

FREDERICTON YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Presented at the Annual General Meeting
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President and Vice-President

I just want to say Thank You for being a part of the FYHA for the 2021-2022 season. We had no idea what this season would look like due the pandemic uncertainties. We are optimistic with the way the season finished that the 2022-2023 next year hockey season will be a much more normal one.

Adjustments made for 2021-2022 Season

- Rec teams were made with a focus on parity within the league. Removed the draft from the process.
- U7/U9 teams were made larger to allow for tiered game play within the teams/games.
- AA, A, rec format for U11-U18, seeking to have more kids playing within their comparable skill level.

Constitutional reform

Ongoing consultations throughout the year. Ad hoc committee received formal support from the board to engage legal services. First draft prepared and reviewed by the board. More discussion and legal work required to bring a final working document before the membership. Michelle McNeil and Rachelle Standing from the ad hoc committee will provide a full update at the AGM.

Finances

A budget was prepared and presented to the board before puck drop of the season, and unaudited report of the FYHA finances will be presented to the membership at the AGM.

An ongoing pursuit at Teed Saunders Doyle to have the 2020-2021 season audited, as well as tax returns filled for all previous years.

I would like to highlight some recent successes from around the FYHA.

U11

U11C FYHA Champs- Flyers in addition to a tournament win in Stanley and finalist in Tri County

U11A District 3 Finalists- Nashwaaksis Lions

U11AA District 3 Champs- FYHA DQ Blizzards

U11AA District 3 Finalists- Nashwaaksis Y's Men Wildcats

U13

U13C FYHA Gold- Penguins, Silver-Flyers, Bronze- Kings

U13A- Provincial representatives - the Ice Dogs at U13A Provincials.

U13AA District 3 Champs- Fredericton Mitsubishi Outlanders

U13AA Provincial Representatives- DQ Blizzards and a silver in the top division at SEDMHA tournament in NS.

U15

U15 C FYHA Gold-Flyers, Silver- Canadiens, Bronze-Leafs

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U18

U18AA Provincial Finalists- Nashwaaksis Lions Club Lions

Looking Forward

It is still early days but some small changes being considered for the upcoming season are as follows

- Starting U7, U9, U11 earlier in mid-September, ahead of U13 and U15 that logistically need to wait until the end of the respective AAA tryouts are completed.
- Starting U18 division later due to high school tryouts, mid-October
- Exploring options for enhanced opportunities of game play around the province for U13 and U15 AA. Work on expanding teams in our area to create a better league for the kids.
- U9 tiering as HNB recommended to start this past season. This was something that we chose to wait for to better understand the challenges and benefits for our organization. With waiting and seeing the pros/cons after one season, I believe we can confidently implement this at the U9 level within the FYHA. Since travel at this time is resuming, this will benefit FYHA teams to better correlate with other areas around the province.
- Mike Gillingham, Eric MacDougall, and Mark Parrill are working to look at ways to create a more consistent experience within the FYHA, starting at the U7 and U9 levels and moving up the age groups with a focus on the recreation divisions.

We are always looking for ideas on how to serve the membership better, so as always feel free to reach out with any ideas or input you might have.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben MacFarlane
President

Kent Brewer
Vice-President

General Manager

FYHA registration for the 2021/22 season kicked off September 1st via an online option only. A designated in-person registration was not offered this year as we tried to avoid large gatherings due to COVID and encouraged all members to register online. This was an extremely late registration kick off, typically registration would open in early August, and can be attributed to the fact that Hockey Canada introduced a new online registration platform. With very limited training offered, the new HCR 3.0 platform proved to be somewhat challenging. There were 1044 members registered with FYHA for the 2021/22 season. This number was up slightly from the previous year but still short of our 2019/20 pre COVID season of 1160 members.

FYHA participated in the Canada Summer Jobs program for the first time and welcomed Cameron Hay and Katie Stewart to the fold. Katie and Cameron spent the summer working on many different tasks including conducting a complete inventory of our equipment and organizing the equipment room located at Willie O'Ree Place. It was a pleasure working with Cameron and Katie!

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In an effort to streamline and improve our evaluation process, Fredericton's Brent Grant was approached to establish a group of independent evaluators. Brent is well known in the hockey community, and he was able to gather a group of very knowledgeable hockey people to help with our A/AA and REC evaluations. I would like to thank Brent and his evaluators for their contribution and support.

The introduction of additional A/AA teams at the U11, U13, U15 and U18 Divisions meant that new jerseys needed to be purchased. This presented some delays but eventually all teams did receive their new jerseys. FYHA was fortunate to have some new jersey sponsors come on board – thank you to Fredericton Mitsubishi, Appcast, St Mary's Entertainment, Swifty's 15 Minute Oil Change and JH Sports for their support.

