



***KANATA MINOR HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION***

AGM Agenda and Report

2024/25 Season



Kanata Minor Hockey Association

100 Charlie Rogers Place. Kanata, On K2V 1A2

Agenda

April 23, 2025, 7pm

Location- Online Zoom

1. Call to order

- Roll Call
- Quorum

2. President's Opening Remarks

3. Motion 1: Adopt Minutes from 2023/24 AGM (see schedule A)

4- Reports

- President
- Invited Guest Annette Jensen MKP Chartered Professional Accountants
- VP Competitive
- VP House League
- VP Operations
- Director at large Risk and Safety
- Director at large, Officials AA/A B
- District Chair

5- Motion 2: Appoint MKP Chartered Professional Accountants to perform our 2024/25 Financial Audit

6- New Business

Motions 3-10

7- Motion 11: Cede floor to District Chair to perform the Election for Board of Directors Positions

- President
- VP House League
- VP Operations
- Director at Large Risk and Safety Portfolio
- Director at Large Officials AA/A /B league rep
- Treasurer

8- Motion 12: Return the floor to the President.

9- President's Final Remarks

- 2024/25 Awards
- Comments, Announcements, and other business
- Final thoughts

10- Motion 13: Adjourn 2024/25 AGM

No new business from 2023/24 AGM

Reports

- **President**
- **MKP Chartered Professional Accountants- Annette Jensen**
- **VP Competitive**
- **VP House League**
- **VP Operations**
- **Director at Large Risk and Safety**
- **Director at Large, Officials AA/A B league Rep**
- **District Chair**

PRESIDENT -Erin Murphy

To our Board of Directors, General Manager, Committee members, Head Coach`s, Assistant Coach`s, Goalie Coach`s, Trainer`s, Safety officers and all other team volunteer`s, I want to say “Thank You” all, for the many hours that you dedicated to making this season another successful one.

I want to give a special thank you to both Lori Thornton and Ralph Petersen, who are leaving KMHA this year. We cannot thank either of you enough for the many years of dedication, you will truly be missed.

Our association and the hockey season does require a large amount of work from our volunteers, your efforts are truly appreciated.

We were able to implement and continue with some great programs this year that we hope to carry over through the years to come.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT- See schedule B
(attachment)

MKP Chartered Professional Accountants GUEST ANNETTE JENSEN

VP Competitive - Terry Zanatta

To our players and Blazer families, I want to take a minute and thank you all for your passion and dedication to the great game of hockey and our organization. Your time and commitment meant a lot this past year. I want to thank all the fantastic hockey players and families for competing so intensely and for representing both the Kanata Community and the KMHA in such a positive way.

As I reflect back on my second full year as VP of competitive, I can say with confidence that we once again provided programs that make KMHA a great place to play minor hockey. My ultimate goal was to provide extra value to all KMHA members by providing programs with the sole intent of player development while players are having fun.

I would like to thank all the Board Members, Convenors, General Manager, Coaches, Trainers and all team support staff for their countless hours of volunteering to make our players have a great experience this year.

A special call out and appreciation for all the coaches who volunteered to help run all the programs that were initiated this year:

House League Goalie Ice before Sort Outs

U9, U11, U13 and U15 HL Development Sessions

Aspiring IP/U7-U11 Goalie information sessions with ice times

Without all the support and volunteers, none of these programs would have been made possible. Again, on behalf of KMHA a huge thank you to you all.

Terry Zanatta – VP Competitive

VP House League -William Burnie

The 2024-25 House League season was fraught with its own trials and tribulations as we

navigated the year. Hopefully, the contents of this report will answer the questions of those of you may have.

Volunteer Recognition:

Before going into details of the House League program, I would be remiss if I did not first recognize the tireless efforts of the volunteers who helped make the House League program run. At the administrative level, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the house convenors, Kayla O'Donnell (U7), Jody Rantala (U9), Rick Musselman (U11), Trisha Yourth (U15), James Holland (U15) and Scott McGruer (U18) and James Edge (Goalie). The convenors are the front line of house league program, executing the sort outs and addressing concerns throughout the season.

At the development level, I would like express my thanks and gratitude to Lou Therien (U9), Eric Bennett (U11), Chad Mariage (U13), Rob MacGregor (U13) and Sean MacDonald (U15) for the time and effort they put in that their respective levels to coordinate and execute the House League development program, especially when snowstorms and an unexpected arena closure threw the schedule into chaos in the latter part of the season.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Ice Scheduler, Ralph Peterson, who tireless work during the disruptions to help us complete our programming as planned.

House League Teams:

During the 2024-25 season, the KMHA was successful in icing 62 teams at the House League level. The divisional breakdown is as follows:

- Under-7 (U7): 8 teams
- Under-9 (U9): 13 teams (3 House A, 6 House B and 4 House C)
- Under 11 (U11): 10 teams (3 House A, 4 House B and 3 House C)
- Under-13 (U13): 9 teams (3 House A, 4 House B and 2 House C)
- Under-15 (U15): 10 teams (4 House A, 6 House B)
- Under-18 (U18): 12 teams (5 House A, 7 House B)

Contrary to the belief of a portion of the KMHA membership, the number teams iced by the Association at House A, B and C is not an arbitrary decision, rather it is governed by Section 4.7 for HEO Policy 6.49 – HEO Hockey Policy (Minor) taking into consideration the hockey options available for a given level (see below).

