- Highlights and Successes
 - o Financially stable association
 - o Expansion of development and success to start the season and throughout the year
 - o U11 HADP pilot has closed and is now officially U11 AA
 - o Continued player growth
 - o Safety and Mental Wellness program
 - o Over 300 Coaches in our association
 - o Hosted U15 Tier 1 Provincials
- Graduating players Male and Female
- Challenges
 - o U16 Tier 1- numbers of teams decreased.
 - o Volunteers- Recruitment, burn-out retention.
 - o Ice availability in Okotoks.
 - o Draw zone for U11 AA- Foothills will have a team in U13 AA and U11 AA
- All Division Players breakdown
- OMHA/OAAA Player/ Team Summary

Okotoks Referee Association- Greg Schmidt and Ref Representative

- See Presentation

Health and Safety- Orinda McCann/ Amy Snyder

- New Health and Safety director- Kat Johnston

VP Coach Development- Blair Scott

- Coach Development Courses
 - o 3 courses hosted by Hockey Alberta
 - o Coach 1, Coach 2 and checking.
 - o Registration was strong with many new coaches in 2023.
 - o For the 2024/ 2025 season, 3 coach certification courses in October, Development 1- Coach Certification, in season coach development- OMHA and guest hosted.
- Coach Selection
 - o Higher tiers= Coach interest
 - o U13 Limited applicants- travel
 - o U7- U9 Strong group.
 - o Timeline between coach selection and coach skate needs improvement.
 - o Coach selection enhancements.
- In Season Challenges
 - o Suspensions were down, but still too many.
 - o AP process inconsistent- NEW policy for 2024-2025
 - o Fair Play issues during playoffs
 - o



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VP Coach Development- Blair Scott (con't)

- Coach conduct- overall very good.
- Communication opportunities
- Feedback Surveys
 - Lower YoY response rate. Increased % in usable feedback.
 - Included division director and board feedback columns.
 - Need to improve in-season feedback- interim survey?
 - Multi athlete families- difficult to complete multiple surveys.
 - Perception of “consequence for honesty” remains.
 - Member feedback welcome
 - Coach Survey- 329 Submitted, 77% usable.
 - Coach Feedback Survey- 49 Submitted, 96% usable.
 - Manager Feedback Survey- 66 Submitted, 94% usable.
- Coach Mentoring
 - Initiative was underutilized- committed to enhancing the offering.
 - Reluctance from new coaches, some uptake
 - Mentors needed- Share your experience with tomorrows coaches.
 - Several benefits exist using a mentor.
 - Running an effective practice- observation and use of time and space
 - Sourcing coach resources- plans, skills etc.
 - Managing a bench- AC/s, team officials, players
 - Idea sharing and feedback loop.
 - Leveraging previous experience and situational examples.
- The good news
 - Goalie count is up.
 - Coach interest increasing.
 - Coach retention strong.
 - Positive member feedback
- Coach of the Year
 - 78 nominations submitted.
 - Matt Winter- U18 A Female
 - Tolan Friesen- U11 Tier 1

VP Player Development- Geoff Rollins

- Development Vendors
 - 2023/ 2024 Skill Development Vendors
 - Built Strong Evolution
 - Coast 2 Coast
 - Dave Marcoux School of Goaltending
 - Evolution Goaltending
 - Hi-Tek Development



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VP Player Development- Geoff Rollins con't.

- K & M Hockey Development
- Lift Hockey
- On the Edge Power Skating
- Pam Hurst Power Skating
- Score Hockey Range
- Vendors delivered over 235 hours of additional on ice and off ice development to our athletes this season provided by OMHA.
- Funds supplied by the OMHA Tournaments
- Will be hosting our annual OMHA Development Camp again prior to Evals by our approved vendors.
- In- Season Development
 - Will be moving forward with in-season positional development sessions for both coaches and players (Goaltending, Defense, Offensive Tactics/ Scoring) schedules and formats will be released in the fall.
 - Skill Development will be accepting bids in early June. Looking to onboard a few more vendors as we continue to grow.
- Goaltending
 - OMHA will be forming a Goaltending Committee that will be managed by a board appointed Goaltending Liaison. The committee will work directly with the Executive to provide the necessary support and resources required to develop goaltenders in OMHA.

Treasurer- Amanda Germain

- U18 jerseys replaced. U9 division is scheduled for replacement in 2024/ 2025 season and the U11, U13 divisions the following year.
- Highlights
 - 3 % admin fee added to registration fee to offset the credit card processing charge, this fee is not added to e-transfers.
 - Registration opens June 24, closed July 21. Any registration after registration closes is subject to a \$100.00 admin fee for late registration and only as space in the division allows.
 - Payment deferral plan will be permitted with credit card registration only- 1/3 due on registration, 1/3 due August 1, 1/3, due September 1st.
 - Any payments that are not cleared by the credit card company will be subject to an admin fee.
- Fees by division (see presentation)
- Female Tournament Budget breakdown (see presentation)
- U13 Tournament Budget breakdown (see presentation)
- U7/ U9 Tournament Budget breakdown (see presentation)

OAAA President Report- Dan Laplante

- See presentation.



