

FREDERICTON YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

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ANNUAL REPORTS

President – Frank Collins

Fellow members of the Association:

I was happy when the season started last October, but I was doubtful about us being able to complete a season. When I looked at other provinces with no recreational sport, I figured it was only a matter of time before the “second wave” shut us down. We planned for the worst and hoped for the best, we listened to Public Health guidelines, and we followed the rules of Hockey NB and the City of Fredericton. Like everyone during this pandemic, we felt like passengers -- that had to row. Now that the season is over, please pause to consider that we had one thousand kids participating in hockey with not one Covid-19 transmission between players or volunteers. All things considered... We did it! Everyone deserves thanks for that.

FYHA had other successes along this Yellow, Orange and Red road. We started the season earlier than originally proposed, we engaged external hockey partners to assist with the ranking of players in the tryout phase, we had fantastic collaboration among coaches on the draft process, we cleaned-up outstanding financial records and established a proper accounting system (this was a very big accomplishment), we hosted the largest First Shift program we've ever had, and we successfully offered development sessions for our younger players and coaches with the help of local private hockey. The biggest positive changes, however, lay ahead: changes to our constitution and Operations Manual. Approval of these will be the responsibility of the membership at our annual general meeting. We are proposing a new constitution for the first time in 45 years, which will pave the way for major positive changes to the way hockey is organized in Fredericton.

I want to thank the many volunteers who followed rules to make all this possible. Coaches, Managers, Liaison Officers, Arena Marshals and Screeners...you all did much more than normal in this crazy season. I was inspired by the volunteers who recognized that we just needed to do whatever it took to keep the kids on the ice. You not only made hockey memories for your kids, but also you set a great example of service. They will remember that you were always helping out at the rink.

I could also easily point out extraordinary contributions made by each of our board members. In the interest of brevity, I will highlight the work of our ice management team (Leslie, our Director of Operations; Amanda, Kari, Lori, Natalie, Alex and Fred, our divisional coordinators) who found they had to adjust ice schedules constantly as we moved from colour to colour. For many families, you were a dependable source of order in the chaos. You are my personal selection for MVPs! I would also like to congratulate Mr. Ben MacFarlane for being selected as a *Volunteer of the Year* by Hockey New Brunswick's! As Director of Special Events, Ben took the lead in bringing in external hockey partners to develop our players and coaches. We are fortunate in this city to have such high calibre private hockey instruction available through many partners, and fortunate to have Ben on our team. We look forward expanding our list of partners and offerings to recreational players next year! Thank you, Ben!

When I agreed to serve as President for the association, it was for two reasons: to fix the 45 year old constitution and make changes to the operations manual to foster greater team parity and fair play at all levels. Upon assuming the role on the board, it became clear to some of us that our ability to implement change was limited by our constitution, and that rules of governance (policy and fiscal

responsibility) and operations (delivering hockey) had become blended together over time. Board members have onerous roles, which makes volunteering less attractive, which means long-term board appointments, inherent conflicts of interest and long periods of little or no change; members retreat from the politics. ***It is time to separate these organizational arms through changes to the constitution.*** We have consulted external professionals in the area of not-for-profit governance (corporate lawyers, chartered accountants, and university professors), and the conclusion is that change is required if best practices are to be used, and if the association plans to continue with proper financial reporting. I am very confident in what's proposed, and I am excited about how these by-laws will pave the way for changes to our Operations Manual – where changes will be most felt by players, families and volunteers. Approval of these changes requires your participation, however. Please read the “Proposal for Organizational Restructure of the FYHA” and the motions proposed therein to better understand the need for change.

I want to thank Mr. John O'Toole for his usual commitment as our Executive Director. We are one of the few associations in the province to have an employee in charge of day-to-day operations. This is a necessary and important role for an association our size. John's role will change in the restructure, making him the authority responsible for delivering hockey to families. The proposed by-laws will make it easier for him to focus on the FYHA mission statement. I look forward to working more with him as we transition into a more modern, more dynamic hockey association.

Though many of you stepped up this year, generally, our association suffers from very low volunteerism. It has always been my intention to hold the position of president for only one year, to make room for more volunteers and set an example for members. I look forward to having new faces on the board next year as I assume the role of past-President.

Thank you everyone for your patience and trust!

