

VP Hockey Operations 2022/23 Summary

2022 started early and was intensive throughout the first few months, well into October. We started with our prep skates to give all our players an opportunity to get on the ice and learn the drills prior to the start of formal evaluations.

The prep skates have been valuable in ensuring everyone has an opportunity to skate, test out new equipment, and get back into hockey before they are immersed in evaluations. SPMHA division directors work very hard starting with prep skates to begin to meet families and iron out any potential concerns prior to evaluations starting. With many thanks to all the great volunteer coaches who assist on ice to make sure we can run the prep skates.

Evaluations this year were slightly longer this year due to pushing back the U15/18 evals. They were pushed back to allow for players returning from AA or AAA. This was done to ensure we had a smoother process during player selection and assignment. We will continue to fine tune the process for the older ages, while trying to have teams selected prior to the start of EFHL season. We have been meeting to discuss continued process improvement amongst all age divisions. SPMHA spent much time into October dealing with players who were hurt prior to evaluations, appeals, or late registrations. It was very time consuming, but thankful to a great group of board members who worked very hard to ensure fair processes and proper team placement. We will continue using Hockey Evaluations for the 2023/24 season. Again, cannot thank all the parents and coaches who dedicate their time to make evaluations go as smoothly as possible.

During the season we dealt with concerns as promptly as we could. All directors did a great job at managing their divisions and concerns within. They are constantly taking in feedback and returning with that to the table to make sure we improve from year to year. Directors work incredibly hard during the season and give so much of their time to improving the quality and making sure the players are given the best possible opportunities.

This year seemed to have an inordinate amount of suspensions and conflict. We will strictly enforce our code of conduct. It is important that we are held to account for our actions and whether it be parents or players.

On a personal note, I will strive to ensure we are as transparent as we can be, and that we follow all of our policies and procedures - as they exist. I believe deeply that the decisions we make are all about the players within the association. We need to continue to be ethical stewards of your money and for your kids.

Nothing in this association happens without an incredible amount of dedication from all our board members. They give up much family and personal time to spend on the phone, at the rink, or at meetings working to build SPMHA. Also without volunteers - many who are always reliable to help - we could never do what we do. There are so many people to thank for ensuring the hockey season happens every year. It really does take a community.