Tournaments were on, off and then back on this season as we dealt with COVID. FYHA hosted a U18 A/AA tournament in late November 2021 that featured 8 teams. Congratulations to the U18AA Nashwaasskis Lions Club Lions on winning this tournament. We were extremely happy, and surprised, when HNB announced mid-February that tournaments could start back up. The 45th Nashwaaksis Lions Capital Invitational tournament was a tremendous success - over 90 teams took part, kids were excited to be able to play in a tournament again and over \$42,000 was raised for FYHA. This success can be attributed to the amazing support and hard work of all sponsors and volunteers. The U9 Jamboree featured 37 teams and was a fantastic way to wrap up the season! Unfortunately, the U7 Jamboree was cancelled due to Covid restrictions in place at the time.

There were a few discipline issues that came up during the season. Thank you to Director of Discipline, Aaron Frizzell, for his diligence in getting these issues investigated. Looking ahead to the upcoming season, efforts will be made to ensure that all coaches, managers, and teams are aware and familiar with the Electronic Devices/Dressing Room policy.

The 2021/22 season was overall a very successful season – and two groups played a huge role in this success. Our group of FYHA coaches, on-ice helpers and managers are second to none. Your commitment to providing the kids with instruction and guidance is truly appreciated. Your efforts, especially during these difficult times, are noticed and appreciated – thank you. Our program would not be able to operate without the dedication and commitment from our Division Directors. People do not realize or appreciate the amount of work that goes into running a division. Things get busy in early October, and they stay busy for the next 6 months! Amanda, Natalie, Michelle, Lori, Fred, and Alex – thank you for your hard work, commitment to excellence and intestinal fortitude during a challenging year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank President Ben Macfarlane 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

First of all, I would like to thank all of the Division Directors – U7 Amanda MacDougall, U9 Natalie King, U11 Michelle McNeil, U13 Lori Massie, U15 Fred Clancy, and U18 Alex Vanderlaan. They all did an AMAZING job this year, easily adapting to necessary changes due to COVID restrictions being imposed and lifted without much notice. I would also like to thank John O’Toole for always being there to help with everything. He was always available for a phone call, a meeting or anything that was needed. And of course, I can’t forget John Burns – the daily phone calls, texts & emails, the patience he had with me nagging him regularly for extra ice and putting up with my ‘OCD.’ Thank you to everyone for being so easy to work with and working so hard to get the kids on the ice as much as possible.

To start out the season, the number of competitive teams was increased, creating an A & AA division from U11 and up. This created challenges from a scheduling aspect, as more 75-minute ice times were needed, as well as weekday early morning practices. In order to create more 75-minute ice times, we decided to try putting a U7/U9 with back-to-back weekday ice times, with no flood in between, giving us an extra 15 minutes to add to an ice time later in the evening. However, that created other problems, because this now meant U11 and/or U13 now had more 4:30 p.m. ice times, and it was difficult to get officials at that time, so very few games were played on the weekdays. A better solution will have to be looked at for next season. Also, we were unable to get enough weekday early morning ice times from the city to accommodate the increased need. We were able to get a couple of weekly ice times from UNB, but still fell short for one team, which ended up getting a Friday afternoon time instead. Not an ideal substitution but seemed to work out okay this season.

There were some modifications as to how the draft/team selections were made for both competitive and recreational teams, but overall, it seemed to go well. I think with a little bit of tweaking the teams could end up fairly well balanced.

FYHA has approximately 100-110 ice times per week (when special events don’t interfere), and we strive to provide 3 ice times per week for competitive teams, including 1 weekday early morning, 1 weekday evening and 1 weekend ice time and 2 ice times per week for recreational teams, including 1 weekday evening and 1 weekend ice time. Due to Special Events this isn’t always possible, but we do pick up extra ice times to try to make up for times we don’t have during Special Events. These are frequently given to us just only a few days ahead of time, which is why teams don’t always get much notice when scheduled for these times. Also, if teams are out of town for games or tournaments, we are rarely able to replace the times they weren’t able to use, as the demand for ice is so high.

I am only aware of a couple of double bookings & scheduled ice that went unused, and in each of those circumstances it was either an oversight or a miscommunication about who was scheduled for the ice. Unfortunately, with so many divisions & teams in each division, that is bound to happen once in a while. But everyone involved worked together to try to correct the errors.

Unfortunately, due to COVID, we experienced a pause in the hockey season. In mid-December the province announced hockey (and other sports) would be suspended for all children under 12, and those 13 years and older could practice, not play games, and about 4 weeks later it was announced there would be a total shutdown for 2 weeks. We hope this won’t happen next year!

In early February, we were given the go-ahead to resume our annual special events, starting with the Capital Invitational. This gave us 10 days to put together Week 1 (U11/U13), and just one week after

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that, Week 2 (U15/U18). Fortunately, thanks to everyone who stepped up – board members & parent volunteers – we were able to pull it off. With over 90 teams participating, that is very impressive. A HUGE thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make these weekends so successful!

To finish the season for U9, the U9 Jamboree was held in mid-March, where we hosted close to 40 teams from across the province. Our U9 Division Director, Natalie King, really stepped up and made sure everything ran smoothly all weekend long. She spent the majority of the weekend at the rinks and made sure this was another successful event. Great job Natalie!

