

Chebucto Minor Hockey Association: President Report 2022-23 Season

As my first year of Presidency comes to end, I have had an opportunity to reflect on the season and all the ups and downs that came with it.

I would first like to thank all the members of the Executive for supporting me through this transition and for all the work they have done throughout the season. I would particularly like to thank Craig Messervey (Executive Vice President), Ja-red Glazebrook (VP Development), Stephen Pelham (VP Competitive), Al Driscoll (Treasurer), Katie Murphy (Ice Scheduler), Sara Aucoin (Past President), and Jocelyn Legge (Hockey NS Regional Director) as without all their mentorship and support throughout the year, I would not have been able to make it through.

Below are some items I would like to highlight from the year, along with some notes for moving forward into next year:

Things I am proud of from this year:

- **Central Minor Achievements:** We iced competitive teams at all levels in the U18, U15, and U13 Divisions, along with a dominate group at U11AA. Teams were competitive during the regular season, with several teams near the top of the standings. Teams also competed well during the playoffs with three teams making it to the Central Minor semi-finals and two of those teams going on to win the Championship.
- **Metro Minor Achievements:** All our teams within Metro Minor were competitive in the regular season and several teams performed well in the playoffs, with a few of those teams also reaching the semi-finals.
- **Representation in Tournaments:** The majority of teams at both the recreation and competitive levels participated in tournaments across the Maritimes and Canada. Teams represented Chebucto extremely well, and we were able to bring home several banners at many different levels. I had a few tournament organizers reach out to comment on how positive our players and the Association were - Well Done!
- **Volunteers Stepping Up:** Again, this year, beyond the Executive, many people stepped up to help make Chebucto run smoothly for our children! From the U7 level to the U24 level, it is because of the hard work and sacrifices of your time, that our season was successful! Thank you!

Things I am reflecting on for next year:

- **Development in Chebucto:** In my initial message, once named President, I committed to providing in season development for our players. While we did attempt to provide this opportunity, it was not responsive to all families to ensure we could get maximum participation. I am committed to working with the New VP of Development next season to ensure we do a better job with providing opportunities for in season develop that are more responsive to families.
- **Configuration of Teams:** While we experienced a lot of success this past year, we are aware that we had three teams struggle in most games at the U11 Level. After tryouts were completed, we made the decision on team configuration based on enrollment numbers and projected

development. While this may not ever be perfect, I am acknowledging that this needs to be looked at very closely again during the tryout process in the fall, along with the philosophies around Competitive teams, that may need to be adjusted.

- **Behavior:** I would like to thank all members of the Association who do move forward in their lives with care and compassion, even in times when they are not in agreement with decisions that are made. Most people within our Association would fit under this category. With that said, there are a few people within our Membership that need to dig deep and think about why we play hockey in the first place. From my perspective, playing a sport is about skill development, building lifelong friendships, and most importantly, having fun! Some people have lost sight of this. The behavior of some, mostly adults, when it comes to complaining, arguing, and at times threatening the volunteers, officials, players, and spectators is completely inappropriate. As both a member of the Executive and as a parent myself, I have had enough. Please note, that moving into next year, we will be putting stronger measures into place to help eliminate this type of behavior in our Association and rinks. We need to do better!
- **Transparency:** As an Executive, we strive to be as transparent as possible, especially when navigating the start of the season with evaluations and balancing, followed by coaching selections. I continue to hear from the Membership that this is something we can still improve on. Therefore, we will be taking further measures in the fall to help do a better job with this, for all our members.

To close, this has been a huge learning curve for me this past year. As I head into my second season, I continue to be committed to helping make Chebucto Minor Hockey the best it can be! Thank you for all your support and I am looking forward to our preparations over the summer months, to get ready for the 2023-24 season!

Craig Myra
President, CMHA