Socially distanced and with regards,

Frank Collins, P.Eng, FEC

President,
Board of Directors,
Fredericton Youth Hockey Association

General Manager – John O’Toole

We had a full season of hockey!

During the summer of 2020, there was a tremendous amount of uncertainty as to whether FYHA would be able to offer a hockey program in the Fall. COVID19 was at the root of this uncertainty. Thanks to the efforts of our partners and stakeholders – the Province of NB, Public Health and Safety, Hockey Canada, Hockey NB, and the City of Fredericton – we were given the green light to proceed. The uncertainty then became at what point will the program be shut down due to COVID19. That fortunately never happened!

The FYHA AGM took place in early September (typically held in May) where a new Board was formed. This group of volunteers had little time to adjust to their new roles as the season was only weeks away from starting. I would like to thank each Board member for their efforts and contributions during this difficult season. Special thanks is extended to Leslie Paul, Director of Operations, and our Division Directors Amanda MacDougall, Natalie King, Kari-Jane Roze, Lori Massie, Fred Clancy and Alex Vanderlaan. Each of these individuals spent countless hours ensuring that your child could play hockey. Dealing with the ever-changing COVID guidelines and protocols simply added to their already busy workload.

The online registration opened August 23 and an in-person registration event took place on September 12. COVID19 greatly impacted our registration numbers as many families opted not to participate this season. We had a total of 1037 registered members this season down 151 from the 1188 members we had in 2019/20. The U18 Division suffered the greatest loss in membership down 62 players from the previous season.

FYHA was again selected to host three First Shift programs. COVID19 also impacted the delivery of these sessions. Participation was limited to 30 (typically 45) individuals per program and on ice sessions were limited to 30 individuals on the ice (players and coaches). This meant that we needed 4 ice sessions per week over the 6 week period. Thank you to John Burn and the City of Fredericton for finding us the ice and donating it to our First Shift program at no charge. Bauer staff were unable to travel to Fredericton to assist with the Welcome Event, where participants get sized and fitted with new hockey gear. Fortunately, many volunteers donated their time to make the Welcome Event happen – thank you! The First Shift program doesn’t work without the support of the coaches. Thank you is extended to group leaders Joe MacDonald, Andrew McGuire, Brent Wickens and Peter MacWilliam and to all the coaches for their dedication to the program.

This was not the year to actively solicit sponsorship support as many local businesses were struggling with their own COVID19 issues. The Nashwaaksis Lions Club did contribute \$2500 towards the purchase of new jerseys for the U18 Lions. Kristian and Bob DeWar and Fredericton Dairy Queen restaurants donated \$2500 towards the purchase of new jerseys for the U11 DQ Blizzards.

FYHA is very fortunate to have over 205 coaches that are committed to providing a positive hockey experience for every child. This was an extremely challenging year for our coaches as they had to figure out new ways to keep their players interested, engaged, and excited to go to the rink. To the FYHA coaches – your efforts were noticed and greatly appreciated. I would also like to acknowledge Dana Fradsham and Colin DeCoursey and their staff at the City arenas for their contribution to our successful season.

In conclusion, the season was indeed a unique one. The efforts of many volunteers made it a successful one! Thank you to President Frank Collins and each Board member for their support. It was a pleasure working with each of you.

Respectfully submitted,
John O'Toole
General Manager

Director of Operations – Leslie Paul

This season was a season like no other.

First of all, I would like to thank all of the Division Directors – U7 Amanda MacDougall, U9 Natalie King, U11 Kari-Jane Roze, U13 Lori Massie, U15 Fred Clancy (and formerly Stephanie Leduc) and U18 Alex Vanderlaan. They all did an AMAZING job this year, rolling along almost seamlessly with all of the changes that were thrown at them throughout the season with the constant changing of the Covid Alert Levels. Their organization kept their divisions running as smoothly as possible with everything going on. I would also like to thank John O'Toole for always being there to help with everything, day and night! And of course, I can't forget John Burns – the daily phone calls, the patience he had with me nagging him regularly for extra ice, and putting up with my 'OCD' – thank you for being so easy to work with! Every week that we were in the Orange Alert Level we needed to pick up 20+ extra ice times above our regular ice times to be able to get every rec team on the ice twice a week. Thanks to John Burns' efforts we were able to make that happen almost every week.