We weren't able to hold Championship Day at the end of Christmas Break this year, due to the 'practice only' rules at the time, but we were able to hold the end-of-season Championship Day, which we did a little differently this year – holding consolation games, which we don't normally do.

This was because, right up until the end of the season, we were trying to get everyone on the ice as much as possible to make up for the shutdown we had mid-season. In 'normal' years this isn't something we would usually do, as there isn't always enough ice available.

I do still have serious reservations about the direction the board is looking to take in revamping the constitution/by-laws, going with a governing board instead of an operational board. I think in order to efficiently and effectively run an organization of this size, the board members need to be involved in and understand the day-to-day operations and needs of the organization, not making decisions at arm's length. However, until the new document is completed, I will hold out hope that this will be reconsidered.

In conclusion, although we did have some challenges, especially due to COVID, things seem to be slowly returning to 'normal'. Despite these difficulties, all of the division directors were great to work with, and they tried to handle all of the changes as smoothly as possible.

Thanks to everyone for helping us get through another bumpy season! I appreciated the help.

Leslie Paul
Director of Operations

Director of Female Development

This was my first year on the Board and I want to thank everyone for their warm welcome and tremendous commitment to youth hockey. We had a great season, despite a significant unfortunate interruption. Female registration increased slightly this year to 80 registrants. The registration breakdown is as follow: U7- 22, U9 - 22, U11 – 18, U13 - 16, U15 - 2; U18 – 0.

The FYHA made significant efforts this year to offer dedicated opportunities for female players and I am so pleased by the results. It began, in collaboration with Mark Parrill, Director of Coaching, with the issuance of a Coaching News recognizing the diversity of the FYHA membership and offering tips for inclusive coaching. Thanks to the Board's commitment and the amazing dedication and leadership of Terry Francis, female-only skills and drills sessions were offered for different age groups. Unfortunately,

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due to public health shutdowns and limited ice-time, we were unable to offer as many sessions as we would have liked.

The FYHA hosted a World Girls Hockey Day event, along with thousands of people from around the world, celebrating and growing the female game through committed engagement and retention of female players.

In another success this year, we received permission from Hockey New Brunswick to allow our female players who play co-ed hockey, to also have a chance to play as a group in some exhibition games. While we were unable to schedule the games due to COVID-19, this is a positive step for female development that we will hope to capitalize on next year.

I am extremely hopeful for the continued success of female development within the FYHA. I encourage the next Board to recruit, retain and engage its female players through development opportunities both on and off the ice.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachelle Standing
Director of Female Development

Director of Coaching

I'd like to start by thanking all the volunteers and board members for their work and dedication. After several years of coaching in FYHA being a board member has been an eye-opening experience and certainly had its challenges. The dedication of many of our volunteers is to be commended.

As with previous seasons, this year was dramatically affected by COVID-19. Public Health Restrictions, last minute schedule changes, cancellations and complete shutdowns seem to have become the norm and make the logistics of facilitating a hockey season much more of an issue. It also limited the potential for development sessions.

The major theme of this year was divisional realignment. I believe it was a resounding success. Having players aligned in similar skill groups proved its worth in all levels of play as it seemed players were put in a position for better development and were able to be more engaged in play.

Coach selection was similar as previous years. A selection committee consisting of myself, the Executive Director, President, Vice President and Director of Operations reviewed applications based on credentials, previous coaching history and disciplinary history. A short list of coaches was then sent out and finalized as the evaluation process wrapped up.

There were only a few minor incidents brought to my attention as Director of Coaching and I was able to speak with individuals involved in most cases for clarification.



Future Considerations:

- Division realignment, although successful, did create some challenges for the coach selection process. Given that most coaches are parents, this requires some level of prediction as to what division their children will end up in. With a second tier of competitive teams this did create some confusion. It may be necessary to delay head coach selection until rankings are complete.
- The fall evaluation process created some stress for some. A common comment from coaches was not being able to commit to many hours of evaluation in a short time. Competitive coaches were required to evaluate rec divisions as soon as the competitive evaluations were complete. A less condensed and staggered evaluation process could relieve some of this strain. Using other organizations to help with on-ice duties would also help.
- Fair play seems to be an ongoing issue. Guidelines must be made clear to coaches and work needs to be done on enforcing these guidelines.
- An off season focus this year will be providing coaches (starting with U7 and U9) some standardized practice plans. The aim is to foster consistent development across groups. We will also explore tiering for these younger ages.
- I have spoken with several coaches and parents since the end of the season and welcome feedback from the year end survey on how to improve next year. I believe this year was a success and hope to build on the experience moving forward.

Mark Parrill
Director of Coaching

U7 Division

First off, a very big thank you to all our coaches and on ice helpers. This season would not have been possible without all of your help!

Overall, the U7 2021-2022 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, and we had 2 weekends at the Chipman Arena due to limited ice availability in the city.

