

FREDERICTON YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Presented at the Annual General Meeting
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900 Hanwell Road, Suite 31
Fredericton, NB E3B 6A2
Tel: 506 451-1333
Fax: 506 451-1325
edfyha@bellaliant.com
www.fyha.goalline.ca

FYHA AGM May 18,2023





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President – Ben MacFarlane
Vice-President Kent Brewer

I just want to say Thank you for being a part of the FYHA for the 2022-2023 season. This association runs on the volunteers and delivering hockey would not be possible without the people we have involved this past season.

Adjustments made for 2022-2023 season

- U15 Rec teams played within the district 3 league again.
- U9 teams were Tiered into Development and Intermediate divisions, to align with the HNB recommendation at this level. At the U9 level we had Eric MacDougall volunteering as a technical director this past season, not only making Tiering possible but putting in countless hours on and off the ice to bring consistency and quality to all aspects of our U9 offering.

Focus areas from the 2022-2023 season

This year the Board choose to focus on a few areas over and above normal course of business, female development, goalies, and Referees, these areas received ice time and resources to help strengthen skills for the betterment of the FYHA. It is our hope to take the success from these areas and build out into other areas, young defenseman being another potential area of focus.

Constitutional reform

Will be brought forward to the membership after a multiyear effort to ensure this transition is well thought out and strategized. Thanks again to the key individuals that have made this change possible for the FYHA.

Looking Forward

This year we have been more interactive with Hockey New Brunswick (HNB), submitting ideas that may help improve the hockey experience for different divisions of the FYHA, changes will likely only come on new direction or rule changes from HNB post the early June AGM.

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

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General Manager

The 2022/23 season can best be described as the “back to normal” season. After dealing with Covid related disruptions, we were finally able to offer members a full, uninterrupted program. On ice activities began in early October and extended straight through to Champions Day on March 26, 2023.

Online registration for the 2022/23 season kicked off August 24th and closed October 2nd. Total number of players registered was 1045 basically the same number as the previous season.

We were very fortunate to be able to offer our complete schedule of jamborees and tournaments this year. The U18 Comp tournament took place in November and featured eight participating teams. Fourteen teams took part in the U7 Jamboree that was held in February. The 46th annual Nashwaaksis Lions Club Capital Invitational tournament took place in late February and early March. Eighty-six teams participated in the tournament helping to generate a profit of \$42,433.00. We were disappointed that the U15AA Division had to be cancelled due to a lack of team registrations. Efforts will be made moving forward to ensure that this does not happen again. Our final event, the U9 Jamboree featured 46 teams and took place in mid March. The rinks were very busy during these events and there were many smiles as participants enjoyed the opportunity to compete.

FYHA was once again selected to host two First Shift programs during the year. Both sessions sold out providing 90 “new to hockey” children an opportunity to get exposed to the great game of hockey. Over the two six-week sessions, participants were exposed to hockey fundamentals by a group of qualified and committed coaches.

Efforts were made to solicit new jersey sponsors, especially at the U15 REC Division. We were very pleased to secure the following U15 sponsored jerseys – Nashwaaksis Kin Club Canadians, Eastern Trenchless Canucks, and the TNT Building and Insulation Bruins. Thank you to these sponsors! Thank you is also extended to Scotiabank and the Nashwaaksis Kin Club for sponsoring new jerseys at the U18 Division. Improving our inventory of jerseys is always a priority. We are always looking for sponsors. A thank you is also extended to Wood Motors Fredericton for their support in providing FYHA with 1000 pucks and financial support for our special Development sessions.

The 2022/23 season was very successful. If you were on Facebook, you would have seen that it was a very busy and active year thanks to Jenna Kennedy who did a fantastic job keeping everyone informed with FYHA news. Thank you, Jenna! FYHA is very fortunate to have a large group of volunteers that help deliver our product to the members. Without these people – coaches, on ice volunteers, managers, Division Directors, and Board members – we simply could not operate. We do appreciate your contributions.

