



HOCKEY CALGARY

Safety Committee Report Annual General Meeting 2021

Due to COVID-19 and its effect on youth hockey participation, our safety committee has not been quite as active in 2020-2021 season compared to previous years. Nonetheless, as always, our overall plan to provide a safe environment for players and volunteers within Hockey Calgary. Our activity over the past hockey season is summarized below:

1) The pandemic has affected many aspects of our members lives, but it has been especially trying on the mental health of our young athletes and their families. The safety committee has reviewed Hockey Calgary's resources (on the website) that direct our athletes and families in support of their mental health.

In addition, the safety committee met with Holly (marketing with Hockey Calgary) to discuss how Hockey Calgary can provide resources to support our hockey families during the potentially stressful and isolating times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Jody, with her experience and background worked closely with Holly to develop the virtual campaign, called "Lean on a Linemate". The virtual campaign was visible via the Hockey Calgary social media outlets.

Jody gathered resources from her work experience (<https://iack.org>), from some of our original resource list (Connect Teen, Kids Help phone, Distress Centre etc) and some additional resources that Sue shared from AHS. Overall, the campaign was really well done.

Our plan to provide further videoconferences involving expert(s) in the field of sport psychology, coaches, and professional athletes were set aside for now once the provincial government announced the changes to the restrictions allowing small groups to return to skill development sessions. We have made contacts for future videoconferences if needed.

2) One of our key points of discussion this past season involved the boards' Police Check Policy. We have worked through 5 drafts of the policy. We sent it to the Governance Committee for review in early December. We have incorporated their edits. The Governance Committee presented the document for full board review. The policy was passed by the board.

3) The safety committee has maintained support for Kevin and Jamie in the review of health and safety protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee applauds Kevin and Jamie's efforts in their support of our member associations, players and their families.



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4) Along with Kevin's lead, we have reviewed the Dare to Care program. The program is aimed at the prevention of bullying. In light of the dressing room incident earlier in the hockey season, we reviewed the programs curriculum to see if it met our needs around educating young athletes and adults around respectful behaviour in the sporting and team environment. Kevin will have more information to follow on this topic.

5) As in previous years, we have collaborated with the Sport Injury Prevention and Research Centre at the University of Calgary in order to keep up to date with best practices and current research in injury prevention and management in youth ice hockey. Our partnerships and ongoing collaboration have not only provided a platform for our education to put forth to apply to our policies (ie; body checking age groups), but has resulted in publications and numerous presentations at medical conferences. Hockey Calgary and the University of Calgary have lead data-driven analyses that have provided ongoing support for the positive impact of policy changes on the safety of the game (ie; reduced injuries) for our youth athletes. We are currently discussing our support for a project titled, SHRed Concussions. This project enables the evaluation of concussion prevention and management strategies and integrates research, education, and clinical support across all youth sport and recreation in Alberta. The overall impact of this project would likely benefit our youth athletes. More information to follow in the coming year.

The safety committee is proud to uphold our mandate of optimizing safety in youth ice hockey for the long-term benefit of our youth athletes.

Respectfully yours,

Geoff Schneider, Karen Pirie, Jody Forbes, Cathy Gordon and Kevin Kobelka