The season started on time this year, but we experienced a 2 month break from Dec-Feb due to COVID-19 restrictions. Thankfully we were able to continue the season in February 2022 for about a month, but unfortunately, we were not able to catch up on all our time we missed.

There were 107 U7 minor players and 74 U7 major players, with 32 coaches/on ice helpers in the U7 minor division and 27 in the U7 major division. The minor division was broken out into 3 practice groups and 6 teams, the major group was broken out into 2 practice groups and 4 teams. As I recommended last year – having an even number of teams was much easier from a scheduling perspective.

Ice times were set on a rotational basis every 2 weeks due to having Friday ice times in the rotation to make it fair. With the lack of ice available, we had to change ice times frequently to accommodate each

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team with their 2 ice times per week. Teams had 1 practice weekday ice time, and 1 practice/game weekend ice time.

Team Snap was used again this season, which I had great feedback on. It makes communication much easier from a coordinator perspective and also team members are able to communicate seamlessly with each other.

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 2nd year in this role, and I believe it went fairly well. I received a lot of positive feedback from coaches and parents 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 2022-2023 season!

Respectively Submitted,
Amanda MacDougall
U7 Division Director

U9 Division

I would like to start by thanking all the FYHA board members, coaches, parents and players for making my second year as a coordinator a success. There are endless hours put in by all mentioned above to ensure our children have a fun and safe hockey season. So, to you all, thank you!!!

U9 is divided into two divisions; U9 Major which is children with birthdates in 2013 and U9 Minor which is children with 2014 birthdates. U9 Major was comprised of 6 teams with 16-18 children on each. U9 Minor was comprised of 6 teams with 15-17 children on each. I placed 2 teams in a group for practices during weekday ice time and until games began on weekends. This strategy helped with consistency for players and coaches and with COVID it helped with tracking and containing the spread. We had a total of 30 ice times over 15 weeks. U9 was able to pick up a few extra ice times this season but due to coach availability it is not consistent over the teams.

The season came with many challenges and obstacles this year unfortunately. COVID had began to rapidly spread and lead to a shut down of approximately 2 months. This was extremely hard on the children to be away for this long. Also, the infection rate of players, parents and coaches of COVID became at an all-time high which lead to missing more time due to isolation periods.

Another major challenge was the lack of officials for the U9 Major games. Having officials for these games helps to educate the children on the fundamentals of rules associated with hockey. We were unable to have officials for the season and I believe this potentially delays some of the learning for the children.

Although we experienced another difficult year due to a pandemic, we were able to end our season with the U9 Jamboree which was a great success. The Jamboree allowed the children to experience games

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with officials which was one of the most mentioned highlights. There is such an exciting feel during a tournament for players and I am thankful they got to experience this as we have missed this last year. Each team was guaranteed 3 games and although there were some areas which could be improved with the schedule, I believe they all had fun.

One of the positives this year was also the consistency with weekday ice time. We had a rotating schedule of 2 weeks which allowed families to better plan for their weeks and other activities. This was one of the challenges identified from last year so I was glad we could improve on this point.

Another positive for this season was the U9 technical director, Eric MacDougall. He provided coaches with skills and drill practice plans to ensure all teams were learning equally. He added consistency to teams and provided as a resource for coaches.

I will not be returning next year as the U9 coordinator as my son will be entering into U11. Thank you all for a great 2 years.

Natalie King
U9 Division Director

U11 Division

Thank you to all of the coaching staff, team managers, and parents who helped to make the 2021-22 hockey season the best it could be for our U11 hockey players. Youth sport associations cannot run without dedicated, hard-working volunteers and parents – thanks to all of you!

Here are some highlights from the season:

Pre-season

We introduced a new evaluation process which included independent evaluators as well as head coach evaluators. There were a few minor administrative and logistical issues that we needed to work out, but overall, the newly designed process worked well.

Recommended changes for the 2022-23 season for U11 evaluations include:

- Changing the evaluated sessions for U11 competitive to merge the skills and drills and small ice games session into one session to allow for two full-ice games to be evaluated.
- Instituting a similar process for U11 C evaluations whereby both independent evaluators and head coaches are evaluating. This will help to ensure that teams are more even for the season.
- Adjusting the “trial period” to happen before jerseys are handed out and teams are assigned to coaches, assigned names, etc. This spirit of the recommendation for this year was a good one, but it is not reasonable to trade players after they’ve already been assigned to a team; that is not conducive to a positive experience for the players.

Regular season

Despite a significant shutdown due to COVID, we were able to completely catch up on the U11C hockey season ice times. There were many ties and close games throughout the season. The U11C Flyers finished in first place in the regular season for our league and many of the U11C teams had success at tournaments they played in.

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The A and AA leagues were not able to catch up on ice times completely, but still had a successful season. The U11A Lions finished in the top spot in their district league and the U11A Outlanders showed improvements over the course of the season. The U11AA Blizzards, Thunder, and Wildcats finished in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively in their district league (out of 6 teams). The Blizzards also brought home a banner from a tournament in Shediac, and the Wildcats won the banner at the Capital Invitational.