The ultimate of success of our House League team requires an overall commitment from everyone associated with a given team regardless of the skill level of participants.

Hockey Canada's skill development program is not based on a House A, B or C system, rather it is designed as an age-based program. This means that whether the team is classified as House A or House C at a given level, they are expected to teach the age- specific skill.

Realistically, any player that joins the Association at the U7/U9 level, if they cannot hold their own and participate at the U15 House B level when they reach that age group, we, as an Association, have failed them developmentally.

Player Development:

While the KMHA does what it can to assist in player development, the process is flawed. We can run development programs that target a small number of players; however, the Association can change its overall player development by changing its practice philosophy to development model instead of a team-first model. This would require BOTH the Competitive program and House League programs to buy into the idea.

Under a development model, starting at the Competitive level, all of our competitive teams get full ice practices. Our AA teams should be running their practices with 5-6 additional affiliates from the B team in attendance whenever possible to develop these players and acclimate them to level for when they need for games or to make the team the following season. Our B teams should follow the same model by inviting the top 5-6 House A players to all practices.

At the House League level, because teams have shared practices, affiliation for practice is not always convenient due to the number of players on the ice. Instead, under a development model House A teams should be practicing with House B teams and House B teams should be practicing with House C teams, where first half of the practice run jointly by the higher-level coach. When a House A team practices with a House B, the players have opportunity learn from each other and to push each other in the sense that a dedicated player at House B will work to keep up with the House A player; and a dedicated House A player will work harder if they see themselves getting out worked by a House B player.

Finally, in regard to player development, in the past, the Association has brought in power skating coaches to select practices. My daughter plays in the KGHA, and every year they have two practices where a skills coach and/or skating coach comes in and runs a practice to teach the girls. In the KGHA, this works because the coaches buy into the program. After the skills/skating coach runs the practice, the following week the team coach is either running the same drills to reinforce the skills or different drills that are again reinforcing the recently taught skill.

This is where the KMHA is failing its players. The majority of our players that develop and succeed are doing so via KMHA, but rather because parents are seeking outside, third-party development opportunities.

For goalie development at the House League level, the Association is hampered by several factors that include, not limited to:

- Lack of available ice to run goalie specific development sessions (i.e. House League runs on weekends, so finding weekday ice that works the majority is difficult)
- Despite the Association recommending it, a lot of House teams do not dedicate a specific coach to work with the goalie, nor do they set aside time at practice for one-on-one skills development with goalie
- Lack of interest in the goalies themselves, some teams this season had goalies that rarely practiced, and it showed in their games

Going forward, I would recommend that the incoming VP House League create a Development Coordinator position under them to look after the house league player development. Ideally, this person would have their Development 1 certification. Furthermore, it would be beneficial if the Association would compel its competitive coaches to take on a mentorship role with the House League coaches to aid in player development.

Team Formation and Team Balancing:

Every year, we receive numerous questions, concerns, complaints and requests when it comes to team formation and team balancing. As I previously mentioned, the number of teams iced by the Association at House A, B and C is not an arbitrary decision, rather it is governed by Section 4.7 for HEO Policy 6.49 – HEO Hockey Policy (Minor) taking into consideration the hockey options available for a given level.

Besides having to follow Section 4.7 of HEO Policy 6.49, we need to consider other factors when forming teams such as: will the teams have a league to play in,

tournament accessibility and future options.

At U13, the Association ran with just two (2) teams at the House C level. Over the summer, we worked out an agreement to expand the Interlock and run a trial involving the playoffs with District B, only to have District B back out of the playoff agreement during the season.

At U15, there was NO C division this year. When the sort outs began, the intention was to run 3 House A, 6 House B and 3 House C teams for a total of 12 teams. The sudden withdrawal of TWO (2) goaltenders forced the Association to contract down to 10 teams.

Given that there was no time to re-negotiate the Interlock, we were forced to go with 4 House A teams and 6 House B teams. If we had fielded 2 House A, 6 House B and 2 House C teams as dictated by HEO Policy 6.49, the House A and C teams would have spent the first six (6) of the seasons and from mid-February to end of the season playing each other.

At the U18 level, it was asked why there is no House C division. The simple answer is that there nowhere for them to play. There is NO other Association in HEO, or Branch in Hockey Canada offers U18 House C, meaning that there is NO league or tournament options available to a potential House C division. Furthermore, after U18, players are graduating to college or university intramurals leagues, men's leagues, etc. None of these leagues have an A, B or C designation.

In regard to team balancing, the question has been asked as to why the Association does not do more to balance teams. The KMHA uses its sort out process to do its best to balance the teams. While leaving rosters open to move players around raises concerns or issues, such as:

- If rosters are maxed out, how do you justify demoting a player that worked their butt off to make House A, because there a House B player who tanked it in the sort outs and was placed wrong.
- If players numbers allowed for balanced rosters, equal number of players (i.e.

3 lines, 2 sets of defense), how are families going to react if you add an extra player

- If the Association runs the sort outs, then they spent 3 weeks playing balancing games. Rosters would be set until early November, which would not hamper the collection of team fees, tournament application, etc.

