

Ajax Minor Hockey Association Directors' Reports for the 2019-2020 Season



President & Vice President

First and foremost. There would not be an Ajax Minor Hockey Association without the hundreds of Volunteers that dedicate their time and energy to our programs. Your passion and love of the sport are exposed through the multiple roles and duties that each and every volunteer encompasses. Sincere thank you to all of our: Coaches, managers, trainers, convenors, on-ice volunteers and the dedicated parents. Without you, our organization would cease to exist. I would also like to extend a special Thank you to your Board of Directors. I have witnessed all of the passion and dedication they put into all programs. They are volunteers who have dedicated hundreds of hours of their time to help make AMHA a great organization to be part of. They are extremely proud people and I have had the pleasure of helping out amongst a fantastic group of people. I would not place myself here if I did not believe that we are all here for the right reasons. I am a non-parent volunteer and my 3 sons have grown into their adult careers. I have thoroughly enjoyed my last 21 years as both an AMHA member and a volunteer. Volunteering for 17 of those years was a journey I will never regret or trade in. I am very passionate about volunteers and admire just how much they give. Born and raised here in Ajax brings out my bias for Ajax Minor Hockey. I am confident that Ajax Minor Hockey will continue to remain a solid, stable organization that we can all be proud of.

I would also like to commend the Town of Ajax Facilities leadership and facilities crew for their continued support, professionalism and flexibility with our programs. We have built a solid relationship with the Town of Ajax and I have the utmost respect for them.

- ❖ **Attended all AMHA board meetings**
- ❖ **Attended Town of Ajax Ice users meetings in April and May 2019.**
- ❖ **Continued to maintain a healthy partnership with the Town of Ajax Facilities and Recreation. My sincere appreciation on behalf of AMHA to: Pete Young and his outstanding facilities crew, for your continued**

support and flexibility with our programs. We are fortunate to have such a solid working partnership.

- ❖ **Contracted and confirmed AMHA 2019-2020 season ice.**
- ❖ **Obtained insurance from OMHA to provide to the Town of Ajax for our season ice, tournaments and clinics.**
- ❖ **Contracted and confirmed ice for both our September Break the Ice and March Ron Sharpe 2019-20 tournaments.**
- ❖ **On behalf of AMHA, I was able to contract enough ice from the Town of Ajax to make sure all existing development programs remain in place, with potential to build.**
- ❖ **Will continue to supply an ice slot for our "New to Hockey Program"**

Together with Herb Watson, we were able to secure our ice requirements and have established that the AMHA is in a solid position moving forward.

I would like to acknowledge and thank my dedicated working partner Herb Watson. Herb has continued to take the ice I have contracted on behalf of AMHA and work his magic with all of the schedules. Thank you, Herb, for your time expertise with all of our AMHA ice schedules

New to Hockey Program: Our New to Hockey program continues to be a success. This program is a free program offered by Ajax Minor Hockey and staffed with volunteer coaches. This program offers children of all ages in our community the opportunity to come out and try the sport of Hockey. We also extend this program to our first-time hockey players. This is a truly rewarding program and has become the beginning hockey career for some children. The program gives everyone the chance to experience the Best game in the World! The program is set to continue.

Moving forward, the AMHA is ...

The AMHA mandate is to maintain and strengthen a healthy membership registration base for both our House league and Rep programs. It is our mission to keep "Hometown Hockey" in Ajax for all children. We will continue to further explore development avenues, events and create AMHA awareness.

Suggestions from the membership are always welcomed and encouraged.

Volunteers are always welcome.

Vice President

Please see President Report

Treasurer

Financials posted prior/during AGM

OMHA Director

In the blink of an eye, another season has come to an end, but its ending was nothing like we have ever experienced before. A worldwide pandemic ended the season on March 12, 2021.