One of the challenges we face every year is getting enough ice times at suitable times for each division. Typically, the youngest players get the earliest times, while the older players get the later times. Every year we struggle to achieve that, but this year was especially hard, with the 30-minute gaps between ice times, bumping everything a little bit later. I want to thank our entire membership for your patience and understanding that we were doing the best we could with what we were given to work with.

The First Shift program was very successful, after a delayed start while waiting to return to the Yellow stage of the Covid Alert Levels. This year we ran it for the first time on Saturday & Sunday, which took a little bit of the pressure off the need for extra weekday ice times. The attendance rates for the 6-week sessions indicate that mornings were better attended than the afternoon session.

Due to COVID, last year's AGM was held only one month prior to the start of the 2020-2021 season, leaving little time to get everything organized, but we certainly worked hard to get everything going. Some of the Board members seemed to disagree with the guidelines and rules in our Ops Manual, which made the start of the season — tryouts and evaluations — more difficult than usual, as timelines discussed and agreed to were often changed at that last minute. I believe the Ops Manual is there for a reason – to ensure things are done properly, fairly and with consistency. If changes are needed, I think

they should be done the proper way – submitting amendments & having them voted on at the AGM – rather than ignoring existing rules and experimenting with random changes that leave people confused about the appropriate ways to get things done. Several times this season, it was suggested that the Ops Manual is out-of-date. No doubt some updates are needed — maybe even a complete overhaul — but I believe it's important to have a set of approved guidelines to follow, rather than well-intended experimentation that disregards approved guidelines and leads to confusion. Perhaps we should update the Ops Manual, rather than randomly ignoring it.

Among the many things that seriously deviated from procedures set in the Ops Manual, were the way kids are evaluated, who does the evaluations, how the players are grouped for the drafts — both rec & comp — and how the draft was done. Furthermore, not all divisions were treated equally during the evaluation period by those in charge. U11 was strongly focused on, U13 got some help, U15 was an afterthought and U18 wasn't thought about at all. All of these players have paid the same amount of money to play, and they should all be treated equally. And if outside companies are being brought in to run evaluations (and other special development) they need to be parties who are affiliated with HNB and follow HNB's Long-Term Development (LTD) plan.

After tryouts & evaluations were completed, things seemed to settle down. As Director of Operations, one of my duties is supposed to be to form and lead a committee to review and update the Ops Manual. Early in the season, I told the President that I wasn't comfortable being in charge of such a committee, but I would like to serve as a member. The President said that was fine, someone else would look after it. However, despite all the talk about the Ops Manual being out of date, to my knowledge, no such committee has as yet been established.

Both the President & VP are suggesting some major changes for the 2021-2022 hockey season, changes about which I have some serious concerns. The President suggests a total restructuring of the Association, but he doesn't plan to reoffer to implement those changes if they are approved by vote. The Vice-President has hopes to realign the divisions. Many good ideas have been suggested, but the extra weekday ice they would require just isn't there. Even in the 2019-2020 season, which, for the most part was pre-COVID, we were short five weekday ice times to get all of the teams out once, Monday through Thursday. These things need to be examined more closely before voting on those changes, to ensure all the teams can get the ice times we strive for – Rec is one weekday evening and one weekend, Comp is 1 weekday 6 a.m., 1 weekday evening and 1 weekend.

A lot of the decisions made this year weren't Board decisions, or even Board discussions, they were made by individuals or a couple of Board members with no consultation with the rest of the Board. In conclusion, I think safeguards need to be set in place to assure things are being done by the book, and to prescribe consequences for those who deliberately take a different path. The 2020-2021 season was a very difficult one in almost every respect. The almost entirely new board seemed to hope they could revamp the entire system in one season, but were faced with constant changes during the tryout/evaluation process and frequent last minute changes to the alert levels (yellow, orange and red) throughout the season. These circumstances required prompt and clear direction, which the Board found challenging.

Despite these difficulties, all of the coordinators were great to work with, and they tried to handle all of the changes and inconsistencies with appropriate care and understanding. Thanks to everyone for helping us get through a trying time. I appreciated the help.

Leslie Paul
Director of Operations

Director of Female Development – Kelsey Pye

Thank you to all the players, coaches, volunteers and supporters for your patience and participation this season. We faced many challenges once again this year to ensure everyone remained healthy and your compliance with restrictions was greatly appreciated.