There is no perfect solution to team formation and balancing, any solution will have its own advantages and disadvantages.

In previous seasons, the Association has employed a system of allowing the head coach of each team to pick two players to be part of their team. My recommendation to the incoming VP House League would be to discontinue this practice. The concept of coach picks is creating cliques where teams are a line of strong players that have played together for years. Furthermore, the Association is having a difficult time every subsequent year finding viable candidates for head coaches. The Association has numerous assistant coaches that could excellent head coaches, but refuse to do so because they are consistently tied to another coach through friendship and coach picks.

House C hockey:

While House C hockey has its place, the KMHA does not really use the concept for its intended reason. House C hockey is intended to be a developmental league, which why HEO requires House C to affiliate from a lower House C division only.

If HEO and the KMHA actually treated the House C division a truly developmental league, players at start in House C at U9, if they were in a true developmental league, by the time graduated to U15 House, they should easily be capable of playing House B or House A.

Unfortunately, the KMHA does not properly develop these players. The vast majority of House C players spend their years ping-ponging through the program (i.e. First year U9 = House C, Second year U9 = House B, First year U11 = House C, Second year U11 = House B, etc.).

House League Development Program:

During the 2024-25 season, the KMHA decided to try something different with its House League development program. Instead of offering an 8-week program to the first 35 players and goalies to sign up at each of U9, U11, U13 and U15; we decided to run two 4- week programs allowing us to double the number players we could run through the program. Program uptake at U9 was excellent, while the other levels failed to max out their available spaces. There was very little from goaltenders at all levels.

Overall, the development program was well received, but final judgement on its success is reserved. Lack of available ice made running the programs in a reliable timeslot difficult. Snowstorms and arena closures disrupted the schedule of the second of 4-week groupings at levels.

Going forward, the house league development program could benefit from buy-in from the Competitive teams at the levels, by having their coaching staffs run the programs at a Competitive-level tempo to really push the players to excel in their development.

Goaltender Issues:

The house league faced issues surrounding the availability of full-time goaltenders. Goaltender development and retention is a problem, not just in the KMHA but across HEO. Numerous factors have led to our current goaltending issues including, but not

limited to:

- 1) COVID-19 outbreak curtailed goaltender development within the KMHA and HEO for almost 2 years. While we are restarting this development, we are seeing shortages at U11 and U13 that are slowly going to work its way through the system.
- 2) The Hockey Canada U9 Pathways program discourages the use of full-time goaltenders in house league at U9. The intention is to try and introduce the goaltender position to as many players as possible, but it does not guarantee that they will take up the position on a full-time basis going into U11. The Association needs to continue to develop a plan to encourage development while adhering to the Pathways program.

Unfortunately, going forward, the goaltender issues are going to get worse before they get better. By getting worse, this may mean in the coming seasons, if the Association maintains its policy of guaranteeing all returning players a place in the Association; our U11 and U13 House programs may have to revert back to the idea of "Here is a bag of goalie equipment, who is playing nets, tonight?"

General Program Overviews:

At the U7 level, there were no major issues. The program is sponsored by Canadian Tire. We attempted to set up a partnership with Ottawa 67s as well, but I do not have any final numbers in regard to its success. Going forward, it would be nice to maybe a year- end, in-house tournament set up involving cross-ice hockey for the kids.

At the U9 level, the House A level participated in an Interlock with Nepean in the second half of the season. Based on the games I saw, the Kanata teams were stronger than the Nepean team. There was some confusion around the Pathways program with regards to what the teams can and cannot do. Also, there was recommendation that the KMHA look into establishing a U9 House tournament in the

latter half of the season to be played under full-ice rules. Currently, the majority of Ottawa-area tournaments for U9 take place in the first half of the season, while teams are playing under the half-ice rules.

At the U11 level, the two main issues were:

- 1) The lack of certified head coaches. We had plenty at the House A and B House levels, but were short at the House C level. Fortunately, we were able to locate a non-parent coach, James Bulmer to coach a C team for the season.
- 2) Goaltending Issues. When the sort out process started, there were 12 goalies available for a total of 10 teams. This allowed the Association to re-allocate goaltenders to fill a shortage at the U11 House level. The two goalies that moved up to U13, did so voluntarily. They were not forced to move. Then at the end of the sort outs, another U11 goaltender up and left to take a opportunity to play Competitive hockey as an import with another Association. This was unexpected. It took a couple of weeks, but thankfully with assistance from the KMHA membership we were able to locate a goaltender who transferred over from the KGHA.

At the U13 level, this is where the Association a shortfall in overall registration. The Competitive teams relied heavily on imports at the AA level. We managed to field 9 House teams at U13, but even with the KMHA moving 2 goaltenders voluntarily from U11 to U13, we still ended up being short one goaltender that resulted in a House C team being given a bag of equipment and told to rotate players. The Association spent 8 weeks reaching to surrounding Associations and Districts, looking for a goaltender that we could import to no avail.

Furthermore, at the U13 level, we agreed to run 3 House A teams, 4 House B teams and 2 House C teams. We negotiated an agreement to modify the interlock play with Nepean and District B, with District B agreeing to interlock for playoffs,

only to have them back out of the agreement in late January.

