

# Director Report

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Season: 2023-24



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Tournament Director

U7 Director

Vice President 1

I am pleased to provide this report for my roles in the 2023-24 season. This past season I had 3 roles within AMHA: I took on the role of Tournament Director, VP1, and half-way through the season I also took on the role of U7 director. This report will highlight the tasks I performed throughout the season as well as my plans for the future with AMHA.

## Tournament Director Report

Our tournaments this season were more successful than I've seen since I've been a part of AMHA, some might even say they were too successful (more on that below).

Tournament revenue this season was a record breaking \$323,273, and this number does not even include the over \$60,000 in our total tournament 50/50 jackpots. So in total the combined tournament revenue was close to \$400,000, no big deal. This beat our projected revenue in our budget by over \$30,000.

In total we had 204 teams join our tournaments this season.

This season we had someone in the Tournament Coordinator role, Karey Mann. Karey was a massive help and did a better job than I could have done helping the tournament committees for each tournament.

The busiest time for this role is August through October when lots of teams are trying to register for our tournaments. The amount of emails that I receive and reply to are in the thousands per month.

### U15 Rec Tournament - Oct 20th-22nd

Normally u15 and u18 Rec tournaments are run together, but this year we decided to split them up so we could accept more teams.

Devon Zacharias chaired this tournament and she did a great job. We had 16 total teams in this tournament.

A big thanks to Devon, the tournament committee and all the volunteers for making this tournament a success.

### Midget Memorial Tournament - Nov 10th-12th

This tournament was once again chaired by Terina Buchanan and she did a fantastic job as always. This tournament ran very smoothly compared to the previous season.

This tournament had 17 teams, and with Abbotsford only having 2 rep teams that meant a lot of volunteer hours.

Congrats to our Abbotsford u18 A1 team for winning this tournament.

A big thanks to Terina, the tournament committee and all the volunteers for making this tournament a success.

### U18 Rec Tournament - Nov 24th-26th

Terina Buchanan also chaired this tournament and again she did a fantastic job.

This was our biggest u18 Rec tournament in years, possibly ever, with 20 teams in total.

There were no major issues during this tournament.

A big thanks to Terina, the tournament committee and all the volunteers for making this tournament a success.

### U13 Rep Tournament - Dec 1st-3rd

I was very excited to hear that Angela Parlee would chair this tournament. She is amazing and did a great job.

This was our biggest u13 rep tournament ever with 28 total teams. We had quite a few American teams enter this tournament.

Tier 1 was a bit light with only 6 teams in total, but Tier 2 had 10 teams and Tier 3 had 12 teams.

Abbotsford u13 A1 did make it to the T1 final in this tournament, and ended up winning the silver.

Thanks to Angela, the tournament committee and all the volunteers.

### U11 Rep Tournament - Dec 29th - Jan 31st

This tournament was chaired by Karey Mann.

We had 22 total teams in this tournament. Tier 2 was a bit small with only 5 teams registered. I reached out to several teams to try to fill it but there were no takers.

Abbotsford u11 A1 made it to the final and got silver.

Abbotsford u11 A2 did not have a great schedule due to only having 5 teams in Tier 2, so they did not get a game on the final day.

A big thanks to Karey, the committee and all the volunteers that helped out during this tournament.

## U11/U13 Rec Tournament - Jan 2nd-4th

Jaime Friesen and Laura Preckel chaired this tournament together. They both had experience so this was no big deal for them and they did great. They even arranged to have food trucks at the arenas for this tournament.

This tournament had a total of 24 teams, 12 in each division.

Everything was great for this tournament.

Contacts to Abbotsford u13 C4 as they won their championship game.

Thanks to Jaime, Laura, the committee and all the volunteers for all their hard work.

## U7 Tournament - Jan 5th-7th

For a lot of players and families, this was their first ever tournament. Keery Kamstra chaired this tournament like a professional.

In total we had 17 teams enter this tournament.

There were some power outage issues during the tournament but Keery and the committee didn't let it phase them.

Score was not kept and these were cross-ice games.

Thank you to Keery, the committee and all the volunteers, this was a very successful u7 tournament.

## U9 Tournament - Feb 2nd-4th

This tournament was chaired by Karey Mann, so obviously things ran smoothly.

