

Director, 2nd VP – 2022/2023 Year End Report

This year was my first year in the role of VP2.

We started the season off this year with Dust off the Rust Development sessions that included combine and hitting clinics, that were provided by our AMHA Development Team.

The following coaches lead REP teams this year:

- U11 A1: Justin Plett (Paid)
- U11 A2: Riley Emmerson
- U11 A3: Dan Myer
- U13 A1: Travis Veldhoen (Paid)
- U13 A2: Tim Phillips
- U13 A3: Dustin Mcauley
- U15A1: Austin Ferguson (Paid)
- U15A2: Jon Djekic
- U15 A3: Andrew Mitchell
- U18A1: Jay Campbell

Rep Tryouts occurred in a similar format as previous years with a combine testing component, followed by Inter-squad games and then games. The U11 age group also had a similar format but was not able to start the try out process until the pathway sessions had been completed. This year we were able to complete a Round Robin Tourney with some other associations from neighboring cities for U13 and U15. This year U18 dropped the combine testing and played in intersquad games before moving into Exhibition games with neighboring associations.

I worked with each Division Director throughout the season to ensure assistance was provided in any capacity that they required. Thank you to each Division Director for their hard work this year – from the start of Dust of the Rust camps to the end of the season!

I want to also thank the parents who volunteered throughout the season as our association could not run without parent involvement! Parents and Team Officials worked hard to ensure that the players continued to develop this year and Abbotsford was competitive! Accomplishments to U11A1 for making it to the final four and taking home a second place finish, U11 A2 for making it to the final four and to U11 A3 for winning the banner. U13 teams took first place in each of their respective pools in our own home tournament, and U18 A1 for winning our home tournament as well as making it to the final four. Great efforts were made by U15 A3 for finishing in second place in all 4 of their tournaments this year.

Congratulations to the 5 players from U15 A1 and the 1 player from U15 A2 moving to above minor for the upcoming 2023/2024 Hockey Season.

This year we had U11 A1 participate in the Toys for Tots at Christmas time. They were asked to donate a toy, and they helped box up all the donated toys from the event. U15 A3 gave back to the community this year by running a food drive for the Salvation Army.

Peter Hay and his development team continued providing development for our association. Peter and his coaches ensured top end player development as well as mentoring our coaches as they also participated during on ice sessions. Feedback received from players and their parents last year was incorporated into this season as best as we could based on ice availability and our budget. Feedback regarding our development programming was positive overall and AMHA will continue to build on our Development Program for next year. An area that people have requested further attention is in regards to a Coach Mentorship and AMHA has taken this into consideration with the hiring of Jamie Jackson as Coach Coordinator. There is also the addition of Eric Williams who will be in charge of the goalie development. There will also be a coach mentor for each age division. Names are TBA.

There were a few discipline issues this year that were brought to our attention and addressed with team level investigations. AMHA wants to ensure that our association provides programming that meets the needs of our families and that it is a safe and appropriate environment.

As this season ends, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all coaches and team officials for their commitment to the players this season. A significant amount of work is required to ensure that our players have fun and success and this does not go unnoticed by AMHA. We would not be able to run such a successful minor hockey program without your assistance.

I look forward to staying in my role for the upcoming season.

Thank you

Leichel Duerksen

2nd VP

Abbotsford Minor Hockey Association