Despite our best efforts, we do not believe the U13 house program fully delivered on its goals for the 2024-25 and we endeavor to learn from our mistakes going forward,

At the U15 level, the initial plan was to run 12 teams (3 A, 6 B and 3 C). However, the withdrawal and transfer of two goaltenders, right at the end of sort out process, required the unpopular shift to running 4 House A teams 6 House B teams. Unfortunately, we had to drop the House C division because it was too to change the Interlock agreement with Nepean and District B similar to what was worked out at U13, which I previously mentioned fell through.

Of course, our membership complained about players in House A that should be House B and vice versa. Unfortunately, we cannot please everyone, we can only hope to please the majority, if possible. Our membership needs to realize that we are responsible for the development of ALL KMHA players, not just THEIR child.

At the U18 level, the Association ran 5 House A teams and 7 House B teams. As mentioned earlier in this report, the number of House A and B teams is determined by HEO
6.49 – HEO Hockey Policy (Minor). The Association does not arbitrary decide the number teams to run.

At the U18 level, the Association does not run a House C division, nor does any other Association or District within HEO. Furthermore, research has not found a House C division at U18 in any of Hockey Canada's main branches. This means there are no leagues to play in or interlock with, nor are there any viable tournament options. If we field House C teams, then if they want to play in tournaments, they would have to register in a House B tournament and get destroyed. This does not benefit the players.

Concurrently, the KMHA entered into an Interlock agreement with District B at

the U18 House A level only. We entered into the agreement with the understanding that it would be a one-year trial to be re-evaluated. The main initial concern raised by the coaches was the travel and scheduling. As Interlock play began, it became apparent that we had been misled in regards to the strength of the District B teams. I recommended that the incoming VP House League discontinue the Interlock at U18.

There were concerns raised during the course of the season with regards to undisciplined and dangerous play by the players. While we all rely on the on-ice officials to enforce the playing rules and assess penalties, that does not preclude the coaches and convenors from a proactive approach by benching players for shifts, or suspending them for a game or two for dangerous play, even if the on-ice officials fail to act.

The incoming convenor and VP of House League may want to consider imposing rules on the U18 House league. For example, Nepean Minor Hockey has an Association rule in place that ejects players from games if they incur three minor penalties, or ideas include the convenor tracking penalties and suspending players for excessive stick infractions, physical play (roughing and body checking penalties).

House League Interlock:

Our Interlock with Nepean and District B at the House A and House C division, is not really a true league. This is the reason why the Association withdraws and runs their own internal playoffs, followed by an Interlock final. There was discussion between the KMHA,

Nepean and District B about interlocking the playoffs as well. The KMHA and District B were willing, but Nepean could not commit. Nepean was willing but needs to open discussions in the summer to adjust their programming to make it work.

In past seasons, the Interlock was just between Kanata and Nepean at U9, U11, U13 and U15 for House A and U11, U13, U15 at the House C level with District B

joining at U15 only. This past season, we to expand the Interlock to include District B at U11, U13 and U15 for both House A and C and run a polit program at U18 House A between Kanata and District B.

These changes were met mixed results. It will the responsibility of the incoming VP House League to hold discussions with their counterparts in Nepean and District B to review what worked and what failed to decide on the path going forward.

House League Volunteers:

Throughout the course of the year, we get numerous complaints from parents about what they do not like, or because their child's team is not faring well. Unfortunately, we are a volunteer-based organization, and more volunteers we have, the more success we will have.

Over the past 8 seasons, I have held various roles in KMHA. While the number of parents complaining has dramatically increased year over year, we are seeing fewer and fewer parents volunteer their time as head coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers, etc.

Every year, parents complain that the sort outs are unbalanced. They are not unbalanced, they are understaffed. The more people that volunteer during the sort outs, the more data we have. Parents seem to know a lot when comes how hockey should be run, but very few are willing to volunteer their time to help.

In closing this section, I thank the convenors and those that they have nominated for Coach of the Year and House League Volunteer of the Year. Usually, we only nominate one House League Volunteer for all of House while nominating one coach at each level. Going forward, I believe all nominated volunteers and coaches should congratulated and recognized, the House League program is too large too rely on so few individuals.

Closing:

As the 2024-25 season comes to an end, I reflect back on the past 8 seasons

where I served this Association as trainer for my son's team, as Convenor, and on the Board of Directors. I leave feeling proud of the work and effort I have put in over these past eight seasons. I had the pleasure of working with a lot great people, but I remain fearful of direction that the Association's membership is trying to steer towards, and if the membership does not right itself and put the well being and development of all KMHA players first, instead of focusing sole on their individual children, the Association will be doomed to failure. The success of the KMHA is not based on the number games its Competitive teams win in season, but rather it built on the last-lasting friendships, relationships and sportsmanship developed by all its members over the course of their tenure.

William Burnie

Outgoing VP House League

VP OPERATIONS-Chad Mariage

General

Overall, the 2024/25 season was positive. It was great to see the continued smiles and fun being had in and around the rink. I would be remiss if I didn't thank all those who have contributed to the success of the operations for this season including our new equipment Manager for this year Debra Schalla who took the reins and ran with the role. She has been an incredible resource and tremendous volunteer in the equipment room ensuring everything was in order and ensuring coaches had what they needed for their teams. I also want to thank Ralph Petersen again for all the work in putting the scheduling puzzle together and given this was his final season to thank him again for all his service to making KMHA what it is. Finally, I also wish to thank William Burnie for serving as Registrar again this season. My sincere thank you to all of the other volunteers as well who lent a hand in the equipment room and elsewhere in the association's operations. The success or failure of a season is entirely dependent on our volunteers and I certainly want to recognize that.