This season we had 77 female registrations, up by four from last season, which is encouraging after numbers dipping slightly in the past few years. We hope to see this trend continue and are seeking further development opportunities to ensure we're retaining current players and attracting new ones.

The registration breakdown is as follows: U7 – 21; U9 – 13; U11 – 24; U13 – 16; U15 – 3; U18 – 0.

Due to the various restrictions placed on sports groups throughout the year, we were unable to hold regular development sessions within the FYHA and with outside partners. We hope that the upcoming season will have fewer restrictions and can allow for more interaction between groups.

Female development continues to be an area of growth and is a priority for the association. We welcome your input and are open to opportunities that will help female players in Fredericton and beyond reach their full potential.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsey Pye
Director of Female Development

U7 Division Director – Amanda MacDougall

First off, a very big thank you to all our coaches and on ice helpers, as well as all the extra volunteers, parents, and family members that stepped up this year to assist for contact tracing and arena marshal positions at each ice time! This season would not have been possible without all of your help!

Overall, the U7 2020-2021 season went over very well, considering all the extra restrictions that were put in place. Registration numbers were also very good considering the circumstances. U7 operated out of all the Fredericton arenas.

The season started earlier this year and ended later, which was beneficial because the majority of the season was practice based, but we were able to get in games in the last 3 weeks to make up what was missed throughout the season.

There were 88 U7 Minor players and 88 U7 Major players, with 30 coaches / on ice helpers per division. The divisions were each broken out into 9 teams with 9-10 players per team, originally broken out into 3 practice groups, this was short lived and changed when Covid-19 levels changed so we had to adapt and rearrange for most of the season. It would have been easier to organize an even number of teams, as mentioned in prior years, however with the restrictions of on ice participants I think it worked well that we went with the odd number with smaller team sizes. If the regulations are different for next season, I would recommend an even number of teams in each division, to save on the coordinating of ice times - primarily on the weekends for games.

Ice times were a challenge to consistently secure so there were no set weekday ice times this season. With the ever-changing Covid-19 restrictions and levels, we had to change ice times frequently to adapt and stay within arena restrictions and public health guidelines. Teams had 1 practice week day ice time, and 1 practice/game weekend ice time.

Team Snap was introduced about a month into the season, which I had great feedback on. It made communication much easier from a coordinator perspective and also team members were able to communicate seamlessly with each other. There was a lot to offer that I'm sure wasn't used, however I think it has great potential and I think it would be a great tool to use for registration next season.

Unfortunately, we were unable to host a U7 Jamboree, which I know many kids look forward to. Hopefully we will be able to have this next season!

This was my first year in this role and I believe it went fairly well. I received a lot of positive feedback from coaches and parents regarding my communication with them, and it was very much appreciated. The season would not have been possible without the help received from fellow board members, coaches and parents. I appreciate everyone's patience from this past season and look forward to the 2021-2022 season!

Respectively Submitted,
Amanda MacDougall
U7 Division Coordinator

U9 Division Director – Natalie King

I would like to start by saying thank you to the FYHA board members, coaches, volunteers and parents for making my first year as a coordinator a success. Being a hockey parent, you put in hours making sure you go to the right rink, for the right times, with all the right gear. This year parents volunteered even more time due to COVID restrictions and regulations which needed to be followed. Thank you again to all the parents/family members that volunteered to be team managers, arena marshals and access officers. Without you, the season would not have been able to run. I had no idea the endless hours that are put in by all the volunteers who ensure things run smooth and safe for all of our children. To all these people, thank you!!!!

COVID placed challenges and obstacles for FYHA/HNB but, I believe we rose to the challenge. U9 minor and major consisted of 8 teams each comprising of 10-12 players on each team. We began the year a few weeks earlier and was able to extend a few weeks later. Although, we had lots of skills and drills practices due to restrictions with games, we were able to end the season with lots of games for the players. Both minor and major groups played half ice games for most of the season but, thankfully the major groups were able to play full ice games with officials from the beginning of March till the end of the season. We were able to pick up 21 extra ice times for the season between the two groups.

