

Development Director – Andrew Chuckrey

I have been volunteering with SAMHA either in a coaching role or director role since 2013. I am married to my wife Dena and have two boys currently in the organization. I have coached within other organizations and when my boys began playing here it was a no brainer to help where I could. My job entails shift work so I have always struggled with the time commitment necessary to commit to a team as a head coach so I looked at other venues as to how I could help out. When the Development Director position became vacant 5 years ago I was nominated for the role and dove into that position. Our organization is built on volunteers to make a positive experience for all of our children and coaches alike and our board of volunteers and staff work extremely hard to make this happen for the players!

My interest in the position is simple. To make SAMHA the premiere organization in Alberta if not the country! How do I plan on achieving this, through developing our players and coaches to the best of my development team's ability. Originally I thought that this position would be out helping a few teams on the ice and working with coaches throughout the year and boy was I wrong. The position is mainly coordination and organizing. As such networking and developing relationships with those in the hockey world has been the bulk of what I have done to date. Working with other members of our board and also with our providers to create outside of the box programming and trying different things to make it better every year. As the time passes the one for sure thing I have learned is how much I need to learn. By constantly learning from past programming, discussing what others have learned within their organizations I continue to strive to make our association better one day at a time.

My plan for the next two years is to continue building the programming that currently exists and expand development opportunities to cover more topics and reach more of the membership. The younger players within SAMHA are the future of our organization and that means that the focus should be with these children. The younger players soak up the development at an astronomical rate and as such will be my main focus. Now that doesn't mean that the players above U-11 don't receive the development that they need and require, it means that I plan on creating different opportunities for this to occur. The 2020-2021 season so far has been busy organizing the goalie and player development sessions, scheduling the coach development program and bolstering the goalie development program.

Working with our goalie provider last year we started the Learn to Goalie program for the U-9 goalies and also began to incorporate a professional goalie instructor into the team practices to work with both the goalies and the team goalie coaching staff. This year we will be expanding these programs to the U-11 teams. Another program that I will be presenting this year will be skill specific sessions. This will include position specific sessions and also skill specific camps. I have also expanded our development team to include a provider that will be working with our coaches to create learning opportunities and continue to develop themselves. COVID has changed the way we do business and that means that we had to be creative on how we present the sessions. We decided that we will be offering clinics via Zoom! Although the face to face clinics are the gold standard this method may provide more access to those with scheduling or family conflicts as they can attend in the comfort of their own home. Currently I have three

sessions organized through Hockey Alberta and I am in the process of working with our development team to create one session per month to ensure that our coaches have as many learning opportunities as possible. Not only does this help our coaches become leaders in the hockey world, it will affect our players and goalies alike as they will have up to date well trained coaches.

Coordinating the coach certification clinics is also part of my portfolio and we have Coach 1, Coach 2 and the in person Checking Clinic organized for the season. Other clinics that we will offer will be a Development 1 and if required more of the above.

Lastly, I will be creating a social media stream to increase communication within the SAMHA coaching group so that we can all share ideas and thoughts. The more communication the better! At the end of the day why am I running again? To not only continue with what has been put into motion for this year but to continue on and develop all of our players, goalies and coaches no matter where they are in their ability.