



## **2025/2026 Director's Report U18 & U21**

This season marked my inaugural year on the AMHA Board of Directors overseeing the U18 and U21 Divisions. I learned a great deal during this one-year term and am grateful to the Board members who supported me.

The success of our season is a direct result of the dedication shown by our many volunteers, including Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, HCSPs, team Managers, and our Division Coordinator, **Tammy Whiteley**. I want to recognize the immense amount of work these individuals do for the teams, the players, and the association. Unless you have served in these roles, it is difficult to appreciate the time spent on and off the ice to ensure the season runs smoothly.

### **Division Structure**

The U18 Division consisted of six teams this season: four Recreation (Rec) teams and two Representative (Rep) teams. A1 played at Tier 1 and A2 played at Tier 5. Our four Rec teams were balanced and competitive.

The U21 division operates under a unique framework compared to the rest of the association. This season, the team had a full roster and demonstrated exceptional grit and determination.

### **Development Opportunities**

We trialed two contact/checking clinics for Rep and Rec affiliate players, run by the Abbotsford Pilots coaches with positive feedback from them. Both Rep teams integrated dryland training, video analysis and review, and targeted player development into their schedules.

### **Tournament Highlights**

Our teams represented the association well at both home and away tournaments this season.

- A1 (**Steve Howerton**): 7<sup>th</sup> place in our AMHA Rep home tournament •
- A2 (**Eric McMillan**): 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Jim Lindsay Memorial Tournament •
- C1 (**Eric Allard**): 2<sup>nd</sup> place in our AMHA Rec home tournament
- C2 (**Chris Joyce**): 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a Seattle tournament
- C4 (**Jason Nguyen**): 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the North Delta tournament

### **Community & Celebrations**

Teams demonstrated a sense of community and leadership through a variety of activities. The U18 C1 team visited residents at Trillium Bevan Lodge, and the U18 C3 team participated in a Christmas stocking campaign for Ground Zero Ministries.

Five of AMHA's third-year Rec players were selected to participate in the PCAHA Scholarship Tournament. Three earned MVP awards, and one awarded the prestigious scholarship. AMHA celebrated 32 third-year players graduating from minor hockey with a dedicated game and a celebration.

### **Playoffs and Accomplishments**

Our Rec division saw exceptional post-season success, with three of our four Rec teams

advancing to the semi-final round.

- U18 C1 & C3: Both teams finished first in their respective playoff pools. • U18 C1: Advanced to the FVE championship game under Coach **Eric Allard**. • U18 C3: Successfully won both the FVE playoffs and the FVE championship under Coach **Trevor Wendt**.

### **Special Recognitions**

- **Ashley Wind** (U18 A2 Manager): Congratulations for earning the AMHA Manager of the Year award (and for being a "Thursday Hero"!).
- **Trevor Wendt** (U18 C3 Head Coach): Congratulations for being awarded the AMHA Rec Head Coach of the Year award.
- **Brendan Bartel** (U18 Assistant Coach / U21 HCSP): Recognized as one of AMHA's "Thursday Heroes" for his leadership, positivity, and kindness.

Thank you to the families and friends who brought positive energy to the arenas every week and cheered these players on. I appreciate everyone who provided feedback through surveys, phone calls and in-person discussions, as your input helps us build a stronger association. It has been a pleasure to serve the membership on the Board of Directors this season.

**Corina Rochon**

U18 & U21 Director

Risk Manager

Abbotsford Minor Hockey Association