Unfortunately given the abrupt shutdown, the AMHA had teams still competing in the OMHA semi-finals (Juvenile AA/AAA), OMHA finals (Midget AE), Lakeshore Finals (Minor Atom AA, Atom A and Midget AA). The Minor Midget A team was awaiting a tie-breaker game to determine who would advance to the Lakeshore Finals. The Midgets were awarded the Red Hats as Co-Champions but unfortunately for the remaining competing finalist teams, there was no hardware to take home and our hearts go out to them. To make it to the Finals after a long season is a feat in itself but to walk away with nothing is truly disappointing. Congratulations to all the teams on their success. You can read all about the successes of the teams on the AMHA website.

The AMHA had 30 rep teams, 10 select teams and 36 house league teams along with 60 Timbits. A number of the Ajax Knights rep teams travelled throughout Ontario, Quebec and the US and brought home Tournament Championship trophies. Congratulations on the wins!

This season I began my role as the OMHA Director. To say that it was a busy role was an understatement. I would like to thank coaches, board members and volunteers for their ongoing support and knowledge/expertise that they have provided during this season. I attended monthly AMHA and Lakeshore League meetings, meetings with teams and parents along with the Director of Coaching to discuss and solve conflict issues. I sat on the Coaches Selection Committee and assisted in the process of selecting rep coaches for the upcoming season.

This season saw the implementation of the New Hockey Canada Pathway for the Minor Novice Select and Novice Program with the use of half ice boards. The players enjoyed the half ice experience and the development was remarkable.

Congratulations to all of the players, coaches, managers, trainers and families on a great season.

I would like to thank Herb Watson who consistently works his magic to get all games & playoffs games scheduled and completed on time! Thanks to all the officials and timekeepers who officiated during the season.

I would finally like to take this opportunity to thank all the non-parent and parent volunteers. I know without volunteers there is no hockey.

Thank you for your contribution to the success of the AMHA.

Director of Coaching

I have held the position of Director of Coaching since September of 2015 and I am very thankful for the on-going support and feedback I receive. There is no doubt that this position comes with a lot of responsibility and expectations, and I am confident that each year we continue to learn and further improve our overall process and experience.

One of the steps that was implemented a few years back and continues to be utilized is the Coaching Selection Committee. This cross functional committee that the Director of Coaching chairs, has members of the board, coaches, referees, and other volunteers involved. Our approach also takes into consideration what we have observed by watching games, information from the board and feedback received from the interview and the coaching evaluation forms provided by the parents. The mandate is to interview all candidates and award the team to the best possible coach. The selections that we make are not always met positively; not sure they ever can be. What I can tell you, is that we do take our role very seriously and countless hours are spent watching players, coaches, and teams to assist us with our selection.

Another area that has been strengthened this past season is the on-going communication and interaction with the OMHA Director. Collectively, we attended countless meetings with teams, coaches, and parents. The results of those meetings varied and included suspensions for coaches, players, and parents. We even had to remove a coach from the bench and from coaching further with our association for failure to adhere to OHF/OMHA/AMHA protocols. We can appreciate that some decisions are not popular, but they are required as we look to do what is best for the players and the AMHA.

My key accomplishments this past season were:

- ❖ Reviewing all our Coaching Feedback/Evaluation forms and summarizing the findings for the coaches.
- ❖ Attending several meetings with the OMHA director to address team issues.
- ❖ Selecting our 21 Rep coaches for the 2020/21 Season
- ❖ Observing over 50 games at all levels, capturing strengths and opportunities for improvement.
- ❖ Completed 4 – NCCP D1 evaluations for coach's certification

I would like to thank our Coaching Selection Committee who participated in over 35

coaching interviews and assisting in making our coaching selections.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our coaches for their dedication and commitment. Our coaches' volunteering efforts allow our association and members to enjoy this great game and we cannot thank you enough.

Director of Trainers

Thank you to everyone who returned to their roles as team trainers for the season! It was wonderful to have your input into the development of the strength of all the trainers with the AMHA. I would like to offer a special thank you to everyone who served as a team trainer for the very first time this year. Your willingness to get involved has made a difference for each player on your team, the coaches, and the families who trust you with their child's safety while they're involved in hockey.

