



# 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

June 1, 2020

Review of the 2019-20 season from the executive committee

*BDMHA Executive*

## President's Report

Well the 2019-2020 hockey season is over, and I am finished my second year as President of Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association ("BDMHA"). Unfortunately, our season was cut short. On March 12, 2020 the Hockey Canada Board of Directors made the decision to cancel all Hockey Canada sanctioned activities due to the coronavirus ("COVID-19"). A disappointing end to our BDMHA season, but our priority is the health, safety and well-being of our players, coaches, parents, volunteers and our members. At this time there are still many questions about the future of hockey, but I am confident that our organization will prosper and excel as we move out of this pandemic. Our organization is financially stable and has the necessary resources to ensure our future as a leading hockey association in Nova Scotia.

It has been an incredible year and as I reflect on the past 12 months, I feel very proud and privileged to be part of such an incredible organization. I feel the 2019-2020 hockey season was an incredible success for BDMHA and our members. I would like to thank the coaches, the players, our Board, and our entire membership for their tremendous support over the past year.

My overall goal for BDMHA is to be a model hockey organization, to execute on our organizational strategy, and to ensure all players have an exceptional hockey experience. As an organization we will continue to be proactive, collaborative and open to all ideas that improve and strengthen BDMHA.

### Registration and Teams

BDMHA is the largest minor hockey association in Nova Scotia. This year our final player registration was 1,112 (2019-2018 – 1,129). This season we had 23 recreation teams, 20 competitive teams, and 10 Novice teams (2019-2018 - 24 recreation teams, 19 competitive teams, and 12 Novice teams).

### BDMHA Awards

I want to take this opportunity to share our BDMHA award winners for the 2019-20 hockey season. These awards will be presented at the beginning of the 2020-21 hockey season.

- **Competitive Coach of the Year** – Brad Winters
- **Recreation Coach of the Year** – Sylvain Morin
- **IP Coach of the Year** – Craig Lynk
- **Novice Coach of the Year** – Gavin Isenor
- **Volunteer of the Year:** Jason Foster and Danielle Hibberts
- **Most Promising Referee** – Brendan McQuaid
- **Most Improved Referee** – Alex Haché
- **Most Deserving Referee** – Cyril O'Brien
- **Eileen Mader Memorial Award** - John Saunders

I also want to take this opportunity to personally recognize three individuals who have had a huge impact on our organization over the past 12 months. All three have made significant contributions in 2019-2020 to our organization and have really elevated our organization in three critical areas.

- PJ Makinen – BDMHA Social Media Coordinator
- Danielle Hibberts – 50/50 Coordinator
- Jason Foster – Noah Llewelyn Tournament Coordinator

On behalf of BDMHA, our players, our coaches and our members thank you for your significant contribution to our organization.

### **Highlights of 2020-2019**

Overall, we had a very successful season on and off the ice. Some of the highlights for me of the 2020-2019 season include (but there are many more):

- Rogers Hometown Hockey
- BDMHA Tournaments
- BDMHA - Competitive Teams
- Tournament Success
- Gear Swap
- Social Media Presence
- Referee-in-Chief
- 50/50 Program
- Other Initiatives

### **Rogers Hometown Hockey**

BDMHA and Halifax Regional Municipality hosted Rogers Hometown Hockey the 2019 Thanksgiving weekend. The event was a huge success and was hosted the same weekend as the Jordan Boyd Tournament. This event was an incredible opportunity for BDMHA to showcase our organization and our community on the National stage. Our Hometown Hockey committee included Jason Hale, Stefanie Redden, Stephanie Maidment, PJ Makinen, Sarah Schlender and Andrea Hudgin. We worked very closely with HRM, our Peewee AAA team, and Rogers to ensure the event was a success. This was a nationally televised event and certainly was the biggest event BDMHA has ever hosted. We were fortunate to have Ron MacLean and Tara Sloan at the BMO Centre. Pascal Leclaire, Tomas Kaberle and TJ Galiardi all participated in the event as NHL alumni. Other special guests included Mayor Mike Savage, Geoff Regan, Kelly Regan, Jill Saulnier, and Cam Russell. We were also fortunate to have several Hockey Nova Scotia Board members and Executive attend the event.

**Here are some of the video links from the Hometown Hockey weekend:**

- <https://www.facebook.com/rogershometownhockey/videos/465620544038834/UzpfSTIzMTYxODExNjk3MDY4NToxNjQ5NzgyMDAxODIwOTQ5/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/rogershometownhockey/videos/2358505507743432/UzpfSTIzMTYxODExNjk3MDY4NToxNjQ5NzgwOTUxODIxMDU0/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=384226849197074>

It was an awesome weekend and an incredible event! Congrats BDMHA for hosting Hometown Hockey!

