

## **President's Year End Report**

With the 2023-2024 hockey season officially in the books, it's time to take a few moments to share the year in review. As many of you know this was my first year in the role of President, and it definitely had challenges and successes. It was wonderful to work with a great team of Board members, who provided skill, knowledge, and passion from all divisions of the organization.

In the first year, I had a lot of learning to do. This role is so much more than the brief list of responsibilities in the policies! With my son being in U11, I had to learn a lot about the older divisions and familiarize myself with the ins and outs of each division for both Rep and House hockey. Thankfully, with a fantastic group of board members, coaches, and managers providing support, much of the learning was made a lot easier!

### **Things that Worked:**

If you ever doubt how much of an impact you can have in Minor Hockey, I would like to encourage you to join the Board. There are always things that need support and energy. With a working board of volunteers, the heavy lifting generally falls to a group of approximately 15 people. Of course, we could not do it without the support of our *\*AMAZING\** Admin Coordinator Hanna! Hanna has supported all of us and kept us on track throughout the season.

The Board contributes so very much to the inner workings of the organization, and these roles are volunteer roles. This year, I have seen almost every board member go above and beyond what is outline in their duties to ensure a successful season on ice for our players, which required many hours away from their families at our meetings, at tryouts, at evaluations, at tournaments, and events. I appreciate the contributions made by this great group of people.

A huge thank you goes out to all volunteers in the organization; this organization is

I also want to send a huge thank you out to our Ice Allocator/Registrar and Referee Allocator. They do so much behind the scenes work to help everything run smoothly.

### **Things that were challenging:**

This is a big role. There were aspects of the season that felt very heavy, and challenges that were faced for various reasons that were out of the control of Coquitlam Minor Hockey. The introduction of the U7 and U9 pathways, as well as the updated pathways for U11 caused much frustration and misunderstanding.

Action for future: Parent meetings in advance of the season to explain any changes.

Team Balancing. Almost every house division had a challenge at some point with balancing. Myself and several other board members have learned so much about balancing this season. I think what I have seen is that all parents want the best for their kids, and sometimes that can get very heated, however, it should never result in mistreatment, bullying, harassment, or other abuse of fellow volunteers in the organization. As a board, we will be taking steps to prevent this in future.

We had several incidences of bullying in our organization this year. Next year, we are hoping to curb this, and really encourage all teams to have their players read, understand, and sign off on the code of conduct. Although this is supposed to happen, we know some teams have gotten away from it.

Overall, we had a more successes than we did challenges, and I hope we can continue that trend into the 2024-25 season! Thank you to all!