Registrar Report

With thanks to William, I am pleased to say that the 2024/25 hockey had a total of 1,183 registered players. Compared to the 2023/24 season, the total registration remains largely unchanged. The number is, however, still down from pre-COVID numbers. The Association took in 20 Imports at the Competitive levels and 7 House League transfers. All imports and house league transfers expire at the end of the current season, with the players returning to their home Associations.

During the 2024/25 season, the KMHA iced 15 Competitive teams and 62 House League teams for an overall total of 77 teams. This a decrease of 4 teams compared to the previous seasons. The number of competitive teams remained unchanged while the House League program saw a reduction of 4 teams. The reduction in teams at the House League level is due primarily to a shortage of goalies that resulted in fewer teams with larger rosters approaching 16-17 skaters per team.

Equipment Manager Report

The equipment room continues to be an area that requires dedication and strong organizational skills. This year, a new KMHA volunteer took over the role of equipment manager. Between Deb's own time dedicated to the role and her family coming in to help, there were 300+ collective volunteer hours that were required to do a variety of tasks. These included processing nearly 4000 jerseys, 100 First Aid Kits, 40 goalie gear bags, 6 convenor bins and 100 puck bags.

****Additional volunteers will be needed and called on to help with the end of season jersey and equipment inspection. Please reach out to equipment@kmha.ca if you are able to help. Great opportunity for students trying to get their volunteer hours.****

In addition to these regular tasks and familiarizing herself with the role, Deb has ensured the smooth operation of the equipment room mainly by private appointment. She has worked with coaches to distribute coach wear, team photos, and player of the game awards. She also made delivery and pickups of jerseys that required repairs with the seamstress. Needless to say, this season would not have been possible without her tireless work and I want to ensure to note our/my appreciation.

Some other highlights this season included:

- Coordination and distribution of tryout jerseys.
- Providing estimates for volume and sizing of tryout jerseys required for spring AA tryouts.
- Taking a full inventory of house jerseys for future replacement by age group.
- Reviewing the jersey policy and policy & procedures manual and recommending updates for the upcoming hockey season.
- Order, pickup, and distribution of coach wear to 40 coaches.

Other items of note:

Due to the sheer volume of volunteer hours required to run the room effectively, Deb has made a recommendation to split the role between 2 volunteers: an equipment manager and an assistant equipment manager. A callout will be made to seek an individual to fill the role of assistant equipment manager, scheduled to start training in the summer. Roles and responsibilities will be discussed later and will be clearly defined to ensure there is no confusion.

At the end of each season, all jerseys are inspected. Parents who return jerseys that do not meet the usability standard are notified to pick up the jerseys to address the issues. In the past, approximately 35% of parents who were contacted were not responsive to requests or refused to have the jerseys replaced or repaired. The jersey policy was updated to ensure that players are unable to register for the upcoming hockey season until the repair or replacement fee is paid. We would like to remind all parents to consult the Jersey Policy (<https://kmha.ca/kmha-jersey-policy>) to better understand your responsibilities as it relates to borrowed jerseys.

In an effort to increase the number of goalies, KMHA began loaning goalie gear to any member in good standing during the off season, which continues to be a popular program among new goalies.

As always, we would like to thank our U7 program sponsor: The Malcomson family, owners of the Kanata Canadian Tire.

Ice Scheduler Report

Schedule planning for the season started in April with ice applications to the City of Ottawa, negotiations with the Sensplex, season planning and projecting the number of registrations versus the number of teams. The season started in late August with competitive tryouts and ended April 6th with the conclusion of House league playoffs. In total 3339.5 hours were managed to accommodate all KMHA's hockey programs which included games, practices, development sessions, clinics, Bauer's First Shift program and special events. This process of managing ice also includes adapting to many changing scheduling items such as competitive team declarations, competitive game schedules both home and away, tournament blackouts for both competitive and house, teams forgetting to enter blackouts, house interlock schedules and opposing teams' blackouts, delayed schedule release for both competitive and house interlock, special event blackouts such as 67's day or extra ice purchase to just name a few. KMHA once again used the scheduling program DNC to help manage all the ice contracts, team blackouts and functioned as a communication tool between teams, officials, and the ice scheduler.

Scheduling this season had many extra challenges because of ice times impacted by the weather, the early closure of Jack Charron Arena and securing ice for the new

process of spring AA tryouts. On behalf of Ralph, I would like to take this time to thank all teams, both coaches and managers, for the help over the season with all the necessary schedule changes, it was truly appreciated.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I would also be very remiss if I didn't thank Ralph for once again taking on this challenging and often thankless role. It is with mixed feelings this year because, as previously announced, Ralph will be stepping aside from this role. His years of work on scheduling and other KMHA/hockey related endeavors are a testament to his dedication to our association and to the kids that play hockey here. Thanks for everything Ralph and all the best in your new adventures.