## **BDMHA Tournaments**

This year we have hosted two very successful BDMHA tournaments.

The Jordan Boyd Tournament was hosted the same week-end as Hometown Hockey and had 46 teams participating in 4 divisions. It also was the first tournament hosted under the new Peewee AAA Provincial League. It was also great to see two Bedford teams win the tournament. Congrats to the Bedford Blues Atom A and Bedford Blues Peewee AA Blue Teams for winning the 2019 Jordan Boyd Tournament. It was a great weekend and a huge success. This tournament continues to be one of the premiere tournaments in the Maritimes.

Also, I am extremely excited and very proud of hosting the 2019 Noah Llewelyn Tournament. This tournament was down to less than 20 teams 2 years ago and was really struggling. Over the past two years and under the leadership of Jason Foster, this tournament has become a premiere recreation tournament in Nova Scotia. The 2019 Tournament had 46 teams competing in all 4 recreation divisions. Congrats to Jason and his tournament committee and a huge congrats to the Bedford Midget Canadiens and the Bedford Bantam Coyotes for winning the 2019 Noah Llewelyn Tournament.

Both these tournaments are very important to our organization and they both are very successful. For the 2020-2021 hockey season we will be implementing a BDMHA Tournament Committee to continue to elevate and build on the success of these tournaments.

## **BDMHA – Competitive Teams**

There are so many things to feel good about within our organization but choosing to increase the number of competitive teams was a great decision by our Hockey Professional Shawn MacKenzie and our VP of Competitive Scott Urquhart. In making this decision BDMHA considers our performance on the ice, player development, and player experience. This decision was supported by our Board and overall, we are very happy with the results.

During tryouts it was decided that BDMHA would have 2 Bantam A and 2 Peewee AA teams. We would be the first association in Nova Scotia to host two Peewee AA teams. Our total teams for the 2020-2019 hockey season was 20 (2019-2018 competitive teams were 19, 2018-2017 competitive teams were 17). BDMHA has been increasing the number of competitive teams over the last 3 years. It is great to see this type of leadership and it was great to see BDMHA taking risks, doing things differently, trying new things and improving/enhancing our organization.

As the season started, we were unsure what the impact of increasing teams would be on our organization. We are still assessing the success of this initiative but overall, we are very happy with this decision.

From an on-ice performance perspective I prepared an 8-year analysis of our winning percentage for BDMHA competitive teams. I really wanted to understand our competitive performance year to year and wanted to look at the win percentage compared to the number of competitive teams.

- **See appendix A for a summary of the overall results.**

For this report (due to spacing) I will focus on some statistics from the past five years, but complete analysis can be found in appendix A:

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2015/16</u>
<b>Number of Players Registered</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>1,088</b>	
<b>Number of Competitive Teams</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>
<b># of Central Minor Regular Season Banners</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b># Central Minor Playoff Banners</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total # of Central Minor Banners</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Provincial Championships</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

#### Competitive – Regular Season Winning Percentage

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2015/16</u>
<b>Atom</b>	<b>78.91</b>	<b>65.66</b>	<b>75.77</b>	<b>73.11</b>	<b>73.11</b>
<b>Peewee</b>	<b>67.15</b>	<b>64.50</b>	<b>76.25</b>	<b>66.15</b>	<b>49.17</b>
<b>Bantam</b>	<b>62.59</b>	<b>34.51</b>	<b>41.36</b>	<b>64.14</b>	<b>54.65</b>
<b>Midget</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>54.86</b>	<b>27.12</b>	<b>76.32</b>	<b>72.34</b>
<b>Total Win %</b>	<b>66.93</b>	<b>57.02</b>	<b>61.44</b>	<b>69.46</b>	<b>61.02</b>

#### Competitive – Playoff Winning Percentage

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2015/16</u>
<b>Atom</b>	<b>84.29</b>	<b>73.53</b>	<b>76.67</b>	<b>71.82</b>	<b>77.42</b>
<b>Peewee</b>	<b>61.54</b>	<b>68.29</b>	<b>82.89</b>	<b>61.90</b>	<b>38.64</b>
<b>Bantam</b>	<b>82.81</b>	<b>34.00</b>	<b>43.48</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>65.38</b>
<b>Midget</b>	<b>33.33</b>	<b>66.07</b>	<b>22.73</b>	<b>79.69</b>	<b>67.50</b>
<b>Total Win %</b>	<b>71.19</b>	<b>62.50</b>	<b>65.69</b>	<b>71.43</b>	<b>63.03</b>