This was a full-ice tournament, and for a lot of the players and families these were their first full-ice games.

## Dallas Saunders Memorial Tournament - U15 Rep - Feb 16th-19th

This is our biggest tournament by far. It's big enough that we have to run it over 4 days. Each game is 2 hours long.

We had 32 teams join this tournament, and we split them into 4 tiers to make things competitive. The teams were from all over BC, Alberta and the USA.

Lily Unger chaired this tournament and she was phenomenal. Her opening ceremony speech was great and I'm happy that her family was there to be a part of it with her. It is such a great family memory that they can all share forever.

There were numerous issues during this tournament that I won't list here as I'm trying to keep this directors report as short as possible. We did lose track of how many times we had to call 911 during this weekend.

The amount of volunteer hours that each family had to do was very high, and I heard about that multiple times throughout the weekend.

Thanks to Lily, the committee and all the families for volunteering!

## Tournaments Too Successful?

While our tournaments were successful, success has its own set of challenges.

When we have more teams it requires more ice, this means less ice for AMHA practices and games on those weekends. We also added the u15 rec tournament on a separate weekend in October which meant another weekend with limited ice for AMHA teams.

With our u15 Rep and u18 Rep tournaments, we only had 2 AMHA teams to do all of the volunteering in each of those tournaments. This means a lot of volunteer hours per family, probably too many in the case of u15 rep this season.

There were maybe too many 50/50 emails sent out.

## Tournaments - Conclusion

My goal is to make our tournaments the best in the world, and they are.

A huge thanks to Karey Mann for stepping up to be the tournament coordinator this season, our tournaments would not have been as successful without her help.

I'd also like to thank all our tournament chairs:

- Devon Zacharias
- Terina Buchanan
- Angela Parlee
- Jaime Friesen
- Laura Preckel
- Keery Kamstra
- Karey Mann
- Lily Unger

This is like an all-star team of tournament chairs.

Thanks to Joel Byron and Mike Kandler for organizing all the refs for our tournaments. Thanks to our AMHA Treasurer Sheri Blair for helping out with the swag, gaming licenses and setting up the 50/50 online.

For next season we will be looking at how to reduce the number of volunteer hours for the u15 Rep and u18 Rep tournaments.

## U7 Director Report

Aissa Blanchard was our u7 director to start the season. Unfortunately Aissa could not continue to do this role due to health reasons so I took over the position. I'd like to thank Aissa for all the work she did at the start of the season. Aissa did most of the heavy lifting for this division before I took over.

U7 this season was a combination of U6 and U7 divisions. The teams were also split into U7 Major and U7 Minor divisions. This created a bit of a rep try-out atmosphere at the start of the season. We had 6 total U7 teams, 4 were major teams and 2 were minor teams.

One issue with the major/minor split was that we didn't align well with other associations, this is something that we will need to fix for next season to make the games with other associations more competitive.

Some of the feedback from U7 managers was that they didn't have enough guidance at the start of the seasons. There were a lot of first time managers that had to figure out a lot of the processes. Next year I will try to set up a meeting for just new managers to help them get off on the right foot.

I'd like to thank all the U7 coaches, managers and HCSP's for volunteering their time this season. I hope all the players had fun and the volunteers want to keep volunteering for future seasons.

## VP1 Director Report

This season marked my first as VP1, a role that introduced me to many new responsibilities and challenges. I participated in a lot of meetings and was a part of a lot of committees.

There was a bit of a learning curve to get into this role, especially in August/September, but working closely with the directors we got everything done as a team.

Congrats to all our teams that won banners this year, with a special shout out to our u21 team for winning their playoff banner.

## AMHA Board Meetings

I believe I attended all board meetings with the exception of one meeting last summer.

Communication and transparency are core values of mine, and I try to bring those to the board meetings. I try to make sure things are brought up in the board meetings so that the board is informed on all issues happening within the association.

## AMHA Committees

This season I was a part of the following committees:

- Executive Committee
- Affiliate Committee
- Apparel Committee
- Finance Committee
- Policy Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Safety/Risk Committee
- Sponsorship Committee

### Affiliate Committee

It was good to be on this committee in September. I think we made some common sense changes to the affiliate policy for this season.

