

Director Report - Tournaments

I have a lot of people to thank as running tournaments is a massive team effort!

First, I want to thank all the tournament chairs and tournament committee members for running some awesome tournaments this year! This was our first-time running tournaments in years, and for a lot of families this was their first time ever running a tournament and overall, I thought it was a great year and the tournaments were awesome.

I need to thank Shawn McCaskill and Joel Byron for taking care of the ref assigning and all the scrambling to get refs. Due to a lot of issues the assigning had to be done last minute but they always did their best to get everything taken care of.

A big thanks to Rhonda for helping with the tournament ice times and schedules. She would work with me to help seed the teams and just help in any way she could.

Thanks to Michelle Mitchell for getting a lot of tournament pics onto social media for me.

Thanks to Sheri Doerksen for helping with the gaming licenses and online 50/50 systems. Sheri also helped in other ways for a lot of the tournaments.

Overall, I had a great time as tournament director. I am doing my best to make the Abby tournaments the best that they can be so that teams want to come back year after year. Some of the changes we did this year were using TeamSnap Tournaments to run our tournaments, give teams more games, switched up some of the playoff formats to make things more competitive, started improving our tournament signage and atmosphere, and started using an online 50/50 system to reduce volunteer hours and eliminating the cash needed at tournaments.

It was a bit of a crazy season for tournaments. From August to November, I was replying to approximately 100 emails per day from teams that were looking to join our tournaments or had questions about them. We had the flood that caused teams to have to withdraw last second. We also had tournaments shut down for a couple of months from December to February, and once the tournament ban was lifted, we had to organize a tournament with only two weeks' notice.

I also spent a lot of time at the rink helping all the tournament committees wherever they needed help. I was at the rink almost every day for each tournament except for u11 rec as I had to work those days.

November was an exciting month, we finally got to host some tournaments for the first time in almost 2 years.

First in November was our u18 Memorial tournament. Vickie Cracknell chaired this tournament with a lot of help from Sheri Doerksen. Although I wouldn't say this tournament ran smoothly, it was not the fault of the tournament committee or volunteers, everyone did a great job running this tournament. The big issues were lots of fights and suspensions, dressing room damage (a u18 team removed the sink from the dressing room...), and the big issue was it was difficult to get refs as we have a referee shortage. We had some games with only one or two refs on the ice, and we had to delay the start of some games while we tried to find refs last minute.

The next tournament in November the u15/u18 rec tournament. We had 3 teams withdraw from this tournament last minute due to the flooding, but I was able to replace them with other teams at the last second. This tournament was chaired by Karessa Davis, it was her first time chairing a tournament and she did great. There were no major issues during this tournament other than some fights and suspensions.

The third tournament we hosted was the u13 rep tournament. We had 7 teams withdraw last minute and I was only able to replace 3 of them from the waitlist. This tournament was chaired by Helinda Vanderkooi, it was her first-time chairing and she did fantastic. There were no major issues during this tournament. The 50/50 pot was over \$4000. Abby A1 won Tier 1 in this tournament!

In December we had the u11 rep tournament. This tournament ran great even with teams dropping out last minute for forfeiting their money. Abby A3 won tier 3 in this tournament, defeating a team that was at least 2 flights above them in league play. A big thanks for Foy Buors and the tournament committee for running a great tournament.

In January we ended up canceling the tyke/novice and u13 rec tournaments over Christmas due to the health orders. Since we couldn't run tournaments, we just hosted the teams for exhibition games in the tyke/novice division. We gave out all the swag that was already prepared for this tournament during these exhibition games. Every Abbotsford u6-u9 team participated. Karey Mann was the tournament chair and helped a lot for these exhibition games.

The province decided that tournaments were allowed again in February, so we quickly decided to run the Dallas Saunders memorial tournament on it's originally scheduled dates, Family Day weekend. Melissa Cruickshanks did a great job chairing this tournament. We accepted 20 teams into this tournament. There were a lot of volunteer hours needed by all u15 rep families, but they got it done. Thanks to Dean Arsene, a former teammate of Dallas Saunders, who came out to hand out the Dallas Saunders award to the winner Sam May of u15 A1.

In March we ran the Atom Rec tournament. Laura Preckel was the chair and was awesome. I would recommend switching the dates of this tournament for next year.

Congrats to Dallas Saunders chair Melissa Cruickshanks for winning the AMHA Committee Member of the Year award for all the great work she did chairing the tournament!

I am hoping to be re-elected to the board so I can take our tournaments to the next level.

Thanks

Jamie Young
Tournament Director