



Truro Area Minor Hockey Association

**TAMHA Annual General Meeting
May 24, 2023
8:00 p.m. (Zoom)**

In Attendance: Ryan Butcher (Chair), Jamie Barbour, Josh Burcham, Laurie Burcham, Landon Crowe, Carley Gloade, Roy Gouthro, Ashley Hunt, Tricia Lake, Cindy Lewis, Lee Ogden, Misty Rennie, Brad Ritcey, Steve VanderKwaak, Dana Young, Andrew Lake, Stephen Leadlay, Derek Bjorklund, Ryan Matheson, Fraser McInnis, Andy Bonnell, Mark Collins, Erin Crowell, Haley Winters

Regrets: Justin Dickie, Derek Forsyth, Dwayne Frizzell, Mike Michaud

Author of Minutes: Tricia Lake

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 8:06 p.m.

2. Record of Attendance

- There were 20 participants (quorum) on the line, when the meeting was called to order.

3. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion** to approve the agenda, as circulated, by Laurie Burcham; seconded by Carley Gloade. Motion approved.

4. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes (May 30, 2022)

- **Motion** to approve the 2022 AGM Minutes (May 30, 2022), as circulated, by Roy Gouthro; seconded by Carley Gloade. Motion approved.

5. New Business - Reports

a) President – Ryan Butcher

The 2022-23 TAMHA season began positively with hopes of a normal hockey season with COVID restrictions behind us as, we began Fall Development in early September, and tryouts for U15 AA and U13 AAA on September 15th. Unfortunately, on September 23rd, Hurricane Fiona presented yet another challenge that provided significant strain on our abilities as a minor

hockey association to have a normal year. The loss of the Stadium, combined with the shutdown of the RECC due to sustained power loss required us to pivot once again. We canceled the remainder of fall development and moved remaining tryouts to East Hants until the RECC could re-do their lost ice surface. The Town of Truro has received a million dollars in funding towards the stadium in addition to insurance proceeds from the hurricane. The latest update from the town, is that we are currently booking ice for opening dates in January 2024.

The 2022-23 season saw an increase in players from over 430 last year to north of 450 players for this season. From a divisional perspective most divisions remained the same with the same number of teams from last year, while the U18 division added two rep teams (U18 AA and U18 A) over last year while maintaining two U18 C teams. The addition of two rep teams over prior year, loss of several officials, combined with the loss of the Stadium, which contributed 20 – 25 hours/ice per week, has significantly strained our scheduling capabilities this season. This has been felt by all users of the Stadium, who have raced to find ice and compete for the scheduling of officials.

I want to send a huge thanks to Dana Young, our ice scheduler, for all the work she put in daily to meet not only each team's requirements, but also demands that come from the many leagues with which our teams play around the province. As Dana steps away from TAMHA, she will be greatly missed next season. We will begin the search for a new ice scheduler.

I also want to thank outgoing board members Justin Dickie, 1st VP, and Lee Ogden, Equipment Manager, for their volunteer work on the Board. Lee has been on the Board for a number of years and has been instrumental in organizing our jersey inventory. Thank you both for your service.

In addition, I want to thank the families, volunteers, and players for their patience this season. Everyone has busy lives; hockey is not everything and putting an additional strain on everyone's schedules is not what we expected, or wanted, coming out of the past two seasons with COVID.

Hope everyone enjoys a great summer and I look forward to seeing everyone next hockey season.

b) 1st VP – Justin Dickie

It was a pleasure to serve as 1st VP of TAMHA for the 2022-23 season. As mentioned at our mid-season meeting, it was great to support the tryout process early in the season and I would recommend to next year's board that the new tryout process is thoroughly communicated to all stakeholders next season. I believe this will help reduce parent dissatisfaction with tryout outcomes. I firmly believe our tryout processes are as impartial as possible, and it would serve all involved to outline how tryouts are approached.

Other than that, I simply want to thank the entire board and particularly the executive committee for everyone's collaborative approach, and vision that always aims to put the kids first. I'm leaving for family reasons at this time but would welcome the opportunity to support the board, as needed, at any time going forward and am open to returning in future. TAMHA is in good hands. See you at the rink.

c) 2nd VP – Laurie Burcham

I began this season in the role of Past President, after serving as TAMHA's President for the 2020/2021 Season. In November, I returned as the 2nd VP for TAMHA, as Risk Manager. This season, Hockey Canada Implemented the Independent Third Party. The role of the Independent Third Party is to receive all hockey related maltreatment, sexual violence, harassment, abuse, or discrimination complaints by someone affiliated with Hockey Canada. This process did not come without growing pains, but we are confident this process will be an important part of our Risk Management process.