All 3 AA teams played in the SEDMHA tournament in Halifax and ended up in the top 8 of 28 U11AA teams from across Atlantic Canada. This is a strong showing for the first year of our new division realignment.

Playoffs

To help make up for the COVID shutdown, we extended the U11C season by a few weeks and changed the format of playoffs to be non-elimination which meant that all U11C players played straight through until April 3. Congratulations to the U11C Flyers on winning the FYHA Championship Day.

U11A playoffs saw the U11A Lions earn a silver medal in the district championships. U11AA playoffs saw the Blizzards earn gold and the Wildcats earn silver in the district championships.

Calling all young goaltenders!

The biggest challenge in U11 this year was related to goaltending. We simply did not have enough U11 players willing to play the position.

At the competitive level, this meant that our three AA teams only had one goalie each which is a lot of pressure on young goalies and their families and can be a challenge when it comes to sickness, injury, or any other reason a player might need to miss a game or practice. It also makes it hard to run practices and makes playing in tournaments a challenge. Ideally, each team would have two goalies.

Similarly, in U11C, we did not have enough goalies for all of the teams. We rounded up goalie gear to loan out to teams and hosted intro goaltending sessions to help U11 players who were interested in trying the position to gain some confidence and skill in the position. Most teams had players who rotated in the nets and a few teams ended up with full-time goaltenders as a result. Thank you to all of the families and coaches who supported us in developing our young goalies this year.

We are putting together a plan to help recruit, develop, and retain more players in the goalie position moving forward. It is such a crucial position, and we are working hard to remove any barriers for players or families to choosing this position. If you have a player who is showing any kind of interest in playing goalie, please connect with a member of the FYHA board so we can help to support you and your player in that decision.

Development for everyone

We began the season with plans to offer development sessions for goaltenders, female players, and all U11C players who were interested in accessing more on-ice development. Thank you to everyone who helped us start strong with a number of successful sessions. Our plans were thwarted by the extended COVID shutdown – both during the shutdown and because when we returned to play in February, we had to prioritize getting the teams out on the ice to catch up on their seasons, leaving no ice times available for development sessions.

For the 2022-23 season, I look forward to seeing us continue to offer and enhance extra development opportunities for those players who are interested.



Supporting volunteers

The youth hockey experience changes significantly from the initiation programs (U7 and U9) to U11. One of these changes is the number and types of volunteers needed to run the program. In U11, we need team managers to take on more responsibilities (e.g., budgets), and parents to run the clock, fill out the game sheets, run the music, and run 50/50 and other fundraising activities. I recommend for the 2022-23 season that some training and support be offered to U11 parents who want to get involved but don't know how so that we can deepen the volunteer pool and support the many parents who want to volunteer through the FYHA.

Respectfully submitted
Michele McNeil
U11 Division Director

U13 Division Update

That's the end of another successful U13 FYHA season! Firstly, I need to thank all the players and their families for their endless patience during this strange season. In the fall of 2021, I was hopeful that this season would seem more 'normal' than the 2020-21 season. Unfortunately, COVID most certainly did not allow that to happen. You all rolled with the punches and never-ending changes that happened so fast they made my head spin! I hope that despite all the uncertainty this season will hold great memories for all the players.

The 2021-2022 season brought some operational changes to our program with a division realignment/ the introduction of the competitive - AA, A and recreational - C levels. This was different than in past seasons, where there were only 2 levels – competitive or recreational. The goal of this change was to challenge each player's skills and to have them all playing at the appropriate level. As a result, FYHA created (2) two AA teams and (3) three A teams; playing within a District 3 league, and (7) seven recreational teams; playing within FYHA. This season, FYHA had a total of 194 players, 85 playing either AA or A and 109 playing C. Player evaluations were completed by external evaluators at all levels, as well as by FYHA coaching staff and the result was equally competitive teams across all levels. I feel that it is fair to say, from my perspective, looking at the season's results, that the teams were closely matched within their own level. We should celebrate these small successes and learn from them in years to come. These successes were evident in the outcomes at tournaments, districts, and provincials at all levels. FYHA is building a great program.

An enormous thank you needs to go out to the coaching staff this season!! This was a strange year and you've been adaptable and supportive, challenging your players to improve every single ice time. Your hard work does not go unnoticed. I truly hope that all of you continue your coaching career next season. All team volunteers – managers, clock operators, score keepers and DJs – need to also be acknowledged, a hockey season cannot happen without any of you! I appreciate your time immensely.

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Players – great job this year! I hope you made lots of new friendships, improved your hockey skills and solidified your love of the game. I have most certainly enjoyed watching you from the stands. I am a Hockey Mom first, and seeing all of you playing so well, makes me very proud! My wish is that you continue to play for many seasons to come.

See you at the rink!

Respectfully,
Lori Massie
U13 Division Director

U15 Division

I would like to start by saying thank you to all the head coaches, assistant coaches and managers for volunteering this season. Throughout this season we had impacts from COVID, experienced changes in evaluations, team selections as well as divisional realignment, all adding to the challenges faced during a season. The tremendous support from the coaching staff, families and players combined to make the year a success, without your tremendous support and understanding this season would not have been possible.

