



## CVMHA – Hockey Operations 2022/23

**To:** CVMHA Membership

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The 2022/23 Hockey season saw a welcomed return to “normal” operations. With the remnants of COVID-19 restrictions behind us, players and parents were able to enjoy a full season of practices, games, and tournaments. Of course, the success of each season reflects the incredible hard work of our Division Managers and Coaches. As mentioned in several Hockey Ops meetings, the Division Managers are the beating heart of our hockey system. Coupled with a strong coaching staff, we were able to offer great development opportunities in a structured environment.

As a group, Hockey Operations was successful in working collaboratively to ensure that team selection, player movements, and balancing occurred prior to finalizing team rosters.

Throughout the season we continued to solicit feedback from each division as an opportunity to lead continuous improvement initiatives. The aim is to continue to build on the successes of our association in the areas of culture, environment, player development, coaching development, referee development, and goalie development.

Working closely with the association Ice Coordinator, we ensured that any available ice was allocated appropriately. We focused on ensuring our U9 and U11 division had access to additional “development” ice opportunities. Additionally, we worked with our competitive teams to ensure that Affiliate Players had development opportunities throughout the season.

For the second year, CVMHA offered the “First Shift” program. We had a full enrollment of new hockey players. The program was a huge success, and we are hopeful to again see a handful of these players register for hockey next season.

We offered an additional day for Goalie Development this past season. Brad Knight of High Caliber Hockey provided goalie development on Friday mornings (In addition to GITN goalie development on Wednesdays). These sessions were always full.

Our Coaching Coordinator was busy providing coaching plans and skill development practices for our younger divisions. These “station based” plans ensure that each player has access to the same level of development throughout the association. In addition, Coaches were offered a CVMHA coaching seminar (classroom and on-ice).

2022/23 was the inaugural year for the Strathcona Bears (Tier 1 host) competitive teams. This was a HUGE success as our teams produced Island League Banners, Pat Quinn Memorial trophies, and Playoff Finals that filled Sports Center 1. Thanks to generous community sponsors, the teams enjoyed new uniforms and matching gloves.

Looking ahead, we will continue to build capacity within our hockey operations to ensure effective communication with our players, parents, and coaches. Key focus areas will be:

- Program information
- Island league (rep) programs
- Safeties, Team Managers, Division Managers, and volunteers
- Coaching selection process
- Policies and processes
- Evaluations/Evaluation process
- Team Selections
- Team Balancing (process)

Additionally, we will continue to promote a strong hockey culture that focuses on skill development, teamwork, community engagement, and FUN.