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Volunteer Appreciation Awards

- Volunteer of the Year- Jenn Gauthier
- Mixed Manager of the Year- Heather Bourgeois
- Female Manager of the Year- Dean Rohatynsky
- Long Service Volunteer Award- Geoff Stewart

Operations Coordinator- Jamie Steer

- Tune ups and Clinics.
 - o Tune-ups- for the 21st year, we offered tune-ups to our younger age groups and house divisions to get them ready for the season. K2 hockey clinics hosted them and did a great job.
 - o Conditioning Camps- This past season we used Several vendors to run our pre- season conditioning camps. These vendors became our preferred vendors for the season.
 - o Goalie Clinics- For the second straight year, we used Hockey Alberta for our Sunday Night Goalie Clinic.
- Evaluations
 - o Evaluators- For the 25th season in travel hockey, we used independent paid evaluators. We used Dave Marcoux for our goaltending evals.
 - o Volunteers- We used in house volunteers to evaluate House and RHL levels.
- Teams and Successes
 - o 35 Okotoks House League teams
 - 10 U7
 - 11 U9
 - 8 U11
 - 6 U13
 - o 8 RHL teams
 - o 26 league teams (includes 16 CAHL and 10 RMFHL)
 - o Provincials- Female U18 Tier 1 and U15 tier 1 represented OMHA at the provincials and U15 Tier 1 Hosted them.

Division Directors

U7- Jenny Sekulich
U9- Dhara Rogers
U11 Travel- Michelle Barratt
U11 House- Jenn Gauthier
U13 Travel- Jamie Whalley
U13 House- Candice Wyma
U15 Travel- Jenn Zaffino
U15 RHL- Rebecca Streit
U16 Travel- Michelle Barratt
U18 Travel- Michelle Barratt
U18 RHL- Nadine Neufeld
Female Jr.- Crystal Crawford
Female Sr.- Jennifer Dustow



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2024 AGM Positions

Elections

President: Geoff Stewart 4 of 3 years served

President- 3 year position

1st Call: Geoff Stewart nominates Geoff Rollins, Geoff R accepts

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Geoff Rollins- President by acclimation

VP of Coach Development: Blair Scott 2 of 3 years served

VP Coach Development- 3 year position

1st Call:

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Blair Scott- VP of coach development for 1 more year, no vote required

VP of Player Development: Geoff Rollins 1 of 3 years served

VP Player Development- 3 year position

1st Call:

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Vacant- position will be appointed for the remainder of the term.

Director of Programs: Troy Tangedal 1 of 2 years served

Director of Programs- 2 year position

1st Call:

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Vacant- position will be appointed for the remainder of the term

Secretary: Jenn Gauthier filled the remainder of the 2 year term

Secretary- 2 year position

1st Call: Geoff Stewart nominates Jenn Gauthier, Jenn accepts

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Jenn Gauthier- Secretary by acclimation

U7 Director 1 year position

1st Call: No nominations from the floor

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Vacant



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U9 Director 1 year position

1st Call: Candice Light nominates Crystal Krauss, Crystal accepts

2nd Call: Jenny Sekulich nominates Jessy Yasinski, Jessy accepts

3rd Call:

Jessy Yasinski- U9 Director elected by majority vote

U11 House Director 1 year position

1st Call: Sarah Lindquist nominates Melissa Au, Melissa accepts

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Melissa Au- U11 House Director by acclimation

U11 Travel Director 1 year position

1st Call: Crystal Krauss volunteered from the floor

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Crystal Krauss- U11 Travel Director by acclimation

U13 House Director 1 year position

1st Call: No nominations from the floor

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Vacant

U13 Travel Director 1 year position

1st Call: Andrea McLenehan nominates Danielle McGregor, Danielle accepts

2nd Call: Roxann Bridge nominates Danielle McGregor, Danielle accepts

3rd Call:

Danielle McGregor- U13 Travel Director by acclimation

U15 RHL Director 1 year position

1st Call: No nominations from the floor

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Vacant

U15 Travel Director 1 year position

1st Call: Geoff Stewart nominates Jenn Zaffino, Jenn accepts

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Jenn Zaffino- U15 Travel director by acclimation



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U18 RHL Director 1 year position

1st Call: Jenn Gauthier nominates Rebecca Streit, Rebecca accepts

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Rebecca Streit- U18 RHL Director by acclimation

U18 Travel Director 1 year position

1st Call: Daron Dumanski nominates Michelle Barratt from the floor, Michelle accepts

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Michelle Barratt- U18 Travel director by acclimation

Jr Female Director 1 year position

1st Call: Geoff Rollins nominates Crystal Crawford, Crystal accepts

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Crystal Crawford- Jr. Female director by acclimation

Sr. Female Director 1 year position

1st Call: Crystal Crawford nominates Jennifer Dustow, Jennifer accepts

2nd Call:

3rd Call:

Jennifer Dustow- Sr. Female Director by acclimation

Member questions from online form/ Floor

- Discussion about what is being done to keep players from leaving to other associations and independent leagues. The new evaluation commitment policy will hopefully help along with additional support from Hockey Alberta to help with retention.
- Discussion about the groups in U9 and the number of teams per group. This changes per year depending on the needs and development of the kids.
- Discussion about the possibility of resetting the rosters of the RHL U18 teams a few games into the season because it is felt that there is a larger than average dropout rate which leaves the remaining kids playing with small teams and shorthanded many times. OMHA is looking into ways to make it a lot fairer play through the season in this level.
- Discussion about kids trying out for AA and if not making it, playing with another association/ independent hockey. You are welcome to leave before OMHA evaluations start, it will not affect you the next season as per the evaluation commitment policy. If you choose to leave mid evaluations in OMHA, you will be affected by the new policy above. Hockey Alberta will not allow you to come back and play for the season when you have already committed to an HSL team.
- Discussion about OMHA using the same evaluation company year after year and it being owned by a board member. The evaluators that come out each season are independent contractors that have no affiliation with OMHA, they are not owned by any board member.
- Discussion about the reason House does not have outside evaluators even though we pay the same registration fee as travel. House teams use more ice over the year than travel teams do.



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They have equal number of games as well. Independent cost per head for outside evaluators is not significant, 2/3 of travel is selected through eval results and the remainder is coach pick. House is 100% coach pick. House has higher ref fees and ice fees because they do not use ice outside of Okotoks (tournaments excluded).

- Discussion about team budget transparency. The budgets are handed in at the beginning of the season and again at the end of season. Parents on a team should have access to the budget throughout the year. If there are complications, you can ask an executive member to investigate it further.
- Discussion about the U15 female teams having the same amount of full ice time as the mixed teams. Their fees are the same and would like the girls to have the same consideration in scheduling as mixed teams. This has been asked throughout the years. The mixed U15 teams have full ice practices in the mornings and the girls teams have turned them down, which results in ½ ice practices due to the lack of ice overall.
- Discussion about how OMHA needs to have more full ice games for U9. OMHA is under the hockey umbrella, and they have a list of non-negotiables that must be followed. They allow a certain amount of full ice games after a certain date they set. This past season they released the opportunity for full ice games after the ice was scheduled for the year. Next season we will be scheduling ice with the notion of full ice games in the new year. We have gone to Hockey Alberta in the past asking for full ice U9 and we are not the only association doing so.
- Discussion about why we don't open more travel teams up to match what people register more for. OMHA is always looking for ways to improve U11 and U13 divisions. We are trying to stop the drop off players. This season we will have one U13 house, which may create another travel team. This is always a work in progress. To play tier 6 hockey, the kids would be playing all over Alberta, nowhere close by, instead of sending kids all over, we will continue with the house program that results in better hockey. Before making a tier 4/5 team, we always look to previous seasons to see what teams were in the levels to determine if it even reasonable to make a team at the lower level, travel wise.
- Discussion about what can be done to better the U7 coach selection. We are looking to making changes in the U7 coach selection process, maybe implementing a Major and Minor division opposed to Jr/ Senior.
- Discussion about why we jump from 12 kids in U7 to 20+ kids per team in U9. It has a lot to do with numbers and we have 3 practices on the ice at once in U7, in U9, there is only 2 teams. When the U9 program was started, Hockey Alberta decided how many players should be per team. U9 also plays ½ ice games, but it is 2 teams, broken into 4 teams to play both sides of the ice.
- Discussion about Goalie Development- Why do we not have a rental program? The equipment has not come back in great shape in the past and it ends up costing more than the deposit per season. We will be looking into larger equipment to supply teams with for the season, with a deposit that can be returned if the equipment is in good shape.
- Discussion about how we are going to keep kids- adding letters in Hockey Alberta will not retain the kids that can go and play in HSL etc. Hockey Canada, our governing body, is not making it easy on anyone and we don't have control and cannot branch out and become a private



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association and cut loose from the model. There are advantages in certain levels to play HSL/PSL, but there are also draw zone issues. All we can do is put the best program and coaches forward as we can. We are implementing more support for the coaches, as talked about this evening. We do not have the ability to pay our coaches like HSL/PSL, we do need to do a better job of making sure we have the right coaches in place. The 13 AAA Pilot will provide valuable insight to Hockey Alberta in identifying the ideal structure required to provide this level of hockey to families across the entire province in the 2025-26 season. MHAs currently committed to participate in the Pilot are Hockey Edmonton (4 teams), Bonnyville, Grande Prairie, Leduc, Lloydminster, Sherwood Park, Strathcona and St. Albert. The U13 AAA Pilot will operate within the structure of the Alberta Elite Hockey League. Families registered with an MHA that is hosting a U13 AAA team can access tryouts with that team. Athletes registered outside of an MHA hosting a U13 AAA team are permitted to pursue a U13 AAA tryout with an MHA that is accepting tryout players.

Geoff Stewart adjourned the meeting at 9:39 PM