In conclusion, I would like to thank President Ben Macfarlane and each Board member for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
John O’Toole
General Manager



Director of Coaching

Many thanks to all board members and volunteers for their efforts this past year. It is a colossal effort to facilitate a hockey season.

This was our first “normal” hockey season after several years of pandemic restrictions and shutdowns. It was great to see the return of tournaments and jamborees.

A major change this year was tiering the U9 division. It involved an evaluation process similar to competitive evaluations and provided the kids the opportunity to play with players of similar skill levels and I believe it was a definite success.

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.

A goal from last year was to provide coaches at the U7/U9 level with some standardization of practice plans. Our technical director was instrumental in guiding our newer coaches and ensuring all players were getting consistent opportunity to develop.

Future Considerations:

- Again, the competitive evaluation process is quite condensed. It would be beneficial to spread the process out or start earlier but ice availability continues to be a major factor.
- Fair play continues to be an ongoing issue. Work must continue to police and enforce fair play policy.

All the best 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 2022-2023 season went over very well with our first year in awhile with no restrictions! U7 operated out of all the Fredericton including the Aitken Centre a few occasions, and ran from October – March.

There were 93 U7 minor players and 93 U7 major players, with 28 coaches / on ice helpers in the U7 minor division and 28 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 3 practice groups and 6 teams.

Ice times were set on a rotational basis every 2 weeks due to having Friday ice times in the rotation to make it fair. There were very few schedule changes – which was a nice change this year and minimal ice times were missed overall. Teams had 1 practice weekday ice time, and 1 practice/game weekend ice time.

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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.

The U7 Jamboree was a huge success, and I was glad we were finally able to have one after missing it for 2 years! The consensus was the children had a wonderful time.

This was my 3rd year in this role, and I believe it went 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.

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 this year a success. There are endless hours put in by all mentioned above to ensure our children have a fun and safe hockey season.

The U9 division underwent a major change this season with FYHA adopting Hockey Canada's tiering model. The season began with un-evaluated sessions meant to get the players back on the ice, and quickly morphed into evaluated skills and drills and then games. Teams were formed once the evaluated sessions finished by taking the evaluation scores and placing the players into a horseshoe draft. Player movement then took place to accommodate for situations such as siblings or female players to ensure they had other females on their team, a few players shuffled and only shuffled with those that had similar evaluation scores. Meetings were held pre-season to ensure that lines of communication were open, and questions could be answered prior to the process beginning. The division was then separated into 2 divisions, level 1 (Developmental) and level 2 (Intermediate). Each of the level 1 and level 2 groups consisted of 6 teams with each team holding roughly 18 players. Once games began, it was determined that the tiering system was a success with games being very close in score, some even ending ties (although scores were not officially kept).

Shared-ice practices took place weekly with only a few being missed due to special events. Ice times were evenly balanced this season with each team receiving between 37-38 ice times as we were able to pick up ice times whenever they were available. With tournaments being back on this season, we did see several of our U9 teams travel within NB.

Our season ended on a high note with our U9 Jamboree. All FYHA U9s participated as well as many outside teams. One item that should be on the docket for next season is a change to the U9 Jamboree registration form to ensure clarity and definitions of what level 1 (developmental) and level 2 (intermediate are) as we did have external teams that registered in the incorrect division.

Officiating was much improved this season with a great group of young officials stepping up and often having a senior official with them.

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This season would not have been anywhere near the success it was without the U9 Technical Director Eric MacDougall. Eric was instrumental in the implementation of the tiered system and always carried the Hockey Canada manual with him to ensure he was able to answer any began with the U9. Eric also implemented a practice plan strategy whereas the teams would receive Hockey Canada practice plans and use them for a 4-week period before graduating to the next plan. Their plans were provided to them whenever a change was to take place. Tier 1 began with practice plan #1 and moved on from there, and Tier 2 began with practice plan #17. This will allow those that are still in U9 next season to continue where they left off last season and further promote development. Eric was also able to run extra developmental session for each group. He added consistence to teams and was an excellent 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 fabulous season.

