

Vice-President's Report

Dave Skagen, Vice President – RMHA

This year marked my first term serving on the RMHA board, and it has been both a valuable learning experience and a rewarding one. I came into this role without specific expectations but with a clear goal: to be a voice that contributes meaningfully to the success of the Association and helps make minor hockey the best possible experience for our players and their families.

This past season, our board consisted of a mix of returning members and new additions, each bringing unique perspectives, ideas, and energy to the table. In addition to the updates you'll hear from the President, directors, and other board members, I'd like to highlight a few key initiatives we've focused on:

1. Website Modernization

We've started developing a framework for a refreshed, modern website that aligns with other minor hockey associations. The goal is to improve communication and transparency by including:

- Access to policies and procedures
- External resources (e.g., Hockey Alberta, Hockey Canada)
- Coaching and development information
- Tournament inquiry forms
- General updates and tools for members

2. Policy Updates

We've made several updates to key policies to provide clearer guidance and improve consistency:

a. Player Acceleration Policy

- Outlines criteria for players wishing to move up an age division
- Maintains board discretion for exceptional cases

b. Player Evaluation Policy

- Establishes a standardized evaluation process applicable across all age groups

c. Code of Conduct (Major Update)

- Aligns more closely with standards set by Hockey Alberta and other associations

- Includes:
 - Zero Tolerance Policy
 - Discipline and Appeals Processes
 - Communication Protocol
 - Introduces a **Code of Conduct Agreement** for players and parents/guardians, to be signed during registration
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The success of our minor hockey program relies on the dedication of volunteers. While our association operates smoothly, we continue to face external challenges, such as player movement with Medicine Hat and evolving Hockey Alberta registration requirements. With each new season comes new hurdles, and with them, the need for fresh ideas and adaptable solutions.

While I believe consistency on the board offers stability, fresh voices and new perspectives are equally vital. If you've ever considered getting involved, I encourage you to let your name stand for a board position or volunteer on one of our committees.

Thank you,

Dave Skagen

Vice President, RMHA