With Ralph's departure, I launched a call to replace him as ice scheduler. I want to thank all that put their names forward, it truly great to see so many folks interested in contributing to the success of the KMHA. Following consultation and several discussions, I was pleased to announce that Grace Summerfield will be taking on the lead/competitive scheduler position and that Bari Ansari would take on the role of House scheduler. The transition is already underway, and I thank them in advance for their work. As I stated in my announcement, any changes will be gradual and will be made in the most logical way possible.

Photo Day

Photo day was again a success with Ottawa Sports Photography. While there are certainly some small issues to work through with the photographer, the days were a success overall and seemed to have been welcomed by parents.

U15 House League Tournament

The 2024/25 edition of the U15 tournament again a huge success.

I am very happy to announce that the tournament had 34 teams registered, sellout. In all I would say, the tournament success, and I continue to work to improve the product.



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We were also thrilled to welcome some important sponsors to the tournament and would like to thank them for their support and their contributions to the success of the tournament. This year we were also able to sell Maverick's Donuts at TGRC which brought some additional funds to the tournament.



I would like to thank all the volunteers and folks who help make this a success with a special shout out to William Burnie. I would also like to thank the referees and timekeepers for doing an amazing job and for handling some delicate situations and for Peter Hale for the heavy lift of figuring out the scheduling puzzle for our officials. Finally, I would like to thank all the teams that participated and congratulate the champions for this year:

U15 A: Canterbury/Southend Capitals

U15 B: Richmond Royals

U15 C: Kemptville Royals

Chad Mariage

VP Hockey Operations



Kanata Minor Hockey Association
100 Charlie Rogers Place, Box 3
Kanata, ON
Canada, K2V 1A2

DIRECTOR AT LARGE RISK AND SAFETY- Sam Bhalesar

Serving as the Director of Risk and Safety this past season has been one of the greatest honors of my career. It was both an interesting and rewarding experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity. Please accept my official report.

Upon stepping into this role, my first priority was to analyze the position and identify opportunities for improvement. I made it a priority to meet with as many teams as possible, successfully engaging with approximately 60% of them. The teams I connected with reported no issues, and throughout the season, any concerns that did arise were swiftly resolved—either through direct conversations or, in a few cases, formal hearings.

I am proud to have fostered an environment of openness and trust, ensuring that all members of our association had a safe space to voice their concerns. Through meaningful engagement, we have set a new standard for communication, strengthening relationships between parents, coaches, and the association as a whole.

The feedback I've received from parents and coaches has been overwhelmingly positive—they appreciated having a dedicated point of contact and felt well supported throughout the season.

While we did receive a handful of reports regarding injuries, none were excessive. Fortunately, all were quickly addressed, and both players and coaches were back on the ice in no time.

This position demands time, empathy, professionalism, and patience, and I am continually impressed by the dedication and collaboration within our community. We are incredibly fortunate to have such outstanding parents and players in our association.

Thank you.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE Officials AA/A B League Rep- David Chin

Director-at-Large – AA/A and B League Representative Update

As the Director-at-Large and KMHA's representative for the AA/A and B Leagues, my primary responsibilities include appointing the Referee-in-Chief to oversee the officiating program and attending league meetings on behalf of KMHA.

AA/A League Updates:

1. Tryout Schedule Changes:

The tryout period has been moved from September to May. This decision was made by HEO, and official notification was received from Chair Ralph on December 3, 2024.

2. Digital Game Sheets:

Starting in the 2025–2026 season, the league will transition to using the Game Sheet app, thereby eliminating the use of paper game sheets.

3. AA Program Adjustment Proposal:

Gloucester has proposed that, beginning in the 2026–2027 season, the AA program will start at the U10 level. Associations with two U10 teams would field one AA team and one A team. This proposal is still under discussion and has not yet been finalized.

B League Updates:

● Pathways Program Implementation:

The adoption of the Hockey Canada Pathways Program has resulted in changes to the playoff format and a reduction in the number of allowable exhibition games.

Coaching Concerns:

The following concerns have been raised by AA/A and B League coaches and will be addressed in upcoming league meetings (if not already discussed):

1. **Playoff Format Adjustments:**

Concerns were raised about the shift from the traditional top-8/bottom-5 playoff format to a system where teams are grouped based on even or odd regular-season standings. This change results in top-ranked teams facing much lower-ranked opponents, creating a significant disparity in skill level. Such mismatches are counterproductive to player development and may discourage younger athletes.

2. **Knockout Playoff Rounds:**

The current single-elimination format for quarterfinals and semifinals does not take regular season performance into account. There is a suggestion to consider an alternative scoring system—similar to the one used in AAA—where teams accumulate points, and the first team to reach a specified threshold advance.

3. **Exhibition Game Restrictions:**

Under the Pathways Program, recommended game limits are now being enforced as strict regulations, significantly reducing the number of exhibition games permitted. Coaches argue that, as these are intended to be recommendations rather than rules, greater flexibility should be permitted.

Referee-in-Chief Appointment:

In June 2024, the KMHA General Manager issued an email inviting qualified candidates to apply for the Referee-in-Chief position. Nik McLean was the sole applicant in the two weeks period and was subsequently appointed to the role. Below is the summary report provided by Nik:

Referee-in-chief report

The season is over and here are some of the highlights from the officiating program:

We as a district completed 1744 regular season and tournament games, and 127 Playoff games. We completed 21 Tournaments also this year.

