

## 2023 Annual Report- President

First, I would like to thank all our members, volunteers, sponsors, arena staff, and executive committee members for a fantastic year of hockey programming at Sooke and District Minor Hockey Association. We have had many successes throughout the 2022-23 hockey season!

The season started with many hours spent forming teams and ended with U11 development and U18C1 bringing home their division league banners. U13C1 also won their playoff division banner. Congrats to all of them! I also want to congratulate all the teams that persevered throughout the season, even when times were tough.

A few accomplishments this year were receiving our provincial gaming grant. We used those funds for new cross-ice rink boards, player development, reducing the upcoming season fees, and many other things.

Our association once again participated in Buddy Check for Jesse and introduced the Orange Jersey Project. We welcomed back another round of the incredible First Shift program. We also got to bring back the Gord Sleivert Memorial Coaches game. It was a huge success and raised funds for a deserving SDMHA family.

Another area we worked on at the beginning of the season was recruiting young referees. We recruited nine first-year officials. All members will have to support these children and have the patience to let them develop. We hope to continue to improve and grow our referee program. This investment is needed to support our game for many years to come.

My first term as president is now complete. I've learned a tremendous amount over the last two years. I'm looking forward to continuing to lead for another term. Our executive committee will be working hard year-round to continue to better SDMHA.

I hope everyone has a safe summer. See you in the fall.

Thanks  
Carrie Coleman  
SDMHA President



# SOOKE & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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## 2022/23 VP-Admin Annual Report

Although this season saw many personal challenges, I was very grateful to see the hockey community come together to support one another. I believe that the work that has been put in by the executive to shift the culture is gaining momentum and the seasons to come will continue to improve on the back end.

We have veteran members continuing to excel and are getting a lot of great work done. We also have new members stepping up and taking on key roles and providing a fresh perspective to the association.

Moving forward, continue to have clear action items after the meetings and hold each other accountable. Do not take on more than you can handle, reach out for help when needed and keep the lines communication open.

Carrie, Nick, Kathleen, Kari, Hilary, Duncan, Duncan, Ian, April, Kala, Brianne, Seija, Christina, Lindsay, Galen and Marianne thank you for stepping up to make the community better.

I am honoured to have been a part of such a wonderful team and I consider you all my friends.

Yours truly,

Rob McConnachie  
Outgoing VP-Admin, SDMHA



## 2023 VP Ops AGM Report

Another season in the books with as back to normal as you can get. This year Disciplinary Committee had very little to deal with which is refreshing. We saw our second year of the first shift program with double the kids from the year before. This program is great for introducing new kids to the sport.

Our numbers are up again as our association slowly continues to grow year by year

A special thanks to all executive and volunteers who made this year happen again. Enjoy your spring sports and summer. We'll see you all back at the rink soon

Nick Szadkowski

SDMHA VP Ops

## Treasurer Report

Sooke Minor Hockey continues to be in good financial health! This year we were able to secure \$60,300 in Gaming Grant funding from the province of BC to support development of our players, purchase rink divider boards and fund other expenses directly related to our hockey program.

This year we were able to raise more than \$40,000 in fundraising activities plus almost \$10,000 in sponsorships. We purchased more replacement jerseys, paid higher referee fees, and supported teams going to tournaments. Player development was active at all levels and we will continue to invest more next year. Furthermore, we were able to lower our registration fees for the 2022/23 season and again for the upcoming year to remain affordable and accessible to all players in the Sooke and District areas.

Overall, our total income for the year was more than \$345,000 and expenses were \$281,000 resulting in a net income of \$44,000. We will continue to pursue sponsorships and grant opportunities as they become available plus fundraising events to keep fees as low as possible in the future.

Thanks,

Kathleen Chisholm

Treasurer

## **U7-U9 Coordinator Year End Report**

**April 2023**

Much like the previous year, the 2022-23 Hockey Season was a huge success thanks to the players, families, bench staff and the Executive.