TAMHA continues to work with Coaches, players, volunteers, and families to ensure the safety and inclusion of all our members.

Thank you to all our board members, coaches, volunteers, and members for a great season.

d) Treasurer – Brad Ritcey

We are currently working through the April Financial Statements and as of today they have not yet been finalized. Work continues breaking out all types of revenue into their respective categories and ensuring that all expenses related to the 2022/2023 season are captured. Some highlights from the financials as we work through the statements:

- We ended the season with a cash position of approximately \$176k of which \$40-60k is needed to pay future payables and includes amounts restricted for new jersey purchases.
- Ice time expenses were down compared to budget, but referees' expenses were over budget due to the shortage of referees and ensuring increased travel costs were covered for refs traveling to further locations for home games.
- There is higher than expected accounts receivable balances owing at year end that will require follow up for collection with members.
- As we continue to finalize the numbers, we are forecasting between a breakeven to small surplus season.

e) Division Reps

i) U7 – Landon Crowe

The 2022-2023 U7 Season was very successful to say the least. The TAMHA U7 division continues to show great promise in our registration numbers. This year we had a total of 78 players registered.

The breakdown of U7 Players this season was:

U7 – 1 (4/5 Split) 20 Players
U7 – 2 (5 year-olds) 26 Players
U7 – 3 (6 year-olds) Group A 16 Players
U7 – 3 (6 year-olds) Group B 16 Players

This year TAMHA was able to continue to provide yet another successful U7 program in many areas. Our continued work with Development Coordinator Jamie Barbour has

proved to be very beneficial to the U7 program. This year we were able to offer development sessions to the U7 players again, along with on ice coaching development sessions for our great team of coaches at this level. These are small steps in the right direction in creating and instilling a strong development program for TAMHA beginning right at the U7 level.

This season saw our U7 players take part in multiple Jamborees. Players from TAMHA U7 participated in Jamborees at other organizations such as Brookfield, Bedford and Eastern Shore. These opportunities all had positive impacts on our players.

The TAMHA U7 players also had the great opportunity of hosting and participating in our own Jamboree. This year's Jamboree was hosted at Deuville's rink and saw teams visit from Cumberland, Debert, and Brookfield. There was a total of 15 teams combined at the U7-4 year-olds, U7-5 year-olds and U7- 6 year-olds. The event was very successful and a great time was had by all. I would like to thank Tim Hortons for their generous contributions.

I would also like to take this time to also thank the awesome parent groups of TAMHA U7. Many of you stepped up and donated items, time, or both, to help make this event successful. Your continued support of the U7 program has not gone unnoticed.

Most of all, I would like to offer a sincere thank you to the Deuville's rink staff. Not only did they step up significantly in helping us facilitate the Jamboree, they continued to offer and provide a safe and fun weekend home to our U7 players and parents this past season. The efforts of the Deuville's rink staff are significant contributor to our program running successfully.

In closing, I would like to thank the amazing team of board members that I get to work with during the season. I also want to take the time to thank every coach/volunteer that has helped with the U7 program. We have an awesome group of coaches and parents, and your dedication to making the program run as successfully as it does is very appreciated.

Have a great summer and see you all at the rink next season.

ii) U9 – Jamie Barbour

TAMHA's U9 Program had four teams participating in the 2022-2023 Hockey Season. Eighty Players represented TAMHA at the U9 Level and they were divided into 20 Players U9 Development Red, 21 Players U9 Development Blue, 21 Players U9 Intermediate Green, and 18 Players U9 Advancing. All teams were provided with two regular scheduled ice sessions per week. This would normally include one game and one practice. All U9 Teams had the opportunity to participate in extra development ice with TAMHA's Development Coaching Staff.

TAMHA's U9 participants were grateful for the opportunity to return to a full scheduled year

of hockey without any breaks in play because of Covid. We all look forward to having a successful 2023-2024 hockey season.

iii) U11 – Mike Michaud

I would first like to thank our many volunteers for a successful 2022/2023 minor hockey season. I would also like to make a special thank you to Dana Young for her work reworking of the ice scheduling with the loss of the Colchester Legion Stadium.