Christa Reynolds
U9 Division Director

U11 Division

Thank you to the coaching staff, team managers, and parents who helped to make the 2022-23 hockey season fun and successful for our U11 hockey players. Youth sport associations cannot run without dedicated, hard-working volunteers and parents. Here are some highlights from the season:

Pre-season

This was the second year of our new evaluation and team formation process that was developed by committees of parent volunteers in summer 2021. With two years under our belts, the new pre-season process went smoothly and set us up for a successful season.

Success highlights include:

- We merged the skills and drills and small ice games evaluations for competitive tryouts into one 75-minute session to allow for two full-ice games to be evaluated.
- Keeping the independent evaluators' data separate from the head coach candidate evaluation data and using the independent rankings to determine whether a player would be drafted to a AA, A or C team has proven to be very helpful. It provides a level of integrity and fairness to the process that is in the best interest of the players and enables a checkpoint if there are any disagreements about the results. I would recommend continuing with this process in the future.
- This was also the second year where the division director built the teams for the rec league based on the evaluations of the coaches and we once again had relatively even teams from a competition perspective and were able to accommodate many special requests from families. I would recommend continuing to do this in the future.

Recommended changes

- Start U11 competitive tryouts a week earlier than we have been. This would get teams formed sooner so coaches can book tournaments and would help with resources needed if U11 was already done before U13, U15, U18 (U11 does not need to wait for AAA tryout and/or high school tryouts to



be over before getting started). It would also create some space to be able to have some intro to hockey development sessions before the rec evaluations start for those players who are new to

hockey as well as a few intro to goalie sessions for those players looking to try that position. This one change would help significantly with the process and a successful start to the season for everyone in U11.

- The U11 coordinator should recruit a number of core volunteers to help with the pre-season activities. I am happy to provide specific suggestions to whomever does this role next year.

Regular season

After several years of unusual seasons due to COVID, it was awesome to get back to a proper hockey season. We played a lot of hockey in U11 this year!!

The U11C league included 8 FYHA teams who played a full home-and-home series for regular season play, the FYHA Christmas tournament, and a full playoff series ending on FYHA Championship Day. In addition, we offered development sessions, some extra practice times as ice time allowed, and all teams competed in tournaments throughout the season.

The 2 U11A teams competed in a 5-team District 3 league. They also played a number of exhibition games and competed in tournaments. The two FYHA teams fared well in league play – finishing the season in 2nd and 3rd place - though faced many tough opponents in tournaments where it was evident that not all associations tier A and AA teams.

The 3 U11AA teams competed in a 7-team District 3 league and finished 2, 3, 4 in regular season play. Each team played a number of exhibition games and competed in at least 5 tournaments each. Many silver medals were earned in tournaments as well as a number of times when an FYHA team made it to the semi-final round.

Playoffs

Congratulations to the U11C Hammerheads on winning gold at FYHA Championship day!

U11A district finals saw the U11A Nashwaaksis Lions Club Lions win silver!

U11AA playoffs saw the U11AA Nashwaaksis Y's Men Wildcats win silver!

Calling all young goaltenders!

U11 is the perfect time for players to become goalies! This year we worked hard to make it easy for goalies and families to choose this position. We provided goalie gear to any U11 player interested in playing goalie and set up regular development sessions to help them develop confidence in this crucial position. These development sessions included a weekly session with UNB's goaltending coach, Kyle MacDonald, which many of our young goalies went to faithfully each week. Our young goalies made incredible leaps forward with their development over the course of the season – we were proud of how hard they worked! When forming the recreational teams, we also paired up players who were interested in playing goalie sometimes but also wanted to play out when not in nets. I encourage any parents whose child has indicated an interest in being a goalie to encourage them to pursue it.