### Finance Committee

I've been on the AMHA budget committee almost every year for the past 12 years. Every year I give my input where I can but most importantly I try to make things in the budget as transparent as possible. Each year is an improvement.

### Policy Committee

This is an ongoing process. On this committee we review existing policy and update it to be more current as some of our policy is quite dated. In this upcoming season I'm hoping we can finish updating all of the current policies.

## Rec Evaluations and Balancing

This was my first season in charge of Rec evaluations and balancing. I worked with the directors to do this as fairly as possible. While this process will never be perfect, I think we did a great job and the teams were more or less balanced for all divisions this season.

Overall I wouldn't change much for this process, I think it works pretty well but we can still make some small adjustments to make things better overall.

## Rep Tryouts

While I was not a part of rep tryouts this past season I was quite vocal at the board level that there were some issues this season that need to be addressed for the future. I am now a part of the rep tryout policy committee that will be meeting within the next few weeks.

## Job Interviews

I was a part of the group that did job interviews for a new rep tryout person for the upcoming season, for a new development coach for the upcoming season, and a new coach coordinator for the upcoming season.

These interviews went well and I'm excited to see what the new group can do. I think we have some great people in these positions.

## U7/U9 Major/Minor Balancing

I was a part of the process for the u7/u9 balancing this season, which was run similar to rep tryouts. This was a learning experience for all associations this season as we've never done this before.

I think the biggest issue is we need to align with other associations with the ratio of major to minor teams so that the game play is competitive.

One issue that was my fault during the balancing process was I mistakenly split up siblings so they had to attend different ice times. This is something that will be corrected for next season.

We also didn't have all our coaches in place so that made this process a bit more difficult.

## PCAHA and BC Hockey AGMs

This previous season I attended the BC Hockey AGM, and this summer I will be attending both the PCAHA AGM and the BC Hockey AGM.

These AGMs can sometimes be very informative and sometimes not much happens, but we don't know until we go. Probably the most important part of these is the face time and networking we get with the other associations.

## 3rd Year Game

I attended our u18 3rd year game. Chris Joyce did a great job organizing this event, with help from Sheri.

This was a very well attended event.



## Plans for the Upcoming Season

I hope to improve on the VP1 role now that I have one year under my belt. I'm hoping Rec balancing goes much smoother along with u7/u9 balancing.

I want to bring more transparency to the board level by using some tools to keep the board even more organized than they already are.

I'm also making a push for an open bar at the volunteer night, or at the very least some drink tickets for every person. It's in the budget so I'm including it in this report so we don't forget!

## Special Thanks

### Aleasha Campbell

Special thanks to Aleasha Campbell for all the volunteering she's done over the past few seasons. She is our only non-returning board member, and I appreciate all the hard work and volunteering she's done over the past few years.

### Dustin McAuley

Thanks to Dustin for being our equipment manager this season! I'm looking forward to him doing this role for year and year and years to come.

### Chantelle Chubaty

Photo day ran great again this season thanks to Chantelle!

### Michelle Mitchell

A bit thanks to Michelle for running our AMHA social media! Not only that she took over updating the website this season, and she helped out at the volunteer appreciation night!

### Michele Dominato

Michele was our previous VP1 and was there to answer any questions early on in the season. I didn't ask her many questions because I'm too stubborn and should have asked her more, but she was there to help when I reached out!

### Peter Hay

A big thanks to Peter for running our development the past few seasons. We will also miss your long board meeting topics.

## Karey Mann

Our AMHA Volunteer of the Year award winner! Our tournaments ran better and were more coordinated with Kareys help this season. I couldn't have done my other roles without Karey's help with tournaments.

## Rhonda Bencze

She helps everyone, including me.

## AMHA Board and Coordinators

We had a great group this season. For a lot of directors it was their first season, so I'm looking forward to next season now that everyone's had a year of experience.

## Conclusion

Overall this season was mostly successful, but there is always room for improvement.

I'm looking forward to continuing to make AMHA better in any way that I can. I'm hoping for this upcoming season we can have even better transparency, better communication, and an open bar at the volunteer appreciation night.

Thanks to all our AMHA volunteers for the time you put in this season.

If you have any questions about my report please feel free to reach out to me.

Thanks

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