Players in the division were able to participate in many tournaments, games and practices which allowed players to work on their skill development. Players were able to bond as teammates, foster friendships and have fun! For the 2022-23 season there were four teams in this division, with a total of 76 players. Two U7 teams, (one Minor with 15 players and one Major with 19 players), as well as two U9 teams, (one Minor with 20 players and one Major with 22 players).

Like last season, bench staff and player/team placement were determined before the beginning of the season. I would strongly recommend we continue to make this a priority for upcoming seasons, as it allows teams to be assigned early in the season.

Along with games, practices and tournaments this seasons, other highlights were the beginning and end of the year cookie treats. After the first practice all players in this division received 'smile' cookies from Tim Hortons. The players loved the cookies, and proceeds went to a Sooke charity. Players then submitted their photo with the cookie to be eligible for a fantastic swag bag prize from one of many photo contests on our social media page. To finish the season the players also received jersey cookies with their last names and jersey numbers. Sweet treats to start and finish a great season!

Finally, thank you to all the Coaches, Managers, Safeties and Executives who volunteered countless hours to make this season a success, and to the players and their families for their commitment to the sport!

Sincerely,

**Brianne Crocker**

**U7-U9 Coordinator**

## U11-U13 Report

### Sooke & District Minor Hockey Association

Another successful hockey season has come to an end! This year, like past years, had a lot of engagement from players and coaching staff which is always welcomed in a small community.

Players remained engaged throughout the season with great attitudes. The guest coaches and goalie coaches were extremely well received and it allowed every player to gain new skills and try new things.

Our U13 program had 3 teams (1 representative, 2 recreational) and our U11 program also had 3 teams (1 development and 2 recreational). There were some new volunteers stepping into the Team Manager roles and they did an amazing job. The U-11 development won the Division 4 divisional banner and made it to the finals in the playoffs. The U13-C1 team were the South Island playoff champions for the season.

A big thank you to the executive for the many hours spent planning, implementing protocols and working through the challenges that were faced. I would like to thank all of the coaches and managers for their hard work, dedication and keeping our players engaged. Parents, a big thank you to you too for following the rules and ensuring your player got to the rink with proper equipment.

Have a wonderful summer and I am looking forward to another great season next year.

Kala Chaulk  
U11-U13 Coordinator  
Sooke & District Minor Hockey Association



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## Equipment & U15-U18 Division Coordinator Report 2022-2023

This season there was some additional demand for borrowed goalie gear in the younger age groups. It might be worth it to purchase a couple extra sets for U11 and U13 players looking to try the position as it was a struggle to accommodate some sizes. The association purchased new jerseys for the U13 recreational teams as well as replacement for our now retired #16 jerseys. We also purchased new pinnies for tryouts and placed the older style in the storage for all teams to use. Unfortunately, some of those have since gone missing, so next year we will instead be supplying each team their own set of pinnies to use throughout the season that must be returned at year end along with their jerseys sets.

Also serving in the role of U15-U18 division coordinator, this year had a few obstacles but nothing was unmanageable. Unfortunately U15 C div did not have a VIAHA Commissioner, which proved problematic at times. Volunteering is at the heart of every aspect of minor hockey and when these roles cannot be filled it has a ripple effect on the teams who depend on them. Hopefully someone is able to fill that role next season so all U15 C south island teams can be adequately supported.

I must say that this year was an absolute pleasure to work with each of the team managers! Everyone worked very hard from our valued volunteers as coaches, bench staff, and parents supporting and volunteering for various roles and of course our wonderful players. Some teams had more success with wins than others, most notably the U18 C1 team winning the league banner for the season!

Winning aside, all of our teams developed, as players and individuals, they tried their best, overcame adversity and were there to support each other when their teammates needed it the most. New memories and new friendships were made and many old friendships were strengthened. When it comes down to it, those highlights will always be of the greatest value for our children in sport and so I would say the 2022-23 season was an overall success.

I would also like to extend well wishes to our graduating U18 players, I've watched many of them over the years in Sooke Minor Hockey and they've all grown up to be such wonderful individuals. I wish them the best of success in their future endeavors and hope they always keep their years of playing hockey here in Sooke close to their heart.

