

**ST. MARYS
MIINOR HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION**



**2023-2024
ANNUAL REPORT**

President's Address

On behalf of St. Marys Minor Hockey Board and Executive, we hope all our players had a fun, competitive, and memorable season with many long lasting friendships.

On the ice, our teams were competitive in the different Leagues we compete in. Many of our teams enjoyed strong regular season records, brought home tournament trophies, and achieved success in playoffs. Congratulations to the U16A boys and U11C girls for qualifying and competing at the Provincial Championships.

Off the ice, our minor hockey players filled the community by giving their time and energy in making a difference. From the Salvation Army kettle bells, Christmas parade, bottle drives, and supporting our four hosted local tournaments, our players demonstrated tremendous leadership and caring for the benefit of others.

Our minor hockey program wouldn't happen without the strong **sponsorship support** of our **community businesses, clubs, and organizations**. Thank you to all our sponsors for helping our youth continue to enjoy the game of hockey.

Minor hockey has enjoyed a strong partnership with the **St. Marys Lincolns** and their support of our local players through the First Jersey campaign and on ice with our first time players is valued, inspiring and appreciated.

Minor sports are run off **volunteerism**. Our volunteers are second to none giving countless hours of their time to ensure our hockey program is the best. On ice and off ice volunteers are critical and your time is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Brintnell



St. Marys Minor Hockey Association – 2023-2024

Executive

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Past President | Brandon Boyd |
| President | Mark Brintnell |
| 1st Vice President | Joe Wilhelm |
| 2nd Vice President | Mike Johnson |
| Secretary | Katharine Found |
| Treasurer | Rich Ballantyne |

Staff and Committees

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| OMHA Rep | Mike Johnson |
| Player Movement Coordinator | Rick Harburn |
| Shamrock League Rep | Brandon Boyd |
| OWhA Rep | Reg Clinton / Amy Crummer |
| WOGHL League Rep | Tyler Dingman / Eileen Matheson |
| LMLL League Rep | Pat McLean |
| Registrar | Jocelyne Gall |
| Equipment Manager | Lori Martin |
| U7-U5 Coordinator | Katharine Found |
| Sponsorship Coordinator | Ryan Harris |
| Ice Convenor | Mark Brintnell |
| Webmaster | Rachael Torrance |
| Tournament Committee | Rich Ballantyne, Sarah Jeffery |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Amanda Boemer |
| Health and Safety Committee | Amy Crummer, Brayden Lord |
| Awards Committee | Brandon Boyd, Kerry Wright |
| Photo Coordinator | Jenn Switzer |
| Constitution/Policy Review | Paul Williams |
| Coaches Committee | Joe Wilhelm (chair), Jenny Roth, Josh Becker, Kelly Craigmile, Jim Holliday, Greg St. Clair, Owen Penny |

Board of Directors

| Term Expiring 2024 | Term Expiring 2025 | Term Expiring 2026 |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Julie Pickering | Mark Brintnell | Rachael Torrance |
| Lori Martin | Kerry Wright | Mike Johnson |
| Jessica Chateauvert | Dale Switzer | Kelly Elliott |
| Chris Boyd | Ryan Harris | Sarah Jeffrey |
| Reg Clinton | Amanda Boemer | Brandon Boyd |
| Jocelyne Gall | Braydon Lord | Rich Ballantyne |
| Amy Crummer | Joe Wilhelm | Katherine Found |
| Jake Watt | Tyler Dingman | Greg St. Clair |

“Along, we can do so little. Together, we can do so much” – Helen Keller

OMHA Report

At the 2023 AGM, a new SMMHA staff position was created to remove the logistics of player movement, both into and out of SMMHA and overall rostering of teams from the OMHA representative's portfolio. This new Player Movement Coordinator was filled by Rick Harburn and allowed the role of the OMHA Rep to focus more directly on lobbying and direction of OMHA decisions. Overall, it has been a smooth transition.

SMMHA prepared for, and successfully operated as an OMHA "A" center, per OMHA's Recategorization announcement in June 2022. This resulted in a move to offering spring tryouts for "A" teams and spring 2023 saw 15 NRP players attend tryouts and 8 NRP players were rostered. The recategorization to an "A" center also brought approximately 6 new Right of Choice (ROC) players into the association, who had previously played in neighbouring associations.