We hired 36 new officials this year and acquired more than 10 officials from other districts who wanted to join the KMHA program which shows the work that the development team is working and that officials want to learn from the experienced group that we have.

The number of officials hasn't been this high in Kanata since pre-covid. This is a huge success for the program.

363 supervisions were done on our officials this year.

We plan on developing some of our younger officials to get them ready for Centrally assigned hockey and making the jump to work Junior hockey with HEO.

We thank you for your support in providing a safe environment for the officials to work in.

We look forward to the upcoming season which starts this month.

Thanks

Nik McLean

District 11/KMHA Referee-in-Chief

District Chair- Ralph Petersen

This season did include a few new implementations from Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO), they included pathway programs for the U13 & U15 levels, spring tryouts for A/AA for levels U10-U16, updated code of discipline chart, appeal process, video review process and playing rule 11.4 acknowledgment process to name a few.

This season there were 80 suspensions (player/coach) during the season that resulted in 181 games being served, this was slightly higher than last season's numbers of 74 suspensions and 174 games. These suspensions imposed by on ice officials were for various infractions such as, checking from behind, unsportsmanlike like conduct, fighting etc....

Once again, KMHA's teams did a fantastic job of recording affiliation through TTM. In closing, thanks to all the teams in all your cooperation with the suspensions/affiliation recording in TTM.

Sincerely

Ralph

Petersen

District (D11) Chair

Motion 2: Appoint MKP Accountants to perform the 2024/25 Financial Statement

Motion 3: Under the current bylaw 5.03

Composition of Board

The Board shall be comprised as far as possible of the following Directors: (a) President. (b) Vice-President (Hockey Programs); (c) Vice-President (Operations); (d) Vice-President (Communications) (e) Treasurer; (f) Directors At-Large (two); and (g) Immediate Past-President (Ex Officio)

Revise to

The title of the Vice President of Hockey Programs to Vice President of Competitive.

****Reasoning ****

This adjustment is essential to manage the increasing workload that one person currently faces while allowing for a clearer distinction between the Competitive and House programs. By making this change, we aim to foster a more focused approach to each segment of our hockey offerings, ensuring that both receive the dedicated attention they deserve.

Motion 4: Under Bylaw 5.06 Qualifications of Directors

Section B Qualification and duties of Vice President Hockey Programs currently reads (b) The Vice-President (Hockey Programs) shall be a Member and a Director of the Corporation. The Vice-President (Hockey Programs) must have served in a management capacity of a minor hockey association for at least 2 years, be certified at the equivalent of the Coach level and have served as a coach for a minor hockey team for at least one year prior to taking office as Vice President (Hockey Programs).

Revise to

The Vice President of Competitive shall be a member and director of the Corporation. The Vice President of Competitive must have served in a management capacity of a minor hockey association for at least 2 years, be certified at the equivalent of Coach Level, and have served as a coach for a minor hockey team for at least one year prior taking office as Vice President of Competitive.

****Reasoning****

To emphasize our commitment to excellence, we are renaming the title of VP Hockey Programs to VP Competitive. This change reflects our dedication to fostering competitive development and enhancing the overall quality of our programs

Motion 5: Under current bylaw 5.03 Composition of Board

The Board shall be comprised as far as possible of the following Directors: (a) President. (b) Vice-President (Hockey Programs); (c) Vice-President (Operations); (d) Vice-President (Communications) (e) Treasurer; (f) Directors At-Large (two); and (g) Immediate Past-President (Ex Officio)

Revise to the title of "Vice President (Communications)" to "Vice President of House League."

****Reasoning:**** Split the current position of Vice President of Hockey Programs into two separate roles to balance the workload. Creating distinct Vice Presidents for Competitive and House League programs will lead to a better distribution of responsibilities and allow for a more focused approach to each program.

Motion 6: Under Current Bylaw 5.06 Qualifications of Directors Section D

(d) The Vice-President (Communications) shall be a Member and a Director of the Corporation. The Vice-President (Communications) must have served in a management capacity of a minor hockey association or equivalent minor sports association for at least two years prior to taking office as Vice-President (Communications).

Revised to

(d) The Vice President of House League shall be a Member and Director of the Corporation. The Vice President (House League) must have served in a management capacity of a minor hockey association or equivalent sports association for at least 2 years prior to taking office as Vice President of House League.

****Reasoning**** To adjust the position name of position

Motion 7: Under Bylaw 5.04 5.04 Election and Term

The term of office of the Directors shall begin May 1st and run until April 30th of the following year. There are no term limits for Directors. To ensure continuity of KMHA programs the election of certain Director positions will be staggered in appointment year and the appointment duration will be a two-year term.

- *President – 2 Year Term – Position will be up for election on odd years.*
- *VP Hockey Programs – 2 Year Term – Position will be up for election on even years.*

- VP Hockey Operations – 2 Year Term – Position will be up for election on odd years.
- Treasurer- 2 Year Term Position will be up for election on even years.
- VP of Communications and Director at large (2 positions) will be one year-long positions.

Revise to the following the term of office of the Directors shall begin May 1st and run until April 30th of the following year. There are no term limits for Directors. To ensure continuity of KMHA programs the election of certain Director positions will be staggered in appointment year and the appointment duration will be a two-year term.