April Alexander



## SDMHA Head Coach Year End Report

We had a successful season as an association, our numbers continue to grow, with players wanting to continue to U21. All U6-U9 teams are developing have several players wanting to get goaltending a shot.

Development was focused on in both Rep and House teams.

We picked the the coaches for a successful season with a couple teams winning league banners and one winning a playoff banner.

Looks like we have great numbers going into next year already.

Thank you for a successful season, I look forward to next year!

Duncan Gray

Head Coach

Sooke Minor Hockey Association



### 1. SEAPARC Ice Request/Allocation

At the end of the 2021–22 hockey season, the President, VP–Ops, Head Coach, and Ice Allocator reviewed the existing ice footprint along with the 2022 registration numbers to determine the ice requirements for the 2022–23 season. With some of the highest registration numbers in recent history, it was decided to request additional ice to accommodate our growing association and balance prime vs. non-prime ice time for Sooke & District Minor Hockey Association (SDMHA) teams. The SDMHA submitted the association ice request on April 14, 2022, for consideration by Sooke Electoral Area Recreation Centre (SEAPARC) staff and the Commission. On May 11, 2022, SEAPARC held its annual Ice Allocation Meeting to review the proposed schedule with ice user groups. The President, VP–Ops, and Ice Allocator attended this meeting and voiced concerns regarding the un-equitable distribution of prime vs. non-prime ice among users, as well as the fragmentation of SDMHA ice throughout the week. SDMHA submitted a written list of concerns for presentation to the SEAPARC Commission at its monthly meeting on June 14, 2022. The SDMHA submission was entered into the meeting minutes, and the Commission directed SEAPARC staff to further consult with user groups. After additional consultation, SDMHA reluctantly agreed to a bi-weekly schedule that would see more grouping of SDMHA ice times. However, SDMHA was unable to attain more prime ice or an adjustment to see less non-prime and more prime ice.

At the request of SDMHA, SEAPARC held a pre-ice allocation meeting with ice users to discuss ice needs for the 2023–24 season. Once again, SDMHA emphasized the association's need for additional ice and a more equitable allocation of non-prime vs. prime ice. Of the ice users attending the meeting, SDMHA was the only group to be allocated and use non-prime ice in 2022–2023.

### 2. Revision of SEAPARC Ice Allocation Policy

In January 2022, SEAPARC management solicited ice user groups for Ice Allocation Policy revisions that they would like to see considered. SDMHA submitted a number of revisions aimed at strengthening allocations for resident users of ice, especially local minor hockey. On April 4, 2023, SEAPARC posted the agenda for the Commission meeting, including the revised Ice Allocation Policy, in which none of the SDMHA recommendations were included. SDMHA will seek redress with the Commission to ensure the ice needs of our growing association can be fulfilled by SEAPARC.

### 3. SDMHA Ice Scheduling

Once SEAPARC released a final ice schedule, the VP–Ops, Head Coach, and Ice Allocator started working on the tentative ice schedule for the 2022–23 hockey season. Developing an ice schedule was a challenge. SDMHA did its best to balance Hockey Canada requirements for each division as well as the requirements between Representative (Rep) teams and Recreational (House) teams. In the end, the final SDMHA schedule managed to balance most of the needs of our teams.

One of the greatest challenges was scheduling Vancouver Island Amateur Hockey Association (VIAHA) games. Often, schedules were released with less than 5 days prior to the first games. This made Ice Allocator review, team distribution, and scheduling of officials challenging. SDMHA requested VIAHA scheduling be finalized further in advance, so associations are not pushing out schedules to teams with only a few days' notice.

For the 2022–23 season, SDMHA maintained two transient ice slots, one early morning (0530-0700) and one night (2100–2200) biweekly, for teams to pick up if they wanted extra ice. The allocation of these times proved difficult, as there was little interest due to the times. It is recommended that any transient ice occur during prime time and on days that can facilitate the greatest interest by teams and potential skill development sessions.

At the conclusion of the hockey season, a number of teams abandoned less desirable ice times, leading to challenges with reallocation and black ice. It is recommended that SDMHA develop a policy to define how ice is

returned to the association, penalties for teams returning ice on short notice, and potentially scheduling less ice in the last two weeks of the hockey season.