SMMHA saw 1 player leave the association, to play in another center, as a Reverse NRP. Also due to several late withdrawals following initial registration, SMMHA was unable to run a 3rd team at the U18 level, as initially planned. As a result, SMMHA worked with OMHA and neighbouring centers to find roster positions for 7 players who still wanted to play hockey.

OMHA announced a policy change in June 2023 that required all necessary players to sign a ROC (Right of Choice) prior to attending a tryout. As this occurred after our rep team tryouts, SMMHA began the process of obtaining ROC signatures in the fall, prior to rosters being submitted.

In September 2023, Hockey Canada announced a new Dressing Room Policy, which initially Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) instructed members not to adopt due to potential conflicts with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal. In February 2024, OHF released a revised Dressing Room policy that aligned with the Hockey Canada policy and was to be implemented immediately. SMMHA will continue to work with PRC officials to ensure we can meet the requirements of the policy, which include policy around dressing room supervision, base layer requirements and privacy for showering.

OMHA also released a new Code of Conduct policy for members that included updates to definitions/classification of infractions, reporting procedures based on the severity of the infraction, social media policies and appeals. All members are encouraged to become familiar with the above, and are responsible for compliance.

OMHA announced that for the 2024-2025 season, "B" would be the lowest base category below "A". Leagues (ie. Shamrock) would be responsible for categorizing "B" teams into Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3. As more centers around us discuss and agree to amalgamation or reorganization, there are fewer "B" centers remaining, especially in the immediate vicinity.

- Lucan, Ilderton and Parkhill agreed to work on a "Re-organization" (hybrid amalgamation) for the 25-26 season
- WOAA, for the 25-26 season, announced the creation of 6 "A" zones in their league ranging in size from 650 to 800+ registrants, these zones will not allow NRP movement in or out

I am very happy to announce that Brayden Lord has agreed to take the position of OMHA Rep for the 24-25 season onward.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Johnson

OWHA Report

As the OWHA Representative for SMMHA, I have diligently worked towards facilitating effective communication between the OWHA (Ontario Women's Hockey Association) and our local hockey community. Given this was my first year within this role, I have succeeded with a successful transition into the OWHA rep role, formerly held by Reg Clinton. I have been diligent to navigate through a steep learning curve to ensure smooth operations of our girls hockey program.

I collaborated with the webmaster to update the SMMHA website, incorporating OWHA staff requirements and hyperlinks. This enhancement was particularly beneficial for new coaches and aims to streamline the process of obtaining necessary qualifications, specific to OWHA. I continued to actively support and communicate with OWHA team coaches throughout the season, assisting them in meeting OWHA requirements, and serving as a liaison to the coach on behalf of SMMHA and OWHA. This support will be ongoing as we transition into a new season.



In an effort to provide consistency to our program and transparency for players, enhancements were made regarding the issuance of Permission to Skates (PTS) for players attending tryouts in other centers. SMMHA will sign a PTS for a specified team only and will not sign PTS for players looking to tryout in an equally competitive center (ie. Lateral movement) unless the potential release is mutually beneficial for both the player and SMMHA.

OWHA has provided direction that senior team rosters could be expanded to a maximum of 23 players and 2 goalies, which is a policy that will be supported by SMMHA to ensure these teams have sufficient player numbers, given competing schedules, and injuries that are more common at that age. In the coming year, I will be facilitating discussion within SMMHA regarding the possibility of transitioning to a OWHA U7 program, which will allow our youngest participants access to a girls hockey program.

In conclusion, my first year as the OWHA Representative for SMMHA has been aimed at enhancing the hockey experience for all participants. I remain committed to fostering positive relationships with OWHA, supporting coaches and players and advancing the interests of our local hockey community.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Crummer

Registrar's Report

In the 2023-24 season, we had 336 players registered to OMHA teams and 109 players registered to OWHA teams for a total of 445 players. Approximately 55 of these players were new to hockey including 2 recent immigrants to Canada. OMHA players were required to register through Spordle/HCR when registration opened, as the system was set up and ready to handle registration. OWHA players are required to register through RAMP, and unfortunately that system was not available when our registration window opened, therefore interested players were required to register using an online form on the website and once placed on a team, were sent a direct link to the official RAMP registration. All registrations payments were made by e-transfer or cheque, on or before the deadline of August 20th.

One challenge of the season was reconciling these e-transfer payments. Since the majority of fees were paid in 2 installments (initial deposit at time of registration plus final installment), there were hundreds of e-transfers to manually reconcile which was incredibly time consuming and required extreme diligence to ensure accuracy. As a result, SMMHA approved the switch to credit card payments for the 2024-25 season.