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Development for everyone

We offered a number of development sessions for U11 players ranging from intro-to-hockey, to power skating to defense and goaltending clinics. I recommend that FYHA continues to build on this in the 2023-24 season.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele McNeil
U11 Division Director

U13 Division

Sincere thanks and profound appreciation go out to all coaches, managers, parents, and payers who have helped make the 2022-23 season such a success; your time, efforts and talents are greatly appreciated as youth sport isn't possible without your collective contributions.

Here are some highlights from the 2022-23 season:

Pre-season

FYHA's U13 evaluation process included both independent and head coach evaluators. At the competitive level, a good balance was achieved which saw two (2) teams at the AA level and three (3) playing A. For U13C (recreational play), registration numbers supported the creation of seven (7) teams. Player evaluations informed team composition and every effort was made to strike a balance across the division, attempting to maximize player development and enjoyment for all.

In the spirit of continued operational improvements, conversations are ongoing with respect to possible changes and/or alterations that can be made to the pre-season/evaluation process.

Regular season

At the U13 C level, teams settled into the pattern of a weekday practice with games on weekends. Careful attention was paid to ensure that all teams were scheduled the same number of home and away games, with every effort being made to share ice times and locations equitably among teams (for both practices and games).

Based on preseason game results, seven (7) teams played at the A level: FYHA Capitals, FYHA Blues, FYHA Outlanders, Woodstock, OMHA Eagles, TriCounty Rivercats and Restigouche Ouest. At the AA level, seven (7) teams were identified: FYHA Ice Dogs, FYHA Blizzards, OMHA Eagles, York North Coyotes, Edmundston Predateurs, Carleton and Grand Falls Jr Cats. FYHA's A and AA teams proved competitive within their zone, experiencing varying degrees of success over the course of the season.

Goalie Development

With goalie recruitment being a priority at the U11 level, it seemed a natural compliment for U13 to partner and support goalie development. Kyle MacDonald (Assistant Coach, UNB Men's & Women's programs) led weekly goalie sessions with the assistance of FYHA's newly appointed Goalie Development Coordinator, Tony Bonnar. Goalies from both U11 and U13 were able to benefit from

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weekly position-specific development and a significant amount of positive feedback was received with regard to these sessions throughout the season. If possible, goalie development will remain a priority for the upcoming season.

Supporting volunteers

U13 hockey is heavily reliant on the contributions of volunteers. Coaches, team managers, and parents give freely of their time and talents in order to see successful youth hockey seasons year after year. These individuals require and deserve ongoing support and training; in order to manage and balance budgets, run the clock, fill out game sheets, run music, 50/50 and other fundraising activities,

training and support needs to be offered to parents who are willing to step up and get involved. Targeted efforts and a focus on deepening the volunteer pool of parents will be maintained at the U13 level.

Respectfully submitted,
Natalie Cormier
U13 Division Director

U15 Division

Well, another season is in the books! I was looking forward to being a hockey parent for the '22-'23 season but it wasn't in the cards. The beginning of a season is workload heavy and the U15 Director, Fred Clancy started the season, handling all of season start up tasks; initial communications with FYHA families, player evaluations, competitive team drafts, and recreational team creation. I feel it is important to recognize Fred for all the work that he put in to ensure the season got off to a successful start for all the players, coaches, and their families. Thank you, Fred!

I took over for Fred at the end of October, working with the teams to assign ice and get the recreational division's games started. This season was inaugural for the recreational teams, moving to play in the District 3 league for the first time. This was a big adjustment for players, coaches, and parents as it required travel around the entire district from Doaktown to Minto to Fredericton Junction to Nackawic and communities in between. The trade-off for all the travel meant that our FYHA teams got to play in a league with 13 total teams. It meant lots of competitive games between teams and lots of games throughout the season, with teams playing upwards of 30 league games (not inclusive of tournaments or exhibition games). In previous years, the U15 Recreational division played within FYHA only, so with our 4 teams, would have meant playing against the same 3 teams all season. Based on parent, coach and player feedback, a successful move overall for the division that should be carried forward.