#### Competitive – Total Regular Season and Playoffs

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2015/16</u>
<b># of Teams</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Atom</b>	<b>79.95</b>	<b>67.00</b>	<b>75.94</b>	<b>72.70</b>	<b>74.59</b>
<b>Peewee</b>	<b>66.11</b>	<b>65.24</b>	<b>77.53</b>	<b>65.12</b>	<b>46.34</b>
<b>Bantam</b>	<b>66.47</b>	<b>34.42</b>	<b>41.73</b>	<b>66.79</b>	<b>58.00</b>
<b>Midget</b>	<b>38.60</b>	<b>58.00</b>	<b>26.43</b>	<b>77.31</b>	<b>70.90</b>
<b>Total Win %</b>	<b>67.75</b>	<b>58.10</b>	<b>62.21</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>61.64</b>

## Comments:

- Over the 5 years our registration numbers have remained consistent (some factors to consider – Metro West Force and Midget Registrations)
- The number of competitive teams ranged from 16 teams to a high in 2019-2020 of 20 competitive teams.
- Total number of CMHF banners won for 2019-2020 was 7. This is our second highest total in the 5-year period.
- Regular Season Winning Percentage – our overall win % was 66.93% compared to 57.02 in the prior year. This is an incredible increase of 9.91% from the prior year and also the second highest win % over the 5-year period.
- Playoff win percentage - We had a very high win percentage in the playoffs this year. For the 2020-2019 season we had a win percentage of 71.19% in the playoffs. That is an 8.69% increase in our playoff win percentage from the prior year. On top of that we won 4 Central Minor Regular season banners (compared to 3 in the prior year) and won 3 playoff championships (compared to 3 in the prior year).
- Total Regular Season and Playoff win % - With more teams at higher levels BDMHA was able to increase its overall win percentage to 67.75% compared to 58.10% in the prior year. This is an increase in our win % of a remarkable 9.65% (year over year). This was the highest win percentage in the last 3 years, and the second highest in the past 5 years.

I don't usually like to talk about winning, win percentage, or banners as a measure of success but I do think it is important information to share with our membership this year.

I am very proud of the decision to have more competitive teams and the success of this decision is a highlight of the 2020-2019 hockey season. This is a huge step forward for BDMHA and our leadership. Congrats Bedford and Congrats Shawn!!!! It is great to be a part of an organization that is willing to try new things, to think differently and to really raise our expectations.

Decisions like this are extremely difficult to make, especially when there is a definite perception that less teams means more wins or more banners. I believe our success (as shown in the analysis) is a result of great coaching, great development of our players (core skills, etc.), and a focus on player experience/team culture. In addition, our competitive leadership team is doing an incredible job selecting coaches that align with our BDMHA strategy. Overall winning teams will have inspirational coaches, positive player experience and great team cultures.

It is important that our membership is aware that we will continue to select teams that provide for the best possible player experience and will take into consideration all factors in making team selection decisions. We are not sure the number of teams or levels expected next year but we will continue to be forward thinking and make decisions in the best interest of our entire organization - all 1,112 players. We will try new things, be bold in our thinking/decisions, believe/inspire our players, and we will continue to have high expectations. When we do these things, when our membership is aligned, the results can be exceptional.

## **Tournament Success**

Overall, we had significant banner success across all levels. Our teams continue to fill rink D of BMO with Championship banners. During the year we had several teams win banners including the following (not an inclusive listing – I certainly missed lots):

- 2019 Jordan Boyd Tournament – Bedford Blues Atom A
- 2019 Jordan Boyd Tournament – Bedford Blues Peewee AA Blue Team
- 2019 Noah Llewelyn Memorial Tournament - Bedford Midget Canadiens
- 2019 Noah Llewelyn Memorial Tournament - Bedford Bantam Coyotes
- 2020 Lounsbury Tournament - Bedford Bantam Wild
- 2019 Jack Frost - Bedford Peewee B White
- 2019 ASCU Moncton Challenge Cup – Bedford Bantam AA
- 2019 ASCU Moncton Challenge Cup - Bedford Bantam A White
- 2019 ASCU Moncton Challenge Cup – Bedford Peewee B White
- 2019 O’Leary Hockey Classic – Bedford Bantam B Blue
- 2019 TASA Fall Classic - