

2022 – 2023 SPMHA Coach Director Report

For the 2022/23 season, our focus was on normalizing hockey for our athletes; who had previously completed the last season under Covid 19 protocols. With no health restrictions or measures in place, creating an environment that allowed us to interact in ways that had not been done for almost three years was our objective.

Our Success

- 12 First time Head Coaches this season with SPMHA. Welcome aboard.
- All Head Coaches were gifted a Tracksuit and Hat as a Thank You for their dedication to the association. All first-time coaches were also given a duffle bag, hockey book and whistles. Staples Spruce Grove donated 28 Fivestar Binders to help manage the teams.
- We held a Head Coach Gala at the start of the season as a thank you to all our volunteers, in relation to the dinner we held our annual coaches meeting and prepared for the start of the season.
- 60+ Evaluation skates and scrimmages were executed by volunteer coaches, parents, and referees.
- MCN Development ran all required checking clinics for all U15 players and coaches. The camp also included instruction to coaches and provided content on proper teaching techniques.
- This season we placed 28 Head Coaches and over 150 Assistant Coaches throughout our association's teams. Including a dedicated goalie coach with most teams. Amazing!
- The average coach puts in over 300 hours of work over a season, with some logging more than 500 hours.
- The Junior Coach Mentor program has been built and is ready to be put in place for next season. The program will be different than past seasons and will allow for a better experience by all parties involved.

1. Development and Training.

For the 2022/23 season Hockey Alberta has moved all coach training to a Hub Model, where pre-determined cities across the province will serve as hubs for coaches to attend any training and certification clinics they require. Stony Plain has applied to be one of the Hubs for the 2023/24 season.

SPMHA continues to reimburse all coaches for any fees associated with their certifications and coach development. In conjunction with Hockey Alberta, the Edmonton Oilers Foundation ran a program to help develop new coaches, as part of their commitment they covered all costs for any coach who required Coach 1. For SPMHA this was applied to 10 first time head coaches and multiple assistant coaches within our organization.

SPMHA sent two of our Head Coaches to the Hockey Alberta Development 1 clinic and both have completed the requirements and are now certified. This is important on many levels, and we understand the need for higher training and development.

This year we put together a Goalie Coach Committee whose sole purpose was to work with our Player Development Director and Coach Director. They conducted clinics, Come-Try-Goalie events, and worked with every team's goalie coach to aid in the success and future growth of the position. A big thanks to Gord McDonald and Todd Halliday.

2. Succession Plan

In order to better serve our coaches and athletes there is opportunities to grow and develop the Coach Development Program:

- A) Improve the Goalie Coach program and build a progression plan.
- B) Look for more training opportunities outside of Hockey Alberta for Coaches to attend.
- C) Implement a Conflict Management Clinic for coaches on how to deal with conflict resolution.
- D) Run a Neurodiversity clinic to help coaches understand the challenges of coaching players with disabilities.
- E) Conduct more coach audits of practices and games, direct and discuss areas to improve.
- F) Hold a meeting for all coaches, head, and assistant; on the Maltreatment issues we had experienced this year and provide a strategy to coaches on how to avoid being on the side of discipline.

Final Thoughts

This season was great in so many ways, but at the end of the day it's the smiles on players faces and return to play next year that matters the most. I am thankful for all the people involved to make a season successful, from parents and players to coaches and our executives; we all work diligently at providing the best experience we can. A big thanks to EVERYONE!

The 2022/23 season was everything I hoped it would be. Our coaches were committed, determined, and their dedication to our association contributes to our overall success. I would like to thank all the coaches and volunteers who helped during evaluations, coach interviews and the operation of our season.

Lastly, a big shout out to our U18 Head Coaches. For some this was their last season coaching and for others next year will be their last. I have had the pleasure to coach

with some of them and all of them started out when their kids were little, and they just wanted to help.

Thank You:

Norm Desnoyers

Dion Getzinger

Garrett Broadbent

Kelly Stockwell

On behalf of SPMHA I would just like to say thank you for your dedication and service to your community.

Respectfully,

Matthew Curry
SPMHA Coach Director