As it was for the first-time last season, again this year the Competitive Division was divided into two tiers, 'AA' and 'A' with 2 teams in each tier. These teams played in a zone wide league, traveling as far as Edmundston to play games. After a qualifying round, the two FYHA 'AA' teams played the remainder of the regular season in an 'AA' division with 4 total teams including teams from Oromocto and Woodstock. One of our 'AA' teams made it to the Provincial Championships, congratulations Nashwaaksis Lions! The two FYHA 'A' teams played in the 'A' division with teams from Edmundston, Grand Sault, Carleton, York



North and Oromocto. Playing in a zone wide league does come with challenges at times, mainly in terms of communication, overall, the season was a success, and the players learned a lot. There is an opportunity to learn from the challenges and with some increased consistency with how things are done throughout the zone, the changes that FYHA implemented with tiering, our 'AA' and 'A' teams can be quite successful in the future.

The under 15 division was fortunate to have some great jersey sponsors this season, with several teams sporting brand new jerseys. A big thank you from all the players goes out to the following sponsors: Nashwaaksis Lions Club, Swifty's 15 Minute Oil Change, Appcast, Scotiabank, Eastern Trenchless, and TNT Insulation and Building Supplies.

Under 15 Division by the numbers:

Total player numbers - 134 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competitive AA/A players - 68• Recreational players - 66 Total suspensions - 7	Total Under-15 teams - 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competitive AA teams - 2• Competitive A teams - 2• Recreational teams - 4
Total goalie numbers - 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competitive teams - 8• Recreational teams - 5	Total female players - 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreational teams - 6• Competitive teams - 0

Thank you to all the players, parents, coaches, managers, and volunteers over the past season. Having been a division director for most of three seasons now, I know almost all the players' names and faces, appreciating the opportunity to say hello inside and outside of the rinks, and have truly enjoyed watching them grow as hockey players, and more importantly, as people. It has been my pleasure to work with all of you. Best of luck next season! There are a lot of great things happening at FYHA with many opportunities to volunteer and have your voice heard. Please consider volunteering in any way you can to continue to influence positive change for our youth.

See you around the rink!

Lori Massie
U15 Division Director

U18 Division

I think speak on behalf of everyone when I say we are grateful to have had a hockey season unaffected by covid regulations and shutdowns. It was refreshing to be able to have a full seasons worth of practices, games and tournaments. This is especially important for our U18 players who are graduating this year and will be moving on to the next phase of their lives. To these players, I wish them the very best of luck in the future.



Recreational Division

This season saw an increase in the number of teams at the Rec level, increasing from 4 to 5 compared to last season. Each team had 16-18 skaters per team with only one goaltender. For the third season, Rec teams played in the District 3 League. I would recommend that Rec teams continue to play in the District 3 League, giving teams an opportunity to play more teams throughout the season.

The team selection process proved to be very challenging this season. As is normally the case at the U18 level, many players did not show up for all of their evaluation games, if they showed up at all. Those that did show up did not give their best effort. This made getting representative evaluation numbers for all players very challenging, and in turn made team formation challenging. As with all other Rec divisions, I was tasked with forming the teams based on the evaluation scores. A decision was taken to entertain any requests for teammates as it was felt that in their final years of minor hockey, more emphasis should be placed on enjoyment and playing with friends. Taking into consideration any requests within

reason, and evaluation scores, teams were formed to try and achieve the best parity possible. I admit, I missed the mark and parity was not very good among our U18 Rec teams. While I will shoulder some responsibility for the parity issue, it must be noted how unconcerned players seemed to be with the evaluation process. In parity is to be achieved going forward, we must find ways to incentivise players to attend evaluations and try their very best.

Congratulations to the Scotiabank Panthers who won Division A of the District 3 League and for representing FYHA at the U18 Rec Provincials in Edmundston.