Another challenge faced this year was that the OMHA registration system (Spordle) has been set up to detect changes in addresses to ensure players are playing at the correct centre. It does not take much to trigger an address change so even players who have not moved are being asked for proof of residency documents. This is expected to be an ongoing issue, in particular with rural and PO Box addresses. Thank you to the families that have complied with the request.

Respectfully submitted by Jocelyne Gall

League Reports

Shamrock League

With the introduction of local A level programming for the 2023-2024 season, the Shamrock League created a “Shamrock A-loop” board. The board operated under the general Shamrock policies and procedures, while addressing issues specific to “A” programming.

SMMHA rostered an “A” team at all age divisions, except U12. Teams competed well in the Shamrock A division, with U15A and U16A advancing to their respective Shamrock A Championship finals, and U16A winning their series and advancing to OMHA Championship weekend.

Given the cancellation of U12A, and sufficient numbers within the U13 OMHA registration category, SMMHA created a second entry rep team at this level (U13BB). Given there were only 4 teams total at this level, Shamrock approved the inclusion of this team in their regular season U13 Tier 3 division. This team had significant success during the regular season, and was a finalist in the league playoff championship.

Similarly, with sufficient player numbers, desire and talent, a second entry rep team was formed at the U11 age division (U11BB), who also competed in Shamrock’s U11 Tier 3 division with good success.

Our U9MD team completed in the Shamrock League U9 A/B division with excellent regular season success.

SMMHA continue to advocate at the Shamrock level for fair play and equity within the league’s hockey programming.

Respectfully submitted by Brandon Boyd

Lambton Middlesex Local League

St. Marys Minor Hockey rostered 6 teams to the LMLL this past season.

U9 - 3 U11 - 1 U13 - 1 U15 -1

I took over as league rep halfway through the season, and thank you to Mark Brintnell who temporarily filled the role until a rep was identified. Thanks to guidance from Mark, as well as the entire LMLL board, it was a smooth transition into the role.

Overall the season was a good success with teams having competitive seasons at all levels. For playoffs, the league changed from 3 tiers to 4, to improve the groupings with like-skilled teams and increase the number of championship winners. There was positive feedback for this adaptation.

I look forward to a full season as the rep next year and will continue to advocate for strong, competitive local league programming in St. Marys.

Respectfully submitted by Pat McLean

Western Ontario Girls Hockey League (WOGHL)

My first year under Tyler's wings as WOGHL representative for SMMHA has gone fairly smoothly. The clusters within WOGHL were updated and changed in some age groups this past year and overall, people were happy with these changes. Travel for the different teams is always a lot so it was nice to see the majority of teams played closer to home this past season.

We ran the season with a total of 8 teams. Breakdown was:

U9 - C and HL U11 - B and C

U13 - B and HL (categorized C)

U15 - C U18 - B

The U15C girls finished their season on a high, winning their division and competing in the DAY OF CHAMPIONS in Clinton, emerging as the winners.



All teams U11 and above, (exception U13 HL) had representation at the ALL STAR GAME in Parkhill. It was a very well run, smooth event. Enjoyed by the players and it was great to see teammates making the trip to celebrate their teammates.

We hosted the WOGHL U9 girls Champion weekend, under the amazing hard work done by Katharine Found in the background, it was a huge success. The president of WOGHL attended the tournament for a few hours and we impressed with what he witnessed. WOGHL did ask if we would continue to run every year.

Challenges that I see, that will need to be addressed are the smaller registration cohorts for girls currently at U7 and U9, and to investigate further the reasons why some players choose to leave girls hockey in St. Marys.

With the changes OWHA is asking at the U7 level, we need to ensure that we are doing everything we can to promote GIRLS HOCKEY in our small town and surrounding areas. I would like to propose a girls "TRY HOCKEY" hour in late August or beginning of September to continue to attract young girls to the program.

Over the summer, I am going to be reaching out to families that have left and asking for feedback. I will be continuously working with the OWHL on this issue and will be reporting back to the executive and advocating for improvement if issues are identified.

The WOGHL AGM will be held in early summer and I will be bringing this concern to the meeting, as well as continuing to advocate for thriving girls' hockey programming in St. Marys and surrounding communities.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Matheson

Tournament Committee Report

In 2023-2024, St. Marys was host to a number of tournaments bringing different skill levels, familiar and unfamiliar teams, and excited players, coaches, volunteers and family members.