Although we were unable to have any tournaments, we did have some exciting events for the U9 players. First, we introduced a "Developmental Day" with the UNB men's hockey coach, Gardiner MacDougall and some of the VRED's players. This was an extra ice time with new drills and skills learned from Coach Mac with tons of enthusiasm which the kids loved!!! Second, with the help of Ben MacFarlane, power skating sessions were introduced. These sessions did have an extra financial cost but worth every penny from the feedback of the players and families. Finally, the goalie clinics were also

available with the help of Ben MacFarlane. The parents and players loved these as well and found them very beneficial to all the new goalies.

Some of the challenges included ice times not being consistent during the week. Due to two of the weekly ice times being on a Friday we decided to rotate weekly to ensure it was fair to all coaches, players and families. Another challenge was the number of volunteers needed to comply with the rules and regulations of COVID.

Team Snap was initiated about a month into the season. This made communication much easier for families and received positive feedback. My suggestion would be to purchase this for the beginning of next season.

Next season I would also encourage FYHA not to insist on a face to face for first time players. I would have everything done electronically and offer any new families the option to reach out for questions/concerns. I would also offer a spot on the form for families to write if they are requesting any players to be on the same team, this may lessen the trades during the season and decrease some of the coordinator's workload.

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie King
U9 Division Coordinator

U11 Division Director – Kari-Jane Roze

This 2020-21 hockey season, we had 10 recreational teams and 4 competitive teams. Unlike other years, they began their seasons at the same time, making the start of the season tricky with regards to competitive tryouts. I understand that we did not have a choice but starting both groups at the same time is not something I would recommend for the future. I was disappointed with how competitive tryouts were done this year. I do not agree with having outside companies ranking the kids and felt these were very biased opinions (ie. they ranked the kids who paid into their programs, ie. Champions, the highest). I did not agree with putting kids in bins either. It was raised last year that coaches should not be ranking their own age group and I agree with this; however, it still carried on this way and no changes were made. I did find that the rec teams were uneven and agree with last years' recommendation to have a tiering system. It was also recommended by a coach to cap the rec teams at 14 players if they have 2 goalies, as it enabled the two goalies to rotate games in goal and one could play out as they'd have a maximum of 15 skaters/3 lines with one of the goalies playing out. If there were 15 skaters and 2 goalies, it would be harder to do this as having more than 3 lines is a pain for coaches to manage and more importantly not good for the kids.

The numbers of volunteers who stepped up to coach was amazing! I hope every year to see as many enthusiastic parents willing to help. Getting Covid volunteers was a bit more challenging; however, it all worked out and we were never without.

I was very impressed and thankful that the players, parents and coaches were easy to deal with and there were not any major problems with this season. Everyone was understanding of the constant changes to the schedule due to Covid restrictions and knew that this was simply out of my control and for the most part, out of FHYA's control.

The goalie clinics were a hit and I'm looking forward to seeing what other types of development clinics we will be able to have next year. The kids really benefit from having that focused training and enjoy it as well. I think it would be beneficial to have defense clinics to get kids hyped about playing D. Everyone wants to play forward because they want to be the goal scorers but typically, you cannot have good forwards without great defense players so it would be nice to have development around that.

All-in-all, it was an interesting season with many up's and down's and late nights but in the end, it's for the kids and they all still got more ice time than most kids in the country and should all be very happy with how lucky we've been!

Kari-Jane Roze
U11 Division Director

U13 Division Director – Lori Massie

What a strange season this was. Thank you for being incredibly patient with the COVID restrictions this season. It wasn't easy, at times frustrating, but you all made it! I hope your skaters enjoyed their season.

The U13 (formerly peewee) competitive group had 3 teams of 17 players and the U13 recreational group had 8 teams of 14 players for 163 total players in the division.

The season began with ice times starting simultaneously for both the competitive and recreational groups, a change from past seasons. Each group participated in warm up skills & drills sessions, followed by evaluation skills & drills and then modified evaluation games. This process allowed coaches to draft players to teams. I think this helped to create equally competitive teams in both divisions.

Unfortunately, our season was hampered by COVID restrictions, closing rinks and restricting teams to practices for prolonged periods of time. We were able to play games again after March break so that the players could show off their well practiced skills.

As a first time division director, there were a lot of things to learn, very quickly. After a few bumps in the road, I feel the season went quite smoothly. There seemed to be more consistency with ice times and fewer last minute changes (thanks Leslie!) due to no tournaments or special events being held in the city's rinks.