President – 2-Year Term – Position will be up for election on odd years.

VP Competitive – 2-Year Term – Position will be up for election on even years.

VP Hockey Operations – 2-Year Term – Position will be up for election on odd years

VP House League 2-year term- Position will be up for election on Odd Years

Treasurer- 2-Year Term Position will be up for election on even years.

Director at large (2 positions) will be one-year term positions.

**** Reasoning**** To better align with our organizational goals and enhance our leadership structure, we propose updating the titles to Vice President of Competitive Programs and Vice President of House League. This change will more accurately reflect the responsibilities and importance of these roles.

Motion 8: Under current Bylaw 5.10 Committees of the Board

Subject to the limitations on delegation set out in any applicable legislation, the Board may establish any committee it determines necessary for the execution of the Board's responsibilities. The Board shall determine the composition and terms of reference for any such committee. The Board may dissolve any committee or remove any committee member by resolution at any time. Without limiting the foregoing, the Executive Committee of the Board, if any, shall be a standing committee and, to the extent possible, shall be comprised of the President, the Vice-President (Hockey Programs), the Vice-President (Operations), and the Treasurer.

Revise to the following

Subject to the limitations on delegation set out in any applicable legislation, the Board may establish any committee it determines necessary for the execution of the Board's

responsibilities. The Board shall determine the composition and terms of reference for any such committee. The Board may dissolve any committee or remove any committee member by resolution at any time. Without limiting the foregoing, the Executive Committee of the Board, if any, shall be a standing committee and, to the extent possible, shall be comprised of the President, the Vice-President Competitive, the Vice-President (Operations), the Vice President of House League and the Treasurer

****Reasoning**** update the document to accurately reflect the new titles for the Vice President of Competitive and the Vice President of House League. Ensuring these changes are documented will reinforce our commitment to clarity and leadership within our organization

Motion 9: Under Bylaw 7.01 Description of Offices Section B

(b) Vice-President (Hockey Programs) – the Vice-President (Hockey Programs) shall be a Member and a Director of the Corporation as provided by these Bylaws. The Vice-President (Hockey Programs) shall be responsible for the overall management of the Corporation's Recreational and Competitive programs including, but not limited to, coordinating the coaching selection process and team assignment. The Vice-President (Hockey Programs) shall present the interests of players, parents and coaches to the Board, and shall also perform such other duties as may be required by law or as the Board may determine from time to time.

Revise to

(b) Vice-President (Competitive – the Vice-President Competitive) shall be a Member and a Director of the Corporation as provided by these Bylaws. The Vice-President (Competitive) shall be responsible for the overall management of the Corporation's Competitive programs including, but not limited to, coordinating the coaching selection process and team assignment. The Vice-President (Competitive shall present the interests of competitive players, parents and coaches to the Board, and shall also perform such other duties as may be required by law or as the Board may determine from time to time.

****Reasoning****

update: rebranding the title from VP Hockey Programs to VP Competitive Role, along with aligning the associated duties. This change not only reflects our commitment to a more expansive and strategic approach but also underscores the evolving nature of our competitive landscape. Embracing this new title will enhance our focus on driving excellence and innovation across our programs.

Motion 10: Under Bylaw 7.01 Description of Offices Section D

(d) Vice-President (Communications) – the Vice-President (Communications) shall be a Member and a Director of the Corporation as provided by these By-laws. The Vice-President (Communications) shall be responsible for overseeing all areas of communication pertaining to the Corporation and shall work to ensure effective communication between the Corporation and its Members. The Vice-President (Communications) shall also perform such other duties as may be required by law or as the Board may determine from time to time.

Revise to

(d) Vice-President (House League) – the Vice-President (House League) shall be a Member and a Director of the Corporation as provided by these By-laws. The Vice-President (House League); The Vice-President (House League) shall be responsible for the overall management of the Corporation's House League programs including, but not limited to, coordinating the coaching selection process and team assignment. The Vice-President (House League shall present the interests of House League players, parents, and coaches to the Board, and shall also perform such other duties as may be required by law or as the Board may determine from time to time.

*****Reasoning*****

update: rebranding the title from VP Communications to VP House League Role, along with aligning the associated duties. This change not only reflects our commitment to a more expansive and strategic approach but also underscores the evolving nature of our House League Hockey. Embracing this new title will enhance our focus on driving excellence and innovation across our House League program.

Motion 11: Cede the Floor to District Chair to Perform the Election for Board of Directors

Election

- **President**
- **VP House League**
- **VP Operations**
- **Director at Large Risk and Safety**
- **Director at Large, Officials AA/A/B league rep**
- **Treasurer**

Motion 12: To return the floor to the President

Presidents Final Remarks

Awards

u7 Coach of the year –

u9 Coach of the year –

u11 Coach of the year –

u13 Coach of the year –

u15 Coach of the year –

u18 Coach of the year –

HL volunteer of the year –

AA/A Coach of the Year –

B Coach of the Year –

Rep Volunteer of the year –

Presidents Award of the Year- L

Our AGM does mark the end of the current season, and the process of planning for next season does begin. I sincerely hope that everyone had an amazing 2024-2025 hockey season, and I hope everyone has a great summer.

Motion 13: Adjourn the 2024/25 AGM