## Registrar Report

I took over Registrar duties in December of 2022. Most teams were already set up and rostered and only a few adjustments needed to occur. I learned how to use Spordle and prepared for opening 2023/24 registration in March of this year.

At the end of March, 207 players have registered for the upcoming season. We continued to offer discounts for goalies, players graduating from First Shift and support funding programs such as Kidsport and Jumpstart. Players are still able to choose payment plans at the time of registration. We will offer a late registration period in June for anyone that missed the chance in March. We continue to use RAMP as our platform with no issues.

Thanks,

Kathleen Chisholm

Registrar



## Referee In Chief AGM Report

In what was a season that saw us truly back to playing games in a more traditional fashion, the season seems to have passed by in very quick fashion. The season began with 17 of our officials attending the Juan de Fuca Minor Hockey hosted annual summer officiating camp which was held at Westhills Arena Complex. This foundational camp set our officials up for success from the very beginning of the season, especially the nine brand new officials who began officiating for the first time this season.

Inasmuch as we feel like the year we lost due to Covid 19 was one that cost us some momentum in our development per se and we were in a position of having to prime the pump; we have however, made very good strides in retention and quality of our officials so far. When I first took on this position we had 12 certified officials from the immediate Sooke area so there was work to do. This season, that number has increased to nearly 30 officials from Sooke and East Sooke and for the most part they were able to cover at least 75% of the game assignments during the season. While many of our experienced officials chose to take a step back in 2020-21 due to Covid, we have started to rebound in 2022-23 and see the rebirth of our experienced officials taking an interest again in their local association.

Some of the officials from our leadership group also took the next step in their officiating careers and none moreso, than Marianne Waldemarars. While taking a huge step in her own development as an on ice official, she grew immensely in her development as a mentor and possible Referee in Chief for the Association in the near future.. Marianne was invaluable in her dedication to Sooke Minor Hockey's Officiating Program and very much took a leadership role from the beginning of the season. She began her year as an assistant instructor for JdFs Officiating Camp and the dedication she displayed carried on throughout the season..

Exciting in all of this is that over the course of the season, Sooke on-ice officials officiated nearly 170 games during the season and skated nearly 400 individual assignments. That is an amazing accomplishment for a small association and a great deal of appreciation must be expressed to all the local officials who worked hard and did a great job throughout the season.

Going forward into next season, we look forward to a number of our new officials attending the JdF Officiating Program annual summer camp already in the works, with the dates of August 16-18th confirmed. We encourage all those who would like to give officiating a try to come out and be a part of the third team on the ice for every game. WE are a family of officials who are always looking for new family members to join us.

Yours in Officiating, Galen Brewer, RiC

[ric@sookeminorhockey.ca](mailto:ric@sookeminorhockey.ca)

## Risk Management Report April-2023

1. **ePACT**: Player medical and emergency information profiles were completed with reasonable timeliness this year. There were a few outstanding players with incomplete or outdated information that required persistent follow-up by both the Director of Risk Management and the respective Coordinators. As rosters are finalized, it's imperative Managers/Coordinators/Safeties liaise with the Director Risk Management if any new players are added to their teams to ensure their respective Team Safety has the most current roster in ePact.

2. **Annual SEAPARC Arena Inspection**: The pre-season inspection of the SEAPARC arena and dressing room facilities was conducted end Aug - early Sept. The facility was in overall good repair ready for SDMHA to take the ice. There were a few minor defects noted with the boards but they were repaired by facility staff prior to the SDMHA schedule. The Hockey Canada arena safety checklist was completed and accompanied by relevant photos as well as email correspondence with facility staff.

3. **Communicable Disease Plan (CDP)**: As COVID restrictions were eased, the CDP was edited to follow Provincial guidelines on COVID and other communicable diseases. All bench staff and parents were reminded to keep sick players home in the event they were ill. There were a few circumstances where sickness resulted in missed/rescheduled games due to low player numbers.