Are there improvements that could be made? Absolutely. I would recommend that all evaluation skills & drills sessions are run by external evaluators, not just the competitive groups. In the recreational group, it was challenging for coaches to evaluate the large numbers of kids. It also helps to eliminate some of the inherent bias that comes with knowing players from an early age. I would also suggest that the same team of evaluators be used for all sub-groups/ice times within each of the competitive and recreational groups. This helps to eliminate the risk of one team of evaluators evaluating 'harder' than another.

A big thank you goes out to the group of coaches in both the competitive and recreational programs. You challenged your players to grow and develop and they succeeded. That is because of you. I know I saw a lot of sweaty, smiling faces from the players (even under the masks) leaving the rinks! You were incredibly supportive of me and my steep learning curve. I think we developed a mutually respectful

relationship and I appreciate that. I hope you all continue your coaching career with FYHA in which ever division you are in next year. We cannot do this without you.

All of our other volunteers need to be thanked as well. We asked a lot more of you this year. Our team managers, COVID screeners and arena marshalls were all instrumental in making this season successful in spite of all of the restrictions and challenges. As the rules changed, you adjusted and made it look easy So, thank you.

Finally, kudos to the teams who adapted and found a new COVID safe way to 'shake hands'. By lining up on the blue lines and banging their sticks on the ice they were able to thank and celebrate the other team after a game. It caught on pretty quickly. What great sportsmanship!

I hope to see you all again next season. Fingers crossed for a more 'normal' year!

Respectfully,
Lori Massie
FYHA U13 Division Director

U15 Division Director – Fred Clancy

I would like to start by saying thank you to all the head coaches, assistant coaches and managers for volunteering this season. This season has been like no other we have experienced, but with your dedication and hard work, we made it through. I also want to send a huge thank you out to the parents, families and players, without your tremendous support and understanding this season would not have been possible.

I came into this position at the beginning of December, after all of the evaluations were conducted. As such I am unable to comment on the conduct of these events.

This year there were 7 teams in the U15 Recreation division, as well as 2 Competitive teams. We started playing games in early December until the move to Orange Phase in the beginning of January. During the short 3 week window, each U15 Recreation Team played an average of 10 games before we reverted to practices only.

During the 2 months of practices only, teams were all allotted full ice practices, allowing them to work on their skills and develop. This was not an easy time for players and coaching staff, but everyone made the best of the situation.

On the 8th of March we were able to start up games again, and in the following 3 weeks we squeezed in 28 games, which allowed every team to play each other once as well as a modified single elimination finals. Unfortunately, with the shorter playing window, we were unable to conduct a year end tournament, but did manage a single elimination finals. The final game was conducted on 31 March 2021, which saw the FYHA U15 Flyers winning.

On the competitive side, we had the Nashwaaksis Lions Club and Swifty's Capitals. The Competitive branch was also impacted by the recovery phases, not only of the Fredericton area, but throughout the province. There was several games canceled due to the recovery phase the teams they were set to play was in. They too saw a 2 month postponement of games, and only had practices from Jan to early

March. In the end our Competitive teams came out strong, leading to the FYHA Lion competing in a modified district 3 final, in which they captured the title against the Oromocto Eagles.

I want to thank everyone once again for their support throughout the season. I appreciated the opportunity to be the U15 Division Coordinator. Thank you to everyone for their patience and understanding while I was learning the ropes and when changes were required. I also want to thank all members of the FYHA Board for all the assistance and guidance they provided. A huge thank you goes out Leslie Paul, Director of Operations in all her hard work to ensure ice times were always available and accurate, accommodating change requests and all the guidance she provided.

Thank you,
Fred Clancy
FYHA U15 Director

U18 Division Director – Alex Vanderlaan

This was a very difficult year, let alone season, for everybody. There were many challenges presented due to the pandemic to add to the typical challenges of running a hockey season. While I believe it was worth it in the end to hold a season, I regret that we were not able to complete a full season for our players, especially the 30+ players that are graduating and moving on from minor hockey. To those players moving on, I wish you the best of luck in wherever life takes you.