This season we had 160 players registered for the U15 program, of which 103 were interested in trying out for the A and AA teams. All players registered for A and AA tryouts were evaluated together, with the highest-ranking players being selected for the AA and A teams respectively. We had 38 players playing on the 2 AA teams, and 37 players on the 2 A teams. With this being the first year of the introduction of the A and AA teams, there were some lessons learned and some suggestions received regarding the evaluations and team selections. It is highly recommended that next season, there be an opportunity for those that only want to be considered for an A team, to have an ability to tryout for only the A teams.

This year there were 6 teams in the U15 Recreation division. Teams were rostered using the results of the evaluations, in an attempt to ensure that teams were fairly evenly matched. This was fairly successful, with some room for improvement. With more accurate evaluation scores, I believe this process, along with the continued coaching staff input will aide in creating more evenly matched teams, creating a more positive experience for the players.

Our activities were limited to single team practice due Public Health restrictions from 13 December 2021 to 31 January 2022, with a 2-week complete halt to activities. During this restriction we did see a small reduction in participation throughout all teams, however the coaching staff did an amazing job at keeping the interest high and providing great skill development opportunities for the players. By the end of the season the rec teams averaged 21 practices and 24 games each, with the A teams averaging 35 practices and 22 games and the AA teams having 34 practices and 18 games.

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The end of the season saw the FYHA AA teams placing 2nd and 3rd within Zone A, and the A teams placing 5th and 6th within Zone A. FYHA Championship day, which signals the end of the season for the recreation teams ended with the U15 Flyers receiving the Gold medal, U15 Canadiens receiving the Silver medal, and the U15 Leafs receiving the Bronze medal. The Championship Day activities this year with the combined consolation games was a huge success and should continue as it was a great way to end the season for all.

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 when changes were required. I also want to thank all members of the FYHA Board for all the assistance and guidance they provided.

Thank you
Fred Clancy
U15 Division Director

U18 Division

I took over as U18 Division Director in the middle of the evaluations in October, following the departure of the original director. Luckily, as I was already involved in the evaluation process as a coach, and with last year's experience in the same role, I was able to get up to speed fairly quickly. It was another challenging season, with COVID ever prevalent in our everyday lives and once again shutting down hockey for a period of time during the season. But I do feel we were able to get a sense of normalcy again, having had the opportunity again to participate in tournaments, playoffs and once again have provincial championships. There are a number of players that are graduating from minor hockey and will begin the next phase of their lives. To those players, I hope you enjoyed your time with FYHA and wish you the best of luck in the future.

Recreational Division

In the Rec Division, we had the same number of teams as last year, 4 teams with 16-17 players and one goaltender each. One team did register an extra goaltender towards the end of the season. Rec teams once again played in the District 3 League, again having success and appreciating the opportunity to play against more teams than just those within the city.

As has happened in the past, there was a challenge in that some players elected not to show up to evaluations, meaning that a number of evaluators were not able to see all of the players before it was time to form teams. This makes the already near-impossible task of ensuring equal teams that much more difficult if players are unknowns to coaches and evaluators. Moving forward I would recommend that players should NOT be placed with a team and be unregistered from FYHA if they have not attended any of the evaluation sessions (barring extenuating circumstances, e.g. if the player is injured). This should be communicated to all registered players in advance of the evaluation sessions.



This year, an experiment was trialled where coaches collaborated in making as equal teams as possible, as well as considering player friendships and previous histories between players. All coaches collaborated in compensating for imbalances such as differences in goaltending, top skaters, etc... and had to unanimously agree when a player was placed to a specific team. This was part of a move throughout the association to promote parity among the Rec teams. In the end, there were still teams that proved to be better than others, although I do believe parity improved in comparison to the previous season. I do believe this is a step in the right direction, and with a little more organization in the team formation format going forward, it could be a success in improving parity.

For the District League playoffs, the league was divided into two divisions, with the top 5 teams placed in Division A, and the 6 bottom in Division B. There were 2 FYHA teams placed in each division, the Rangers and Storm in Division A, and the Whalers and Flyers in Division B. The Rangers and Storm finished 2nd and 3rd in Division A respectively, with the Rangers earning a spot in the Best of 3 Final, losing to York West in a hard fought 2 games. In Division B, the Flyers placed 3rd while the Whalers topped the standings earning a spot in the Best of 3 Final against Keswick, winning the series in 2 games and bringing home a banner.

Competitive Division

As part of the division realignment throughout the association, 2 teams were formed at the U18 Comp level for the first time in recent history: One AA team and One A team. These teams played in the NB U18 Central League.

