



Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association Presidents Report – 2022-2023 Season

Overall

- The first season of non-covid disrupted minor hockey since 2020 has been a great success for the Halifax Hawks, we have seen growth in all our players throughout the season as a much greater sense of community in the association.
- We continue to be indebted to our employees, board members, coaches, managers, and other volunteers in giving up so much of their time to ensure that our players all get to enjoy the season. It was fantastic to be able to thank them for their efforts at our April volunteer appreciation night.
- Overall or performance on the ice continues to show improvement. However, even with the introduction of the Hawks Pledge and our commitment to two deep and other safety policies we have been challenged with both player and parent behavior at times throughout the season and we must continue to focus on addressing this to ensure that hockey is a sport that is accessible to everyone.

Performance against our strategic objectives

1. Increase engagement with the community

- Despite positive initial registrations our overall numbers continue to decline.
- It was positive to see many of the players who were involved in introduction to hockey program enroll for the season.
- We will need to continue to focus on this area to address this ongoing decline.
- Our funded places, sponsorships and gear exchange are making a difference but the financial challenges to many families remain, and we must continue to focus on addressing this.
- We were successful in securing jump start funding again and ran a successful get into hockey program at no cost to the players for ice or equipment, many have indicated they will be enrolling in 2023-24.
- As well as team activities we ran the warm clothing collection and donated to feed Nova Scotia to start the process of giving back to our communities.
- Less positive has been the lack of progress from Hockey Nova Scotia in addressing the females in dressing rooms policy. The Hawks are committed to including everyone and will continue to push for this to be addressed.

2. Increase pride in the association

- The rawk the rink and 3 on 3 events were great examples of the sense of community that continues to grow in the association.
- The first assist program successfully implemented by our TD has also been amazingly positive in this area. It was also great to see Hawks from all teams supporting those teams that made it to finals at various events.
- To progress this further it is critical that we re-establish Centennial as our home. We have invested in the equipment room and will make further improvements throughout the summer with the arrival of the Hawks Nest already having a positive influence.
- We have increased visibility of Executive and Board members at games and events throughout the season.

3. Focus on players

- The addition of our Technical Director has had a tremendous impact on not only development but the overall association. Practice sessions continue to improve as well as support for coaches. The additional camps that are now offered often quickly sell out and always receive positive feedback from participants.
- The goalie sessions continue to be a great success and the addition of power skating made a significant contribution to players development.
- We repeated our get into hockey program in the fall and are thinking about solutions to allow those with limited skating ability to be able to find a route into the sport.
- The member's survey has again been positive, there are always areas for improvement and with plans to better manage registration numbers we should be able to make earlier decisions on numbers of teams in each division.
- Feedback from tryouts was once again very positive.

4. Focus on coaches, managers, volunteers, and parents

- We improved planning for the season but have further work to do in this area. We had a smoother handover to new board members but with some board members not in place until after the start of the season this was not as smooth as it should be.
- Coaches' development and certification continued, there has been greater onus placed on coaches to manage their own certifications which was effective but still led to some coaches being removed / suspended.
- Good attendance at the manager / volunteer session at the start of the year and good engagement from Directors to support this key group.

5. Operational Effectiveness

- We remain in a strong financial position and have been able to invest in equipment and facilities to address previous gaps.
- Our ice management has significantly improved with reduced waste. As ever this remains a topic for much discussion as preferences for timing of games and practices are complex. We have therefore agreed to appoint an ice scheduler for next season who will receive a stipend to recognize the significant time commitment that is required.
- We have established an annual plan for key events which will be followed for the first time in 2023-24.
- We continue to evolve the board as our operations move forward and reflect the skills of the volunteers who move forward.

Finally, I would like to recognize several board members who are stepping down this year, several them after many years of service and all having given up countless hours of time to enable our association to operate. We have been successful so far in recruiting replacements for nearly all positions and I am positive that the new board will continue to drive us forward.