Recreation Division

This season we had 74 players in the Recreation division, placed among four teams with 17-18 skaters and 1 goaltender each. These numbers are significantly down from last season, the assumption being that this can be mostly, if not fully attributed to the pandemic. Due to the low number of teams, the decision was taken for the Rec division to play in the District 3 League for the first time in many years. Playing in the District League this season was well-received. I received virtually no negative feedback from any members and having the opportunity to play more teams seemed to be appreciated. The U18 Rec division should continue to play in the District League going forward.

Once we returned to Yellow in March, District playoffs were able to be played. The 10 teams were separated in two divisions: the top 5 teams from the regular season in Division A and the bottom 5 in Division B. Each division had 2 FYHA teams. After a round robin play-in, 3 of the FYHA teams found themselves in their respective division finals. The Storm played a hard-fought series against Stanley in Division A, but lost in 2 games after a nail-biting shootout. The Blues and Whalers faced off in the Division B final with the Blues coming out on top in 2 games.

A big challenge presented this year was the lack of goaltenders at the U18 level. With only four goaltenders in the Rec division, the number of teams that could be created was restricted to four. This restriction meant teams were overloaded with more skaters than normal which in turn affected the amount of ice time players received when the entire team was present for a game. Efforts were made prior to the draft to find another goaltender with no luck.

As mentioned previously, the low numbers can mostly be attributed to the pandemic. However, it should be a concern to the association that goaltending numbers may continue to drop off at the U18 level. With new priorities as players get to high school and the pressures of playing in the goaltending

position, they may lose interest and drop out of hockey. Extra focus should be given to retaining goaltenders as they age.

Competitive Division

There were 17 skaters and 2 goaltenders on the U18 Comp Lions this season. The team competed in the U18 NB Central League to start the season, but regrettably the remainder of the season was cancelled in February while in Orange Phase. The Lions were able to schedule a number of exhibition games when we returned to yellow to close out the season.

There was the suggestion that there should be two teams at the U18 competitive level, one at the AA level and one at the A level. While there would be developmental benefits to having a second comp team at the U18 level and it has been done in other cities in the province, consideration must be given to the registration numbers at the start of the season before a commitment can be made to two teams. The U18 comp division competes for membership with the High School AAA teams in the city and loses a significant number of players on the registration list before the team can be finalized. In order to commit to a second team at the start of tryouts, no less than 60 skaters should be signed up to the comp tryouts for this option to be viable. Additionally, consideration should be given to how the Rec division will be impacted should a second comp team be created. For example, this season it would not have been possible without crippling the Rec division due to the goalie shortage.

Finally, I would like to thank all the coaches and managers for their efforts in a very difficult season, and sticking with it to the bitter end! There was a great group of volunteers at the U18 level and we encountered very few bumps in the road. A special thank you as well to Leslie Paul and John O'Toole for their continued support and guidance throughout the season.

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Vanderlaan
U18 Division Director

Director of Special Events – Ben Macfarlane

Events Cancelled due to Covid:

- Mitch Clarke Timbit/U7 Classic
- Novice/U9 Jamboree
- Capital Invitational for U11/13/15/18

Skill development sessions that took place during the season were:

- U9 development day with the UNB reds, each U9 team over 2 weekends were invited to take part in a practice ran by Coach Mac and his staff/players. In addition to this a coaching workshop hosted by Coach Mac for the U9 coaches.
- Power Skating- With extra weekend ice we were able to offer 9 power skating sessions, 3 to each U9 player that signed up. Coaches employed for this were Total Speed Staff, Rob Hennigar/Brad Good, and Champions.
- Goalie Clinics- Goalie clinics were offered to all FYHA goalies, the 4 fall sessions were ran by Eric Pye. After Christmas we were scheduled to continue with sessions, coached by Kyle MacDonald, but the covid restrictions forced this to be cancelled.

- Going forward I recommend the FYHA prioritize, and schedule weekly Goalie clinics open to all FYHA goalies. For players skill development programs could be added as part of the program over the course of the season like the power skating clinics from this season. In addition, a group skills session would be a good way to get female hockey players together in addition to their regular groups.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ben MacFarlane
Director of Special Events

Director of Officials – Matt Forster

During the 2020-21 hockey season there were 46 officials registered with the Fredericton Minor Hockey Officials Association. We had 4 new officials in the association. The decrease in number of officials from previous season forced some lower level (u-11 and u-13 rec) games to us two officials system opposed three officials system.