Our Stonetown Classic Tournament was played from January 19-21, 2024 hosting a number of Local League teams from around the area with the furthest team coming to us from the Bradford area. We offered 4 divisions – U9, U11, U13 and U15. It was also the first time hosting U9 teams as the tournament was scheduled shortly after their regular season shift to full ice. We had overwhelming support and interest in this age group and overall we were able to host 26 teams for 49 games over 3 days. The Embro arena was key in ensuring that we were able to host the teams in a timely and most efficient scheduled manner. St. Marys teams had an excellent showing throughout the tournament, with U9LL1 reaching the finals and U15LL capturing the championship medals.

The Rock Cup Tournament also had a number of teams interested over the weekend of Feb 2-4, 2024. Divisions consisted of U11A, U13A and U14A. We had originally scheduled a U10A division, however registrations were not sufficient to support this division. We did however offer ice time to U10A, U11C and U13C, who all played an exhibition game at home, throughout the tournament weekend. There was plenty of competitive action, in both play and scoring and St. Marys teams represented well with U11A and U14A advancing to the semi-finals and U13A winning their first game of the season, against the eventual tournament winners of that division.

For all final games for both the Stonetown Classic and Rock Cup, the two final teams received gold or silver medals.

Our annual NBC (No Body Contact) Tournament was full once again this year over the Easter weekend March 29 & 30th. There were some changes to divisions to accommodate all the interest, and a lot of team spirit and support with some teams working together to fill some ice time that came available last minute. Many teams just wanting to play for the sake of playing. Many families were in attendance for both the round robin games and finals.

The U9 WOGHL Year End Championship tournament was once again hosted by St. Marys Minor Hockey, April 5-7, 2024. This tournament is open to all WOGHL U9 teams - both house league and rep level C. It is designed to be a fun, competitively rewarding end to a great season of hockey. Of the possible 31 U9 teams registered in WOGHL, 30 teams participated in the tournament, including St. Marys GU9HL and GU9C. A total of 60 games were played throughout the weekend, at the PRC as well as the Embro arena. All teams were guaranteed a "championship finals" game, to round out their tournament and their season. 6 of the 15 finals games were won by a 1 goal difference, with 4 of those games going into OT and 2 needing shoot outs to decide the winner. All participants were presented with a medal, given to them by members of the St. Marys Rock GU18B team, who acted as fantastic

ambassadors and role models for the girls participating. Player of the Game awards for each team were donated by Masterfeeds, an Alltech company. Most improved player of the tournament and Hardest Working Player of the Tournament awards for each team were donated by Wallenstein Feeds and the Perth County Dairy Producer Committee generously donated chocolate milk for all participants. After two successful years of hosting this tournament, WOGHL executive has asked St. Marys to become the permanent host of this event, which we have eagerly accepted.



The key to these tournaments being successful are our volunteers- from the organization of the tournaments, score-keeping, time-keeping and the registration desk. To those who were able to commit some time to assist with the above weekends-we truly appreciate it. Overall, the tournaments have provided more than **\$30,000** in net revenue back to SMMHA to assist with reducing registration rates for all players in St. Marys Minor Hockey.

Looking ahead to 2024-2025 tournaments, we will be looking to continue to recruit volunteers to assist with putting these events together. Assignment of certain teams to certain tournaments will be our on-going goal. We have also lined up a new “Early Bird Tournament” that will be specifically for U15A to U18A the weekend of September 20-22, 2024. In keeping with similar date preferences for the above tournaments, the Stonetown Classic is scheduled to ensure that the U9s can register again (Jan 17-19, 2025), the Rock Cup will be February 7-9, 2025 and as always, the NBC will be Easter weekend 2025.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Jeffrey

Photo Day Report

Individual and team photos were successfully captured by photographers from Lasting Impressions over the course of a week, from October 14-19, 2023. A schedule was created that allowed for photos to be taken immediately prior to team ice times, assisting to minimize extra trips into the arena for families. All photos were returned in time for Christmas delivery and overall satisfaction with the quality of photos was high.

We received notification in December that the current photographer was planning to retire and would therefore not be available for future bookings. After researching other options used by surrounding minor hockey associations, and presenting a proposal to the SMMHA board of directors, we have secured Pixels Photography for October 26th and 27th for next season’s picture days. All photos will be individual photos, with a team composite made from the individual photos. Also given the shortened time frame for photos (2 days vs. 6 days), instead of scheduling photos around team schedules, teams will be required to be available for a set time during this weekend, even if it does not align with other hockey activities. We have no doubts that the process will continue to run smoothly and that the end results will be professional quality photographs and photo memorabilia.