During the 2022/2023 hockey season U11 had 5 teams:

3 - U11 C Level Teams

1 - U11 A Team

1 - U11 AA Team with 3 players from Cumberland County

Season Highlights:

U11 A Won Silver at SEDMHA

U11 AA North Champions/ Silver Medalist Leroy MacDonald Tournament

U11 C Grey Gold Eastern Shore Tournament

U11 C Red Won the League Championship

Thank you and have a great summer!

iv) U13 – Derek Forsyth

U13 had 5 teams within TAMHA this year consisting of: 2 – C Teams; 1 – A Team; 1 – AA Team; 1 – AAA Team. Reported no major issues and believe the players enjoyed their season. Finally enjoyed a non-Covid factor season for the first time since 2018/2019, which I am sure was a relief and joy for everyone!

Thanks to all of the volunteers that made the full season possible for our players.

v) U15 – Misty Rennie

The 2022-23 season we had 4 - U15 teams with 72 kids registered: two rep teams and two C-level teams:

- U15AA with 17 players
- U15A with 17 players
- U15 C Menzies with 19 players, ending the season with 18.
- U15 C Watts with 19 players, ending the season with 18.

Overall, the season went great, no major issues. It was great to finally have a full uninterrupted season and all teams enjoyed getting back to tournaments.

vi) U18 – Cindy Lewis

The U18 Level had 4 teams for the 2022/2023 season. There was one AA team, one A team and 2 C level teams. There were 8 teams competing in the U 18 AA Level in their league they placed 3rd overall. There were 8 teams competing in the U18 A level in their league and

they placed 4th overall. They also won Gold at the Jack Frost tournament this season. Congratulations to the team! Truro had 2 U18C level teams in their league with a total of 7 teams competing. U18C Josh proudly took home the title of U18C Division Champions for our league. U18C Bob finished in 5th place. U18C Bob won Bronze at the Eastern shore tournament in April. Congrats to both teams on a job well done.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the coaches and other volunteers who stepped up and made this season a success for this group of young adults.

f) Female Rep – Ashley Hunt

First, I wanted to again thank all the volunteers and board members that have helped with TAMHA's hockey season this year, and a huge thank you to all the coaches, team managers, safety reps, referees, and parents. It takes a village to make all this happen and we cannot do it without any of you. Each season can bring its challenges, but we can learn from them and make a better future for our hockey players. Second, a big thank you to Dave Hazelton for his 15 years of service to the TAMHA Board. Thank you for all your dedication and commitment over the last several years.

At the start of the season the Rules regarding Co-ed Dressing rooms was sent out to all those who were registered for TAMHA for U13 and above. Mid-season a review and update of the policy was then distributed.

Over the course of the 2022-2023 hockey season there was no big issues that surfaced regarding Co-Ed dressing rooms. Only a few situations where we needed to arrange rooms for the females at particular rinks when rooms were not available or there was miscommunication of the policy to provide a room when one was clearly free.

Our goal for the upcoming 2023-2024 hockey season would be to once again be in contact with Hockey Nova Scotia (HNS) and go over their policy. Visit local rinks to understand their strategy they have for supporting Females in hockey that will be visiting their rinks. As well as reaching out to the Stadium for any input on their situation in making rooms available to aide with the Co-Ed dressing rooms.

Thank you so much welcoming me to cover for the remainder of the year and looking forward to another successful 2023-2024 hockey season.

g) Coach Coordinator – Dwayne Frizzell

I would like to thank all the coaches, managers, trainers, and room parents that volunteered their time for the 2022/23 season. Thanks to all for your patience as I navigated through my first year as TAMHA's coaching coordinator.

h) Communications & Technology Coordinator – Josh Burcham

GRAYJAY

TAMHA rolled out its new website and registration site through GrayJay in August 2022. As

many of you are aware, GrayJay, is a Halifax based sports platform that brings numerous benefits which include electronic game sheets and live scoring. This has been a significant undertaking this year as the learning curve has been extensive. Currently, TAMHA, SCMHA, WCMHA, and Tatamagouche MHA, are all signed on with GrayJay making the platform even more interactive and convenient within the Northern region. I worked out deal this fall with Scotia Minor to allow the C Leagues to be housed under their umbrella and I am currently the lead admin for the C leagues. Each association was required to assign a league scheduler for all C leagues, as they have done in the past, and they are responsible for uploading their division schedules to the Scotia Minor GrayJay site. Cumberland County has yet to sign on with GrayJay, so they provide us with the prepared schedule, and we upload it. Cumberland, however, appears to be realizing the benefits of GrayJay as coaches and manager have access to their teams through Scotia Minor and they are required to use it when visiting Truro or the other MHAs on GrayJay. I have received positive comments on GrayJay from CCMHA board members and various team staff.