52 officials worked games this season with games being worked for FYHA, EDZA West, CFMA, Stanley, Keswick, York North, and Grand Lake. The total number of the games worked by officials is 525 games. I would like to take this opportunity to thank FMHO treasure James Culligan and assignor Eric Drummie for their hard work to make sure the association ran smoothly. Thank you to the FYHA for supporting officials' development.

Officials Accomplishment

We have had several officials work in the provincial play offs for male and female AAA hockey at the u-13, u-15, and u-18 levels. There were several officials who progressed into working higher levels of hockey such as u-18 AAA, high school, MHL, NBJHL and Usport.

Recommendation to improve the FMHOA

- **Recruit individuals to aid with coaching of officials.**
- **Increase the number of games that official coaches are at.**
- **Recruit more new officials for the association.**
- **To have senior officials help officiate more games at the u-15 and u-18 level to aid with official's development.**

Recommendation for FYHA

- **Provide financial support for more official coaches to aid with development of officials.**
- **Aid in recruiting new officials as our numbers were down this season.**
- **For the FYHA to continue to look at ways to decrease the level of abuse that officials receive from spectators and coaches. Abuse received by the officials was a negative aspect of the officials' experience.**

Respectfully Submitted By



Matthew Forster

Director of Discipline – Aaron Frizzell

The 2020/ 2021 season defiantly posed a learning curve for myself as a new member of the FYHA board of directors. As it was my first year in the capacity of Director of Discipline there was much to learn with regards to how incident reports are submitted, received and investigated. On top of all this we were living and playing through the global pandemic of Covid-19. The year itself remained rather quiet until the final few weeks in which several investigations, approximately 7, were initiated. All in all, the year was what I would consider a success under the circumstances. I truly enjoyed being involved in any and all attempts to make the overall operations for the FYHA more concise and transparent.

Strengths

As the Director of Discipline, I quickly became aware of the ongoing needs of holding people accountable. At the end of the day, it is incumbent on us all to lead by example and remember why we are doing what we do. It is, and always will be, for the kids! As such, we must be clear with our expectations on not only the youth that step on the ice but also the coaches, parents, officials, board members and all those who volunteer countless hours to help run the FYHA. I believe my position as a police officer has offered me the opportunity to remain objective and unbiased during any incident report investigations. As well, the excellent communication within the board has provided me with a great level of support and this is truly where the strength of the team lies.

Challenges

An obvious challenge for me this year involved all contact information for individuals identified in incident report complaints. As is usually the case it is not uncommon for people to change contact information such as phone numbers, emails and so on from year to year. As a result, the timeliness of the investigations took longer than perhaps some would like due to the inability to speak with witnesses. Without obtaining all information from parties involved and independent witness it makes it difficult to arrive at an understating of what had actually occurred. In my opinion this is where we need to get better and should be exploring alternative ways of updating the contact information database from year to year.

Closing Comments

During my first year on the FYHA Board of Directors, I found the overall role to be a comfortable one. I certainly don't mind interacting with any individuals who are subjects of complaints and take pride in getting the appropriate results under the circumstances. I don't see room for improvement within the role and the overall structure but was certainly happy with the results that were rendered for each incident report investigation. I look forward to what challenges next year will bring.

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Frizzell
Director of Discipline

Director of Property and Equipment – Sean Fraser

New jerseys – U18 Midget Lions - \$2540.57

Regular Pucks = \$ 2104.5

Blue Pucks (Jr) = \$ 1282.5

Replacement Jerseys \$479

Cones = \$751.78

New U11 DQ Blizzard jerseys = \$3440

Coaches Covid masks/gators - \$2300

Goalie Neck Protectors = \$ 142.31

Total = \$ 13,040.66

2020/21 FYHA Volunteer Awards

HNB Volunteer of the Year Award

- Ben Macfarlane

FYHA Division Awards

U7 Division

- Chris Corman
- John Bowles

U9 Division

- Chris Mahon
- Ben Macfarlane

U11 Division

- Dan Standing
- Holly Hoyles

U13 Division

- Marc-Andre Lessard
- Jamie Cambers

U15 Division

- Bob Porter
- Kevin McWhirter

U18 Division

- Kelly Layden
- Mary-Jane Varlan