Respectfully submitted by Jenn Switzer

U7-U5 Program Report

SMMHA continues to focus on player development at this critical age, while ensuring a fun and memorable experience for the participants. Our local programming is supported by Tim Horton's "Timbits Hockey" program, which provides a jersey and socks for all participants, and our local Tim Hortons store acts as host of "Timbits Jersey Day" where players can receive their uniforms and get their photo taken with members of our St. Marys Lincolns Jr. B hockey club. This partnership has been increasing over the past few years, and we are thankful for community support of these young athletes.

The U7-U5 program once again benefited from the on-ice skating instruction offered by NCCP certified skating coach, Melissa Becker, in addition to the skills and games-based programming organized and run by our volunteer coaches, trainers and on-ice helpers.

At U7, players were divided into 6 equal strength teams, and played inter-squad games throughout the season, in addition to their skills-based practice session. Starting in January, teams played exhibition games against similar teams from surrounding centers, like Lucan, Mitchell, Thamesford and Ilderton. These were well received by the players. By increasing the number of teams, the association benefits by getting more coaches and trainers certified at a younger stage, which is helping to make rostering of older teams easier, as those U7 players progress into older divisions.



At U5, players were randomly divided into 2 teams, and all players practiced together. At the beginning of the season, players were allowed to use skate aids and have an adult on the ice with them, should they wish, so long as the adult had submitted a valid vulnerable sector check. After Christmas, in an effort to get players more confident and independent, on-ice helpers were reduced to only those who met the necessary qualifications and who were approved by the coaching staff. We continued to maintain the optimum 4:1 player to adult ratio, and were thrilled with the advancement in confidence and skill.

To ensure the season ended in a memorable way for all participants, an on-ice awards ceremony was held for the U5 players, with 4 members of the St. Marys Lincolns joining the group for their practice and to hand out medals. U7's season wrapped up with a pizza party and awards ceremony held in the Endzone with timbits and chocolate milk also graciously provided.

Respectfully submitted by Katharine Found

Jersey and Equipment Coordinator Report

In preparation for the 2023-2024 season, the following jerseys were ordered for phase 2 of the 3 year jersey replacement plan:

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| BU15A – ANAF | BU14A – Frayne Custom Cabinets | BU15LL – Ashton Tire |
| BU13LL - Easy Lift Doors | GU13C – Bickell Built Homes | GU11B – St. Marys Landscaping |
| GU11C – The Hitching Post | BU10A – Dunny's Source for Sports | BU11LL – Nicholson Concrete |

In an effort to preserve the life of the new jerseys purchased, all jerseys are now to be stored on plastic hangers and each team was advised by SMMHA to select a jersey rep who would be responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the jerseys throughout the season. Following the completion of the season, jerseys were inventoried, cleaned and repaired as necessary. SMMHA does have a damaged jersey fee that can be applied to individuals should the care of jerseys be insufficient. This is most frequently associated with issues relating to name bars being stitched into jerseys and then forcefully removed, causing tears in the jersey fabric, or jerseys what are left unlaundered and unhung in a dirty hockey bag, causing staining and discolouration.

All teams are given a locker and a lock code. The locker contains a set of home and away jerseys, a bucket of pucks, a trainers kit, jersey bags for travel. All trainers kits are taken annual to Hubbard's Pharmacy for restocking of necessary first aid supplies, and additional purchases of pylons, pucks, and miscellaneous equipment is made throughout the year, as requested by the association or the coach.

SMMHA purchased two additional complete sets of goalie equipment for the U9 program, as well as a lefty glove and blocker. SMMHA also received a donation of goalie equipment from a community member. This helps to ensure SMMHA can encourage participants to try the goalie position safely and without upfront costs associated with additional equipment.

As we prepare for 2024-2025, an order will be placed through Dunny's Source for Sports to complete the 3rd and final phase of the jersey replacement cycle. This will involve the purchase of 8 new sets of jerseys. The new jerseys are attractive and it will be nice to know that all players in SMMHA will have the same look.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Martin

Health and Safety Report

The Health and Safety Committee convened throughout the 2023-2024 season to review and ensure the up-to-dateness of the information available on the SMMHA website, specifically focusing on critical tabs and links related to health, safety and conduct within the organization. The primary areas of focus included concussion protocol, respect in sport education, emergency action planning, Vulnerable Sector Screening, equipment fitting and prevention of bullying, harassment and abuse. All information on the website is current and accessible.