The effects of hurricane Fiona were felt throughout the season as it did affect some arenas ability to offer Wi-Fi. This led to the use of paper game sheets, in many cases, which later had to be uploaded manually. I believe this to be a temporary problem and that we will see more access available moving forward.

I'm currently working with GrayJay in recommending new upgrades that will help mitigate some of the challenges faced when using a strictly online and integrated platform. An example is that I've proposed the ability to upload paper game sheets to games that are forced to go paper so that statistics can be viewed and validated by Officials, TAMHA and HNS. Prior to the commencement of next season, I will be meeting with our Colchester Associations to determine whether we will continue with Scotia Minor for our C Leagues or whether we will create our own C League Federation. We will work to create an efficient, effective and consistent process for scheduling for all our C Leagues in GrayJay.

I hope to have the help videos out on the use of GrayJay prior to next season. If you have any suggestions based on your experiences, please feel free to email me and let me know.

HCR/E-HOCKEY

HCR 3.0 is the new Hockey Canada e-hockey platform released in 2021. It houses all player, and volunteer information including their qualifications and team assignments. HCR was much smoother this season as many of our volunteers and families have become more knowledgeable in its use. Furthermore, GrayJay is integrated with HCR through our season registration portal so that the necessary information required by Hockey Canada is captured by the GrayJay portal and electronically communicated to HCR. While this works for player registrations, team staff have had some challenges navigating clinics and ensuring that their credentials are up to date. While this process is getting easier, we continually look for ways to assist in getting information out to you to make the HCR more user friendly. If you have not accessed your account since before 2021, you should create your account and link your player's profile. You can find guides on our website on how to do this.

TEAM GENIUS

Team Genius was utilized again, this fall as our evaluation software for tryouts. The criteria for

evaluation were reviewed again this year and adjusted to simplify the process for evaluators while still capturing the primary hockey skills needed to play at a rep level. As scores were entered electronically by evaluators, Team Genius would automatically rank players based on their individual scores for a session as well as their overall score based on the average of all their sessions. A comprehensive policy was finalized by the policy committee in order to finalize our 3 year Tryout Pilot Project. This policy covers situational factors that cannot be captured by Team Genius so that everyone has a fair opportunity to try out for a rep team. This policy will be posted to our site very soon.

Plans are to continue with Team Genius as we move into our 2023-24 season. This has been a very busy season in technological advances in our hockey program and I appreciate everyone's patience as we navigated through some of the glitches. Overall, it has been very positive, and we hope to be on the leading edge for technology in our association in the coming season. Thank you all for a great season!

i) Referee Development – Roy Gouthro

The 2022-23 season was a difficult year for TAMHA with the loss of the Colchester Legion Stadium. This caused many problems with scheduling of games and, in turn, scheduling of Officials. TAMHA home games were played at the RECC, Deuville's, Debert, and Brookfield with some games going on at the same time in all 4 rinks. This ended up putting an added strain on our already depleted officiating numbers.

This year I had a total of 44 officials work at least 1 game. Twenty (20) of these officials worked fewer than five games. Eighty percent of all TAMHA games were completed by 15 officials. On most weekends, only 10-15 officials would be available to work games. This year, I have 13 new officials, with 5 of these in the Jr. officials' program (U9 games). I lost 8 senior officials this year due to retirement or moving away for university.

j) Equipment Manager – Lee Ogden

Level "C" Jerseys: Nine (9) sets of C jerseys were replaced this year with home & away colors. Three sponsors stepped up to cover the cost (Start to Finish, ProCresting & Berry's Furniture). Any feedback I received was positive.

Rep Jerseys: TAMHA is in the process of ordering new rep jerseys for the 2023/2024 season.

Goalie Gear: TAMHA currently has 12 sets of goalie gear. We are working on replacing 3 sets before next season.

Jersey Return: With this year's successful season complete, TAMHA is now waiting on teams to return their game jerseys and puck kits. We have now received about 25% *to date*.

k) Tournament Chair – Carley Gloade

The Tournament Chair has no further development on the planning of a tournament for the 2023/24 season.

I) Development Coordinator – Jamie Barbour

Fall Development

Fall Development was facilitated in the U9, U11, U13, U15 and U18 Divisions. Registration was open for all players from TAMHA, West Colchester, South Colchester, and Fundy Highland Female Hockey Association. Registration numbers for each division was as follows: U9 – 52, U11 – 54, U13 – 35, U15 – 26. Due to the Stadium losing its ice surface, TAMHA was able to complete the following sessions: U9 – 4 of 8, U11 – 2 of 8, U13 – 8 of 8, U15 4 of 4 and U18 – 2 of 4. Overall, Fall Development registration numbers were ok, but TAMHA should encourage the participation of more of its players.

