



CVMHA – Hockey Operations 2023/24

To: CVMHA Membership
From: Allan Gornall – CVMHA 1st Vice
Dallas McDonald – CVMHA Assistance 1st Vice

The 2023/24 hockey season is complete with some great achievements. As we continue to grow as an association, we also strengthen the fabric of our hockey culture. By clearly communicating with our players and families the core values and “guardrails” set out by our president, we have continued to grow and develop as athletes within our community and district.

Female Development is one of the fastest growing programs within BC Hockey. This year we were proud to launch the incredibly successful “Lightning” program which saw female hockey programs in U9, U11 and U13. With great support from key volunteers, coaches, families, and players. These programs have had huge success both on and off the ice. From league and playoff championship banners, tournament wins, and successful integration of female only teams within our U9 division, this program has seen tremendous accomplishments within its inaugural year.

Another “historic” accomplishment for our association this year was the district championship banner and qualification for provincial championships by our U15 Strathcona Bears T1 team. CVMHA U15 represented Vancouver Island for the first time in 23 years at the provincial championship tournament where they finished 4th. Our U18 Strathcona Bears T1 played excellent hockey in a very competitive division and finished 2nd in the district finals. U18 T2 had a great season which showcased the incredible depth our association has in its competitive stream. The U13 Strathcona Bears had a strong development year and enjoyed an early playoff victory against JDF T1 prior to being eliminated. The U11

(Development) divisions had great seasons with the “A” team winning both the Tier 2 Island League and Playoff championships. The “B” team had a very strong development year which will strengthen future competitive programs.

Our U21 Team also had a great season. They had success in their island league and saw early season tournament gold medals.

The recreational divisions of U7-U18 ran very smoothly thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Division Managers and Lead Division Manager. We introduced new approaches to “team balancing” which proved to be successful and welcomed by coaches and managers. Teams enjoyed attending tournaments and hosting tournaments. A great deal of time and effort goes into a successful season. I’d like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Division Managers, team managers, coaches and parent volunteers. Without this dedicated community of support personnel, hockey would not occur.

No hockey season passes without some challenges and great learning opportunities. In effort to ensure that everyone is offered a safe and supportive environment, sometimes decisions need to be made to safeguard the integrity of the sport, our association, and the players. We continue to monitor each situation and provide ample opportunities for players, parents, and coaches to participate.

The executive is keenly looking at two initiatives that will help with players development, and incident investigations:

1. Livebarn – This is a video streaming program used globally that records activities on the ice. This is a subscription-based platform that allows parents, relatives, friends, etc to watch any game live from anywhere in the world. It also acts as a “tool” to support any incidents that may occur.
2. Team Genius – This is software that is used to track player development and performance from the day they begin Minor Hockey to the day they leave. It is customized for each association and can act as a “report card” to track player development. It would assist in team creation/balancing in recreational divisions, as well as a metric to quantify player development as they progress through Minor Hockey.

We continue to look at opportunities for player development and advancement. Working within the confines of VIAHA and BC Hockey Policies, we support and encourage the use of Affiliate Players as a pathway for skill development. Our association is also working closely with VIAHA on some new "Pilot Projects" which may help with youth development and player retention.

Finally, as an association we continue to focus on skill development and player development. We are fortunate to have one of four Hockey Canada Skills Accredited Coaches that has been working to build a strong platform for all youth and developing hockey players within CVMHA. With access to the most recent foundational approaches to development and athlete growth, we will continue to focus on ensuring our players have access to high-end development opportunities.

Congratulations to all the players, families, and volunteers for another successful season. Our association IS growing because of the hard work and commitment by all our membership.

Best,

Allan Gornall
Dallas McDonald