Highlights from this year include:

- ❖ Trainer evaluation and development with cumulative reports submitted to OMHA for their understanding of the trainer role at the association level
- ❖ Participation in OMHA meetings for Directors of Training
- ❖ Participation in OMHA seminars in concussion research, protocols, and future practices
- ❖ Analysis of opportunities for trainer mentoring program
- ❖ Implementing injury reporting protocol for internal AMHA purposes

It has been a pleasure to serve the AMHA in this role this year.

Director of Officials

2019 – 2020 was on pace to be a very successful season for officials before the COVID 19 shutdown.

- ❖ Over 100 supervisions were completed by the area supervisors
- ❖ 3 new officials were hired. (Hiring has slowed a bit due to the new 1 official/cross ice system)
- ❖ Break the Ice Tournament ran with zero issues on the officiating side of things
- ❖ Multiple crews were selected for various Showcases/Championships:
 - 1 crew for OMHA/OHL Minor Midget “AAA” Showcase
 - 1 crew for Minor Atom “AAA” OMHA Championships
 - 1 crew for Midget “AAA” OMHA Championships
 - 1 crew for Bantam “A” OHF Championships
 - 2 officials for Peewee “AAA” OHF/Hockey Canada Regionals Championships

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- ❖ Ajax/Pickering was the most used centre for out of town games during the OMHA playoffs.
- ❖ 2 officials were selected to attend the Hockey Canada Level 4 clinic. (Currently postponed due to the pandemic)
- ❖ 3 officials scouted to become linesman with the OHA (Hiring freeze due to the pandemic postponed any potential hiring)

House League Director

Teams

8 Initiation
6 Novice
6 Atom
4 Peewee
3 Bantam
5 Midget
4 Juvenile
plus 60 TimBits

Novice - Atom - Peewee and Bantam continued with the cross over program with Pickering Hockey.

Championship Week was March 4-5-6-7-8.

House League Champion Teams were crowned before the COVID shutdown.

The Ron Sharp Tournament was cancelled due to the pandemic.

All in all, A very successful season.

Equipment Director

Our 2019 / 2020 season ended unexpectedly abruptly as we all remember due to COVID. We were in a holding pattern for some time, but eventually all of the loaned-out goalie gear was returned in late September.

The 2019 / 2020 season also saw a huge increase in activity with our “New to Hockey Program” driven by our house League Director, Todd Lawson. I am very happy to report that after explaining our plans for the program, we had a few sponsors step up to assist with getting it going. Garth Grant from CanCraft Renovations, one of our house league coaches along with F45 Fitness in Ajax (beside the Portly Piper), Roy's Enterprises, as well as Kobe Sportswear all came together to help provide the jerseys and the ice time for this amazing program. We did our best to provide equipment free of charge from our equipment swaps, to anyone that wanted to see what it was like to “strap on the blades” for the first time and hopefully spark some interest with some kids of all ages that hadn't played what I like to call “The greatest game on earth”. Also, much thanks to our many REP

teams that volunteered their time to spend some “1 on 1” instruction with those potential new hockey players that were participating.

I am pleased to say that our experience with Roy’s Enterprise once again has had positive feedback from the members that have taken the time to let us know how their experience was with them. All REP teams again received their team orders on time, and they were correct. Our house league uniforms were also received on time. Again, we had the “last minute need” for some additional team sets at the Midget Junior house league level, and Roy’s was able to meet this request and turnaround time, better than expected.

With the present COVID lockdown protocols in place, we are not scheduling any equipment swaps “AT THIS TIME” but expect to resume them when we are allowed to. Please consider hanging on to and donating any previously enjoyed gear that still has some life in it. Our equipment swaps help make equipment available to our members that can use it, as well as helping new people to be outfitted for our New to Hockey program. Please note that any AMHA players (house league or rep) that are available to volunteer their time, even to run the swap table, are able to get hours for their high school requirements.

