

2015 Rec Hockey Calgary AGM

President's Report (Eugene Kuhn):

During the 2014-15 RHC hockey season, the league continued to mature as an important offering to the youth community in Calgary. During this season, RHC grew by two teams from the previous season for a total of 54 teams.

Goalie Shortage:

RHC faces the same challenges as community hockey in attracting and retaining goalies. For the 2014-15 season, RHC reduced the fees for goaltenders as an incentive to retain transferring players as goalies. RHC tends to see a number of goalies switch to player when transferring to Rec Hockey, so this is intended to provide an incentive to remain as a goalie. The goalie fees were \$250 for goalies named to teams and \$125 for spare goalies.

The incentive attracted significant attention and the final result was that RHC was able to field two additional teams at the Midget level and had adequate numbers for the other divisions.

Alberta Treasure Branch Sponsorship

Hockey Calgary and RHC welcomed ATB as our official sponsor for the start of the 2013-14 season. For the 2014-15 season, ATB was very visible and contributed significantly to EMHW as well as other events throughout the year. We wish to thank ATB for their support and generosity, particularly with respect to the sportsmanship awards.

Sportsmanship Awards

This year, RHC implemented two sportsmanship awards at the team and individual level. Although at the Board level we tend to deal with discipline issues, we also wanted to recognize the vast majority of coaches and players who embrace and embody the Rec Hockey philosophy. The two awards were:

- ATB Individual Sportsmanship Award, given to each player who went through the season with zero penalties. ATB provided extremely generous gifts to those players who achieved this commendable goal. The award was presented to 52 Peewee, 53 Bantam, 48 Midget and 33 Junior players.
- RHC Team Sportsmanship Award, given to every team that averaged two or less penalties per game throughout the season. \$200 gift certificates from TRG (Boston Pizza) were given to 6 Peewee, 13 Bantam, 6 Midget and 1 Junior team for this accomplishment. TRG provided us with a discount for the gift certificates but it is hoped that a formal sponsor can be found for this award.

It is hoped that RHC maintain these awards for the upcoming seasons. I feel that these awards send the right message, reward the proper behaviour, and recognize the many exceptional players and coaches we have in our organization.

Coaching

RHC is very appreciative of the coaches who volunteer their time to make hockey a rewarding experience for their players. Most of the coaches embraced the RHC values and emphasized these with their players. We want to thank everyone who volunteered and sincerely express our appreciation for their efforts.

Peewee Development

This year, we deviated from the previous norm of having Peewee coaches conduct practices for their own teams. Instead, we ran the first four development sessions as camps, bringing out the players by skill/experience level. To conduct the sessions, we used volunteer lead instructors who were assisted by coaches and junior players.

I feel that this model worked extremely well. The development camp format allowed practices to be focused on the needs of the specific tier of players.

I had several discussions with Hockey Alberta, Winsport and Okanogan Hockey about their level of interest in conducting these sessions on our behalf. Although all three expressed interest, none were able to commit to the 2014-15 season. The idea of using an agency for conducting the sessions is something the upcoming board may still want to consider.

House League Hockey

In part due to the success of Rec Hockey, many communities initiated House League hockey programs over the past few seasons. In this format, teams play within their own communities in a non-competitive format, alternating between one practice and one game per week on set days. This concept was brought in at the Novice and Atom levels. For the upcoming season, all communities will be offering this program at these levels.

The benefit of this program is that many players will want to remain with a non-competitive format and will likely graduate into the Rec Hockey program at the Peewee level. However, there is a significant request from the communities to expand House League into Peewee. Hockey Calgary President's Council will be forming a sub-committee to investigate and report back to the HC board on the benefits and repercussions of this. Rec Hockey will be part of the subcommittee.

In short, Rec Hockey needs to work closely with the communities to foster the House League concept. This program has brought in a significant number of players at the Novice and Atom levels that would likely not have joined organized hockey. I see this as a way of expanding the total number of players that could migrate into Rec Hockey. Considering the small number of teams in the RHC Peewee, a certain synergy should be found with the House League concept.

Final Remarks

This AGM will be the end of my formal involvement with the RHC Board as I am finishing my term. The three years on the board were truly enjoyable. I want to recognize the fantastic volunteers that I had the pleasure of working with over the past three seasons. For the outgoing Board members, thank you very much for your time and effort into making RHC a strong and viable program. For the remaining and new members of the Board, thank you for volunteering your time and I sincerely wish you all the best in the upcoming season.

The 2015 / 2016 RHC Board includes the following members and positions

Wade Adams – President

Asif Abdul - Vice President

TBA – Treasurer

Sandra Hanna – Secretary

Cathy Hosowich – Registrar

Corry Cruckshank – PeeWee Coordinator

Glen Cinnamon – PeeWee Development

Mark Leduc – Midget Coordinator

TBA - Midget Coordinator

James Mills – Junior Coordinator

Jamie Mills – Junior Coordinator

TBA - Webmaster

Ian Power – Referee Liaison

Jim Black – Equipment Coordinator

Sincerely,

Eugene Kuhn