The A UCT Blues suffered some growing pains in their first year. No players were cut at the end of comp tryouts leaving a disproportionate number of defensemen and forwards on the A team. It was also thought that perhaps some families underestimated the commitment level of playing at the U18 comp level, where travel time and game time is significantly increased. This, coupled with some players leaving the team mid-season meant that having enough players to play was a challenge. The team just qualified to be in the A division of the U18 Central League after the classification round, but there was talk mid-season of moving them to the B division as they struggled at the start of the regular season.

In some ways, it was a year too early to have a second comp team at the U18 level. With that being said, there was a good foundation set this year to build a program for the A team in years to come where they will be able to be more competitive. It is hoped that more players will tryout at the U18 level going forward, where there are more players to choose from, meaning a better and more committed team overall. I want to note the efforts of the coaching staff, particularly Head Coach Jay Earle, for the great improvements made throughout the year and the persistence in getting this team ready for provincial weekend, where they placed 4th in the A division.

The AA Lions were unaffected by the division realignment, as the team was formed as it was previously, with players being selected by the coaching staff following evaluations. The Lions had a successful year, winning their home U18 tournament in November and placing 3rd in the AA division regular season standings. The Lions made the AA finals during provincial championship weekend, losing out in double overtime thriller.

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A checking clinic was run after the start of the season, mainly due to the A Blues not having any affiliates to choose from in the Rec division as no players were cut. A checking clinic allowed a pool of players from Rec the opportunity to become an affiliate for either of the comp teams. I believe this would be beneficial to do moving forward to allow talented players who do not want to commit to playing comp hockey the opportunity to affiliate at a higher level. Additionally, it gives the comp teams more flexibility for affiliation, especially where schedules can cause conflicts with their already existing affiliates.

Finally, I would like to note, similar to last year, the low number of goalies is a serious concern. This seems to be a problem in all of FYHA. We should look at ways to first of all incentivise individuals to try goaltending, and then look at ways to retain goaltenders as they grow older. This could include free registration cost, as their cost of equipment is already significant, learn to play goalie sessions and more focus on goaltending development as they age.

Many thanks to all the coaches and managers in both divisions and on all teams for their efforts in making this year what it was. I also want to thank Leslie Paul for her efforts in ensuring enough ice time this year at the U18 level, I know this was not easy! Thank you as well to John O'Toole and Ben MacFarlane for their assistance and continued guidance throughout this season.

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Vanderlaan
U18 Division Director

Special Events

Events cancelled due to COVID:
Mitch Clarke Timbit/U7 Classic – lack of ice

HNB development weekend was a huge success this year. We were able to get special instructors for about 90% of FYHA players.

U7/U9 – Kyle McAllister and the Fredericton Redwings

U11 – Cassidy Hilworth (owner of Total Speed) - Power skating sessions

U13 – Kevin Pottle Skill sessions

U15 – Mathew Wright (Champions Hockey Academy)

Goalies U11/13/15 - Eric Pye Goaltending sessions

To my knowledge, we only received one complaint and it was from the U7 division stating that Development Day was a disruption to their team development. While understandable that Development Day is an anomaly to our schedule, it is mandated by HNB with specific guidelines we must follow. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get all FYHA teams on the ice for Development Day, but that was due to lack of ice not lack of trying. To remedy this issue for next year's Development Day, I have requested to have both ice surfaces all day at the GH or WOR. It is now in the city's hands.

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Shooting and stickhandling have been identified as important development areas at the U9 level. With this in mind the, FYHA provided two ice times to test a pilot program developed by Eric MacDougall. This was run at the GH on Saturday, October 16th. We had close to 100 kids show interest for 40 spots. The two clinics were a great success, so we hope to have a consistent time to offer this for the 2022/23 season at the U9 level. While it was extremely popular, we weren't able to run it again due to lack of ice.

Multiple goalie development opportunities were held this year. There is a lack of goalies in the FYHA system so this was identified as a critical need. Older goalies had the opportunity to work with Eric Pye goaltending. We also held a FREE intro to goaltending for the U9 and U11 divisions, run by Michelle McNeil. This session featured step by step gear instruction using FYHA goalie gear, a Q&A session with "goalie moms and dads" along with older goalies teaching basic skills to first timers.

An Offense and Defense development camp for U13 rec, in conjunction with York West MHA was held November 21st in Nackawic. Champions Hockey Academy ran 2 sessions, limited to 16 skaters and 4 goalies per session. The sessions were well received, however we had a few last-minute cancellations and no shows, which is a shame considering we had a wait list.

U9 Jamboree had almost 40 teams between major and minor. It was a very fun and well-organized jamboree. The FYHA Major division struggled against other teams while the Minor division dominated games. This is due to most other organizations tiering the division instead of dividing by birth year. We hope to remedy this for next year.

FYHA is in the process of streamlining our development logistics. We hope to have online sign-up forms along with accepting e-transfer to limit the amount of emails and phone calls for sign ups and also ensure all fees are paid prior to kids stepping on the ice. Going forward my recommendation is to have consistent ice times available for special development. This allows us to work around team schedules and book high quality instructors.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M' or 'McLean', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Travis McLean
Director of Special Events

Director of Officials

During the 2021-22 hockey season there were 81 officials that worked Fredericton Minor Hockey Officials Association. We had 28 new officials in the association which 7 were adults, 15 youth and 6 officials that transferred from other associations.