Competitive Division

This season saw the same number of competitive teams compared to last season: 1 AA team & 1 A team. Each team had 17 skaters and 2 goaltenders. It should be noted the significant increase in players trying out for competitive this season. While there were no players cut from comp this year, there was 35+ players cut following comp tryouts this season. While I do not believe it should be done next year, a move to a third comp team should be considered in the near future if tryout numbers continue to increase. Any decision to move to a third comp team should be considered whilst taking into account any players that may be selected a High School teams.

U18 Comp tryouts were delayed this season compared to other divisions in order to offset the tryouts from the ongoing High School tryouts. I would strongly recommend this NOT be done again going forward. Although tryouts may appear to drag on while waiting for High Schools to make their final picks, this is preferred to having a short, rushed tryout process where players ice times may be affected by work commitments, and a large number of players per tryout team. I'd recommend starting tryouts at the same time as all other divisions, and possibly making a first cut after 3 ice times, before finalizing teams after further ice times.

Both Competitive teams had successful seasons, with the AA Lions earning silver at Provincials, and the A Blues also qualifying for provincial weekend.

I will mention the goalie crisis that is ever present at the U18 level. There is simply not enough goaltenders for the number of skaters registered with FYHA. We were one goaltender short for the ideal number of teams at the Rec level. Additionally, one goaltender at the Rec level had an operation mid-season which meant that team needed to operate without a regular goalie for over a month. More needs to be done to recruit and retain goaltenders as they progress up through the different age groups.

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I want to thank all the coaches and managers this season for all their time and efforts. Special thanks also to Leslie Paul for another great year in the position of Director of Operations and “Ice Time Guru”. And thank you to John O’Toole for his continued guidance throughout the season. I’ve enjoyed my 3 years in the position as U18 Director and am happy with what has been accomplished. I’m happy to continue to stay involved at the Comp level should I remain in Fredericton. However, I feel it is time for a change and for new eyes to take over the position of U18 Director.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alex Vanderlaan
U18 Division Director

Director of Officials

During the 2022-23 hockey season there were 87 officials that worked Fredericton Minor Hockey Officials Association. We had 29 new officials in the association. The challenges this season due to lack of officials and availability from previous seasons we were forced to do some of the lower level (u-11 and u-13 rec) games to us two officials’ system opposed three officials’ system. During the Capital invitational we had to use some Oromocto and Tri County officials to make sure the events were successful.

Our officials worked games for FYHA, EDZA West, CFMA, Stanley, Keswick, York North, WIHL, Doaktown and Grand Lake. The total number of games officiated by our officials is 1436 games with an average number of games per month of 240.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank FMHO treasure/assignor Eric Drummie for his hard work to make sure the association ran smoothly. In addition, 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, coaching sessions, and equipment to aid in officials’ development. 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

There were several officials who progressed into working higher levels of hockey such as u-18 AAA, high school, MHL, NBJHL and Usport.

Officials work the following events:

Atlantic Challenge Cup: Joel King, Alyssa Best and Sarah Bartels

Canada Games: Alyssa Best, Matt Hanson, and Dawson Wood

U 13 and U-15 Male AAA Provincials: Max Ashton, Scott Beach, Mathew Brosens, Brett Eagles, Brook Eagles, Teagan Dempsey, Chris Drummie, Greg Horsman, Marc Gallant Blake Langille, Gerrit Lindhout, Dominic Losier, Jonathan Morrison, Luke McQuarrie, and Logan Titus

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U-18 AA, A and B Provincials: Wyatt Ashworth, Max Ashton, Brook Eagles, Brett Eagles, Chris Drummie, Dave MacDonald, Blake Langille, Dominic Losier, Logan Titus, Mike Dodson, PY Gregoire,
U-15 Female AAA Atlantic: Alyssa Best, Sarah Bartels, and Josee Martin
U-18 Male AAA Atlantic: Ryan Didiodato, Joel King, Matt Hanson, and Jonathan Morrison.
QMJHL hired officials: Matt Hanson and Dawson Wood
QMJHL play off debut: Alex Cameron