The Health and Safety Committee will plan to implement improvement in communication for coaches, trainers and members and to ensure accurate and timely reporting and tracking of injuries.

This committee was initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic, and its main focus was remaining current and compliant with the changing public safety regulations and requirements. As of now, these same stringent requirements are no longer in effect, therefore the committee is discussing the idea of rebranding, to a more streamlined player safety and risk management portfolio.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Crummer

Sponsorship Report

SMMHA would like to thank the following businesses for their commitment to team sponsorship over the past season.

- Finnbilt Construction
- RADAR Auto Parts
- St. Marys Ford
- Stonetown Electric – new sponsor for 2023-2024
- Dunny’s Source for Sports
- Social Thirty-One
- Tremblett’s Independent Grocer – new sponsor for 2023-2024
- Nicholson Concrete
- St. Marys Firefighters
- St. Marys Home Hardware Building Centre
- Easy Lift Doors
- Frayne Custom Cabinets
- ANAF – Army, Navy & Air Force
- Ashton Tire
- St. Marys Legion
- St. Marys Cement Co.
- Harris-Greig Automotive
- St. Marys Landscaping
- The Hitching Post
- Cascades
- Bickell Built Homes
- Sam’s Home Hardware
- Hubbard Pharmacy



Additionally, the following businesses provided sponsorship or donations for SMMHA-run tournaments and events:

- Masterfeeds, an Alltech Company
- Wallenstein Feeds
- Perth County Dairy Producers
- Spring Farm
- Tim Hortons, St. Marys
- Delmar Foods
- Ideal Supply

Once again, the goalie development program that is run throughout the season, free of charge for all interested SMMHA goalies, was generously sponsored in full by an anonymous donor. SMMHA extends our appreciation for this, and all of the above-mentioned generosity.

Memorial donations made to St. Marys Minor Hockey, on behalf of a loved one who has passed were received and donors were messaged with a note of appreciation. Thank you to Holly Soek for arranging a donation from Scotiabank’s Hockey For All fund.

The St. Marys Lincolns also donated some of the profits generated by their successful hosting of a CIAU game



Sponsorship funds and donations to the program are essential to help keep the cost of hockey programming affordable for all families. The sponsorship committee looks forward to identifying and securing donors that would be able to support the SMMHA Financial Assistance program and is brainstorming ideas for enhanced tournament sponsorship opportunities.

Player Development Committee

Player Development committee is organized to contribute in a variety of ways to the continued improvement in skills and abilities for skaters, goalies and coaching staff. Committee members consist of Dennis Aarts, Brent Kittmer, Dan McIntosh, Dan Schiedel, Dan Murrell and Mike Johnson.

In spring 2023, approximately 140 participants signed up for the Spring Development Program, with ice sessions instruction being provided by outside instructors with SMMHA staff as support. At this time, a Body Checking clinic was also organized for all players wishing to tryout for U14/U15A.

In September, the committee hosted a coaches clinic that included an on ice session for Goalie Development and an in class presentation by Kevin Galerno and Wade Russell from TPH. Approximately 20 SMMHA staff attended, and found the instruction beneficial for their coaching duties.

The committee offered a season-long U9 development program, which provided U9 players an option to “opt-in” to extra development time, aligning with Hockey Canada’s model of tailoring ice time to desire. 19 sessions were lead by TPH instructors, with SMMHA staff as support. 46 participants took part.

Goalie development program was lead by Dennis Aarts on Sunday mornings throughout the season. Instruction included a mix of outside instructors and SMMHA staff.

A monthly player development program was offered for U10-U15, once again, lead by TPH with SMMHA staff support. 18 participants took part.

Committee members observed teams throughout the first half of the season, watched practices and offered support where needed. This is something that has been flagged as a program that should be expanded.

The committee also worked to develop a more development focused AP (Affiliated Player) Player Policy, which has been reviewed by executive and will be presented for implementation next season.

Finally, we bridged the gap between the end of one season and the start of tryouts for next season, by operating a Spring Development Program in April 2023, with approximately 140 participants taking part. Each group received 4 sessions with instruction from outside instructors and SMMHA staff. Groups were divided by age, and also by OMHA vs. OWHA players. And another body checking clinic was held for current U14/U15 players, prior to the start of tryouts.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Johnson