

## Year End Review, VP Competitive

To all Chebucto Families,

With an end to the season also comes an end to my 2<sup>nd</sup> year as VP Competitive. With the lessons learned from my “rookie” season, I am extremely happy with the growth and direction in which things are headed for all things competitive. I also hope to continue in this role to help CMHA grow and evolve as an association. With many responsibilities associated with this role, I wanted to touch on a few of the main areas that this position entails.

### 1. Tryouts

Having a year under our belts, the evaluation committee was back with lots of lessons learned and had mapped out a very detailed plan to ensure that this year’s evaluations would run more smoothly than last. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other ideas and as a result of hurricane Fiona, tryouts became a logistical nightmare of sorts. Starting with countless schedule changes prior to the beginning of evaluations, we were forced to use 3 different ice surfaces, often at the same time, in order to ensure that all levels were on the ice so that evaluations could be completed on time. Having evaluations going on in different rinks at the same time was not easy; evaluation committee members had to be split up, or frequently travel between rinks, to ensure things were being done correctly. In the end, however, we were able to make things work and see our plan through to the end.

This season also saw a return to exhibition games as part of the evaluation process for the first time in a number of years. We were able to play a home and home series with Sackville, and while there were some hiccups, it gave us the ability to evaluate players against teams from outside of our association which was very beneficial when making final roster decisions.

With more lessons learned this year, and the continued feedback from members, we feel we can continue to evolve the evaluation process so that continued growth and improvement can be seen.

We also worked through team allotment at each level as well, where we iced 4 teams at U11, 5 teams at U13, 4 teams at U15 and one at U18, giving many players an opportunity to represent Chebucto at the competitive levels. This did present challenges, both expected and unexpected, especially at the U11 and U15 levels. We will continue to look at this moving forward in an effort to ensure that the right balance of growth, development and competitiveness is achieved.

## 2. In-season play

With COVID finally behind us, we were able to have the first uninterrupted minor hockey season in recent memory. This meant that a full slate of tournaments, playoffs, and provincials could be contested once again, which was welcomed with open arms by all those involved in minor hockey. While all teams had fun and saw success throughout the year, here are the highlights from the 2022/ 2023 season:

- U11AA team were crowned both CHML regular season and CMHL playoff champions, as well as winning the Allan Sullivan Memorial and Tom Saunders Memorial tournaments.
- U13 B Green finishing runner-up in the Civic division of the 2023 SEDMHA tournament
- U13AA team winning the Accord division of the 2023 SEDMHA tournament
- U13AAA team qualifying for the 2023 Provincial tournament
- U15B team winning the Andrew Bartlett Memorial tournament
- U15A Green finishing runner-up in the Oromocto Pioneer tournament
- U15A White winning the Mariner's Classic Tournament
- U15AA team winning the CAN/ AM Challenge Cup, as well as being crowned the CMHL playoff champions
- U18 AA team qualifying for the 2023 Provincial tournament

## 3. Moving Forward

We continued with the Player Feedback Form started last year for coaches to fill out to help us with tracking player progress, and we will be revisiting the Evaluation Policy Document to look for possible revisions prior to the start of next season, including how we arrive at team allotment.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped during tryouts, be it on-ice or off-ice, as tryouts do not happen without you. Also, to all of the volunteers who helped with each and every competitive team, be it managers, safety reps or coaches, these teams do not happen without you, so thank you for all of your efforts.

Stephen, VP Competitive