Awards Winners

Brian Fearon Memorial Award Official of the Year: **Luke McQuarrie**

Brad Marshall Most Improved Official Award: **Scott Beach**

2023-24 FMHOA Executive

- President/ RIC: Matthew Forster
- Treasure/ Secretary: Dave MacDonald
- Director of Supervision: Ryan Didiodato

- Assignor: Eric Drummie

Recommendation to improve the FMHOA

- **Recruit individuals to aid with coaching of officials.**
- **Advocate to NBHOA to provide training for official coaches.**
- **Continue to increase the number of games that official coaches are at.**
- **Recruit more new officials for the association.**
- **Look at new ways to retain and develop officials.**
- **Look into developing an equipment bank for officials to use when starting out.**

Recommendation for FYHA

- **Continue to 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.**
- **Look at ways to develop coaches' knowledge of the Hockey Canada Playing Rules.**
- **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.**

Respectfully Submitted By

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew Forster'.

Matthew Forster

FMHOA President/ Referee in Chief



Director of Discipline

The 2022/ 2023 season in my opinion was a success. In my three years as director of discipline this was the least involved I have been with regards to investigations. I believe there are several reasons for this but the main one I have identified is the hard work and sound decision making on behalf of John O'Toole. John has consistently kept me up to speed with any minor complaints and generally his emails are simply for information purposes only. As well, I believe the focus on discipline has transitioned somewhat to have the coaches and their staff more involved in the initial handing out of discipline where and when needed. As a result, there have been less in-depth investigations on my behalf. During the year I was only required to be involved in one sit down meeting and only had a few over the phone conversation in which guidance was provided both from a director of discipline standpoint and from a policing aspect. All in all, the season appeared to run with much more discipline from within the teams and as a result less investigations found there way to me.

Strengths

As the Director of Discipline, I again relied on my policing background when it came to speaking with individuals involved in complaints. As mentioned above, the year only provided a few instances in which I was needed. During these times I was able to provide support, guidance, and strong communication skills to assist with the matters. The hands-on aspect for the Director of Discipline is a comfortable position for me as I have been de-escalating situations now for over 20 years as a police officer. This part is something I enjoy as the Director of Discipline.

Challenges

The challenges for me this year had more to do with the ability to making meetings as an FYHA board member. I really can't say enough about how passionate and dedicated our board members are!! I have nothing but respect for all the board members this year and the amount of work and countless hours they put in to provide positive learning environments for the players and their families. Unfortunately, because of my busy family, 2 boys in AAA hockey and a daughter in volleyball as well as my work in which I work a lot of nights I missed many meetings. My desire to be involved in helping make positive changes will always be there, my ability to be around to do so is at times difficult for me.

Closing Comments

As my third year on the FYHA Board of Directors comes to an end, I find myself still passionate about the investigative aspect. I truly enjoy being involved in investigations when needed. As mentioned above this year for me was much slower than my first 2 which I certainly see as a positive. I again would like to take the opportunity to thank John O'Toole for his continuous support and assistance in all investigations. As well, I would like to thank everyone who have provided me the opportunity to help! I have no doubt 2024 will come with even more success.

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Frizzell
Director of Discipline



2022/23 FYHA Volunteer Awards

HNB Volunteer of the Year Award

- Michelle McNeil

FYHA Division Awards

U7 Division

- Rob Taylor
- Matt Steeves

U9 Division

- Mark MacNevin
- Andrew Wheelan

U11 Division

- Simon Dickinson
- Terry Francis

U13 Division

- Tony Bonnar
- Matt & Danica Sweezie

U15 Division

- Hope Cyr
- Justin Taylor

U18 Division

- Kevin McWhirter & Chris Adams
- Lynn Steeves