It is recommended for the 2023-2024 Season that minor hockey coaches are more involved in the Fall Development Sessions. These sessions are an effective way to have coach involvement leading into minor hockey evaluations and the hockey season.

Minor Hockey Season Development

In-season development sessions were facilitated on Tuesday Evenings from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. These hours were shared amongst TAMHA's participants. In total, TAMHA provided 60 hours of on ice development. Sessions were broken down to facilitate the following:

U7 and U9 On Ice Coach Development – Skating Fundamentals and Puck Skills

U7 5 and 6 – Skating Fundamentals

U9 Development – Skating Fundamentals and Puck Skills

U9 Intermediate – Skating Fundamentals and Puck Skills

U9 Advancing – Skating Fundamentals and Puck Skills

U11 C – Skating Fundamentals and Puck Skills

U11 AA/A – Skating Fundamentals, Puck Skills, and Position Specific Skills

U13 C – Skating Fundamentals, Puck Skills, and Position Specific Skills

U13 AA/A – Skating Fundamentals, Puck Skills, and Position Specific Skills

U13 AAA – Skating Fundamentals, Puck Skills, Positional Play and Team Play

U15 C – Skating Fundamentals and Puck Skills

U15 AA/A – Skating Fundamentals, Puck Skills, Positional Play and Team Play

Goalie Specific Development Sessions – Jacob Fancy

Spring Development

Unable to facilitate/No Ice Available

m) Ice Manager – Dana Young

Total Ice Usage for 2022/23: 1369 Hours

Fall Development:	33 Hours
Tryouts:	46 Hours
U9 Evaluations:	5 Hours
C Level Evaluations:	6 Hours
Checking Clinic:	3.5 Hours
Referee Clinic:	2 Hours
Goalie Development:	19 Hours
TAMHA Development:	53 Hours
U15C Play-downs:	4 Hours
Short Notice Game Cancellations (due to ref availability):	8.5 Hours
Total Practice Ice:	782 hours
Total Game Ice:	415.5 hours
Total Hours Reimbursed to teams (TAMHA):	32
Total Hours Reimbursed to teams (Rep Fees):	50.5

Despite many challenges this season, teams were able to use most of the ice included in a regular season. Shared practices were counted as 0.5/team. Short Notice Cancellations were counted in ice usage (when ice was charged to TAMHA - except in the event of game cancellations due to refs) Any unused ice will be reimbursed to the team.

Ice reports were sent to each team to review, and a final report was sent to the Office Manager on March 29th.

I would like to thank all the TAMHA Board Members for their support this season, as well as the teams' coaching staff and parents for their patience, understanding and flexibility with the many changes that occurred this season.

- **Motion** by Roy Gouthro to accept Reports; seconded by Brad Ritcey. Motion approved via ZOOM poll.

6. Questions from the floor

- *Q - Andy Bonnell: Do you have any information about the Ice Manager role? Are you going to post the position? Hours? Wage?*
A – Ryan Butcher: TAMHA will be posting the position, with all of the details.

7. Motions – Bylaws

- None

8. 2023/2024 Board Election

- **Motion** by Brad Ritcey, seconded by Ashley Hunt, to elect by acclamation, the following Board members for the 2023/2024 season:

ELECTED POSITIONS:	2023-2024 Season Nominee
President	Ryan Butcher
1st VP	Carley Gloade
2nd VP	Laurie Burcham
Secretary	Tricia Lake
Treasurer	Brad Ritcey
U7 Rep	Landon Crowe
U9 Rep	Andy Bonnell
U11 Rep	Mike Michaud
U13 Rep	Derek Forsyth
U15 Rep	Misty Rennie
U18 Rep	Cindy Lewis
Referee in Chief	Roy Gouthro
Tournament Chair	VACANT
Female Rep	Ashley Hunt
Coach Coordinator	Dwayne Frizzell
Communications & Technology Coordinator	Josh Burcham
Equipment Manger	Tanya Jordan
HIRED POSITIONS:	
Development Coordinator	Jamie Barbour
Ice Scheduler	VACANT
Office Administrator/Registrar	Steve VanderKwaak

- All positions approved by Acclamation.

9. Adjournment

- **Motion** to adjourn by Carley Gloade, seconded by Roy Gouthro. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.