4. **Safety Person Training**: Most Team Safeties completed the HCSP, RIS, CATT and CRC requirements prior to Oct 22. There was some confusion with who was Safety for which team as rosters were solidified, but good communication between the Director Risk Management and the Coordinators quickly resolved any issues.

5. **Annual Team Safety Meeting**: The manager/safety meeting was held at the Sooke Community Center on Sep 27, 2022. The meeting was well attended and covered the main aspects for team coordination and safety. This meeting remains the best way to emphasize key aspects, ask questions and put faces to names.

6. **Injuries**: All injury reports, BC Hockey notification and return to play notes were completed in the required time frames. Each injured player was able to return to full hockey activity after they were cleared by their physician.

7. **Acknowledgement**: Thank you to all of the Team Safety volunteers for donating their time to complete the required training and ensuring player safety throughout the season. The 2022-23 season was a great success, and couldn't have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers. Thank you!

Ian Biller  
Director of Risk Management  
Sooke Minor Hockey Association



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### Social Media & Special Events 2022/23 season

This year our presence on SM was again, significantly increased. Our following grew on Facebook as well as our Instagram page. Our Instagram account grew from 215 followers at end of last season to 430 + followers.

Events that were held- Our Ice Breaker Dance was a success! Great DJ, bartenders and prizes.

Photo night, Kathleen and I have that running smoothly now.

Our Gord Sleivert Coaches game was more than a success! It exceeded my expectations on the turnout and support. Nailing down a date ahead of time is all I would change. And finally Buddy Check. I have developed a great relationship with Stu Gershman at buddy check and spreading out the teams posts/photos allows for more program exposure.

My goal was to encourage engagement from our hockey community and bring joy in sharing amazing moments through the season. I believe this was achieved successfully! Monthly contests and swag bag winnings were very well received and participation was high. Game day posts were also very welcomed and useful as a quick reference.

I see some changes that can be made next season and new ideas implemented to bring even more excitement and engagement to our SMHA social channels!

Thank you,

Leona Lewco

Social Media Special Events Coordinator

Sooke & District Minor Hockey Association

## SDMHA Sponsorship report 2022/2023

This was my first year in the sponsorship coordinator role and I am happy to report SDMHA received sponsorship from many new businesses this year and businesses who had previously provided sponsorship to our association that have stepped forward again to do so. Thank you to everyone who supported our teams, players and association events.

Wall sign advertising also increased this past season. A few challenges with sign production and delays with installation but for the most part it happened in a relatively timely manner. All businesses who already had wall signs hung in the arena were contacted in September/October about renewals and only a few previous businesses declined a renewal or did not respond to my communication attempts. We also received a few wall advertising requests late in the season. Those signs have been created and are currently at SEAPARC waiting to be installed. Those businesses will have their signs up for the 2023/2024 season.

The new Fundraising and Sponsorship policy that was introduced this season received a lot of questions that needed clarification and some push back. However, I do feel that having this policy in place and teams reaching out to businesses helped the association to bring in new sponsors that may not have stepped forward in the past.

Thanks for a great season.  
Lindsay Havens

**2022-2023**

**Webmaster Report**

**Submitted by Seija Laukkanen**

This was my first year on the Executive and it has been an immense pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of volunteers.

I really enjoyed my time serving as the webmaster for this season. I did not have prior experience with the RAMP program for our website, registration, and app, but I was impressed with its ease of use. I realize that there were some issues and frustrations with the app from some users, but overall, it is a user-friendly platform, and most issues were resolved with relative ease.

One of the features that we did add to the website this year was a Facebook link with a highlighted Facebook post on the Sooke Minor Hockey Home page. There are some features of the website that we have not made use of and if elected again I hope to work in those areas prior to next season to make the website more robust.

If you read your Sooke Minor Hockey emails all the way to the end of the message, you will know that most of those emails come from the webmaster, usually on behalf of the President and/or Executive. This season we sent out 26 Association wide emails for events, reminders, notices, etc.

Thank you to everyone, including the parents, coaches, team supports, volunteers, players and Seaparc staff that made this season another success!