



**Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association
Presidents Report 2022
Spiro Bokolas- President**

As we look back at the 2021-2022 season, we were once again plagued by COVID restrictions and play stoppages. Despite all the strict rules that were imposed on us by Public Health, we were able to navigate the various obstacles while ensuring the health of the players, staff and volunteers. We were able to look back at our lessons learned from the previous season and adjust accordingly.

One of the main reasons that allowed us to have a successful season was the creation of our COVID committee who handled all situations and created a safe environment for our members while adhering to Public Health and Hockey Nova Scotia's guidelines. I want to thank them for their leadership and their constant communication. Amy Fredericks was the leader of this committee, and I cannot thank her enough for the tireless hours she spent working with teams. I also want to thank our resident doctor Kirk Magee who provided the professional guidance that was needed in these difficult times. His expertise and knowledge of the guidelines helped us understand how restrictions affected us as a minor hockey association. Thank you, Kirk. Finally, Craig Robinson and Brad Proctor were essential to our risk committee as difficult decisions were made to balance restrictions and on-ice presence. All in all, this group was composed of rock stars who allowed us to have a great season.

This year was also our first with a formal Technical Director. At this point last year, we hired Tim Boyce for that role and his contribution was nothing less than amazing. He hit the ground running with a fluid and flawless try-out process and balancing game approach. His technical expertise and methodical planning allowed us to create all our teams in a very timely manner. Furthermore, he created "Friday Night Lights" development sessions that were very well received by players and parents. He also instituted a Spring development camp that helped get the kids on the ice at a very affordable price. In addition to all his player development efforts, he was able to help coaches with their practice plans and served as a sounding board for many of their questions. I can say that Tim's contributions during this restriction-filled season were enormous, and the Halifax Hawks are headed for many great development years with him at the helm.

This was also a year of expecting the unexpected. The Halifax Hawks, its members, players, and volunteers were taught a valuable lesson about humanity and how a brilliant young man can teach us about standing up for ourselves. Mark Connors, a young man who faced brutal racial abuse at a tournament in PEI, showed us how courageous he was by denouncing this terrible behavior. He proved to be a hero to us all and worthy of our newly created award bearing his name. Thank you Mark for everything you did. You made sure that social injustice must never be tolerated.

Finally, I want to thank Beth Boyce for her tireless work as our Operations Manager. Her management of all coaching certifications, Hockey Canada registrations and everyday tasks made our jobs easier as a board. As she continues to learn more and more about the different aspects of her job, I am confident that she will continue to shine. I also want to thank a very strong board this past season. Our Directors and VPs were instrumental in ensuring that our teams were aware of our overall process. Claudette and Daniel for keeping me honest when I needed to respond to action items. Chauncey for working tirelessly on our policies and ensuring that the backbone of our documentation was up to date.

We have already started planning for next year and I am very excited to see how we can improve on this past season. Let's hope that the unexpected interruptions are behind us and that we are in for a complete season for the kids. I thank all our outgoing volunteers for their tireless efforts and welcome our new members.

Have a great summer and see you all at the rink.

Spiro Bokolas - President, Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association