As with all equipment, please remember to always check expiration date stickers on helmets, and make sure your players equipment is always kept in good / safe condition

Marketing Director

The AMHA continues to strive to increase registration. The AMHA publishes a color ad in the Town of Ajax booklet. Volunteers were recruited to place flyers on vehicles at the sporting facilities and large grocery store parking lots. We have also continued with the large mobile signs displayed in high traffic areas to increase registration numbers.

We once again continued with our “I Play Hockey for Ajax Minor Hockey” t-shirts this year for the younger age groups and the Ajax Knights baseball caps for the older age group. These were distributed just prior to the Christmas break and well received.

This year the AMHA initiated a “Refer a Friend” Program which provides a house league player with a \$100 refund for each player that registers in the house league program. This program was very well received.

The AMHA continues to proactively utilize the league’s website to communicate with the membership which saw an upwards of 5000+ hits a day. The AMHA finds the website an economically and efficient way to keep the membership updated as opposed to mass

emails. Mass emails are not efficient given the number of returned emails. We ask that the membership please continue to keep their contact information updated in the HCR system.

We encourage the membership and ask all coaches (house league, select and rep) to encourage their parents to visit the website regularly to keep informed of the ongoing organization’s activities as well as keeping abreast of their team’s schedules.

Director of Volunteers

I would like to thank the many volunteers who helped to make this season possible. We had lots of volunteers that were ready to help in whatever capacity was needed. Unfortunately, the season was not what we had imagined. Also, I would like to thank the parents and grandparents that helped get the volunteers to the rink. Without your help they would not have been able to volunteer. We were able to provide volunteers for the Break the Ice Tournament. We needed lots of volunteers for this tournament. We needed volunteers to play music and assist with the presentation of trophies/medals. Another program in which we provided volunteers was the New to Hockey Program. This is a very successful program. The volunteers told us that the time they spent with the participants was very rewarding and they enjoyed helping out. We also had the occasional request for assistance from some of our coaches. In closing, I would like to thank the volunteers who assisted us and also the parents for bringing the kids to the rink.

Sponsorship Director

Congratulations to all the teams on a great (almost full) season of hockey. Unfortunately, in March 2020, Covid-19 hit and we were forced to end the season.

The AMHA House League Program would not be possible without the support of our local sponsors. Please take the opportunity to thank the following companies for their continued support:

Ajax Dental Smiles
Ajax Eye Care
Ajax Roofing
Autograph Door Systems
Brian English Foundation
Canadian Restoration GTA Inc.
CanCraft Renovations
Club Link Cherry Downs
Dodgecaravankids-Novice
Equity Credit Union
F45 Training
Faisamtrader.com
Froster Active Kids
Fujiki Dental
Giant Tiger
Hunter’s Photography
Limitless Tires

Luv of Hockey
Medallion Corp.
Okanagan Hockey Ontario
OnPoint Home Services
Polak, McKay & Hawkshaw
Priority Submetering
Redfin
Rockcliffe Promotions
Salem Ridge Golf and Academy
Slapshot Trucking
Tim Hortons - TimBits
Tom’s NoFrills Ajax
Turner Moore LLP

Secretary

No Report

Registrar

No Report

Miscellaneous

- ❖ We saw a number of Ajax teams give back to the community and show their Knights’ spirit
- ❖ Both House League and Rep teams participated in a Turkey Challenge by providing turkeys, cash donations and food donations to The Salvation Army Hope Church and Community Services
- ❖ The Ajax Knights Peewee AA team was a participant on Hockey Night in Canada feature sponsored by Scotiabank Hockey Club in November
- ❖ The Ajax Knights Peewee AA team was nominated by The Salvation Army and became Finalists for The Ford Drills & Skills Competition
- ❖ Four Ajax Knights teams donated their Ipad to the Lakeshore Health Ajax and Long Term Care facilities to be used by COVID patients to stay connected with their families