This season was a challenging season with COVID-19 and at some point, a lack of officials available that games need to be cancelled. The decrease in number of younger officials from previous seasons forced some lower level (U11 and U13 rec) games to us two officials' system opposed three officials' system.



At points in the season, we had to use officials from Oromocto to help make sure the Capital Invitational was able to happen.

The games being worked by FMHOA Officials for FYHA, EDZA West, CFMA, Stanley, Keswick, York North, WIHL and Grand Lake. The total number of the games worked by officials is 1061 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. In addition, I would like to thank our officials for their hard work and commitment to make sure games were able to be played.

Thank you to the FYHA for supporting officials' development. This season we were able to provide a series of on ice training sessions for our officials.

Thank you to the divisional coordinator for getting their games on goalline to on time and working with us to move games when there were not officials available.

Officials Accomplishment

We have had several officials work in the provincial play offs for male and female AAA hockey at the U13, U15, and U18 levels. There were several officials who progressed into working higher levels of hockey such as U18 AAA, High School, MHL, NBJHL and Usport. We have Joel King and Matt Hanson were selected to work the U15 AAA Atlantic and Matt Hanson was selected to work the U18 AAA TELUS Cup.

Awards Winner

Brian Fearon Memorial Award Official of the Year: **Maxwell Ashton**

Brad Marshall Most Improved Official Award: **Max Holt**

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.**
- **Increase the game fee rates for all levels of minor hockey.**
- **Look at new ways to retain and develop officials.**

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.**
- **FYHA looking at hosting the Capital Invitationals on two different weekends that are not back-to-back.**
- **FYHA should move away from 4:30pm or 4:45pm game start times during the week. Look to use these as practice times as they are challenging to get officials to work those games.**



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- **On weekend look to have the same age level hockey at the same rink as much as possible to make it easier to assign games and to allow officials to work multiple games in the same location. Instead of having all age group games for a certain level at the same time multiple rinks.**

FMHOA President/ Referee in Chief

Matthew Forster

Director of Discipline

The 2021/ 2022 season was truly a transitional year as COVID-19 continued its rollercoaster trajectory throughout the season. As the provincial restrictions and mandates began to loosen hockey slowly made its way back to what most would consider normal. Within my second full year as director of discipline I was of the opinion that due to COVID-19 there would be less complaints and or investigations from the previous year. However, this was not the case and in-fact this year was busier then the last with more in-depth investigations.

As hockey made its return it appeared as though many had pent up emotions and frustrations that seemed to find its way to the hockey rinks. As a result, several investigations began, many of which were complex in nature. The investigations ranged from border-line criminal to racially charged to violent in nature. Resulting from these investigations there were suspensions rendered, sensitive training recommended, and verbal recommendations provided to not only better the player but to better the youth themselves. As well, after one investigation there was an appeal submitted which I certainly understand and encourage as it is an individual's right. At the completion of the appeal investigation my recommendations we upheld. At the end of the day, we certainly want to hold people accountable but to help them learn from their mistake and to become an overall better person should and will always be the goal.

Strengths

As the Director of Discipline, I was fortunate enough to be able to rely on my policing background while conducting investigations. As some of the investigations could have been criminal in nature, I was able to know when to pause the FYHA investigation so not to infringe on any criminal investigation. As well, during my many conversations with complainants, victims and or accused I was able to properly articulate the severity of the incidents as well as provide guidance for moving forward. My many years of policing has also prepared me for upset parents and or players who may become verbally aggressive due to the situation. In these instances, I was able to deescalate the conversations so to allow for productive learning moments.

Challenges

Some of the challenges this year were based on timelines. As with many people, the need to have a situation addressed sooner rather than later was again evident.

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With this in mind, I certainly don't blame people for feeling this way and for the most part many understood when explanations were provided. However, there were certain instances in which people had concerns for the length of the investigation. This was and will continue to be an ongoing concern, but we can only do our best in trying to help resolve all situations that arise during the hockey season.

Closing Comments

During my second year on the FYHA Board of Directors, I continue to embrace my role as director of discipline. Interacting with any individuals who are subjects of complaints was not an issue this year even during heated moments. I would like to take the opportunity to thank John O'Toole for his continuous support and assistance in all investigations over the past 2 years. I look forward to another successful in 2023 with the FYHA.

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Frizzell
Director of Discipline



2021/22 FYHA Volunteer Awards

HNB Volunteer of the Year Award

- Joe MacDonald

FYHA Division Awards

U7 Division

- Mitchell MacFarlane
- Mark Parrill

U9 Division

- Chris Allen
- Eric MacDougall

U11 Division

- Natalie Cormier
- Chris Day

U13 Division

- Craig Boucher
- Michelle Berry

U15 Division

- Terry Francis
- Chrissy Powers

U18 Division

- Courtney Smith - Jones
- Justin Hill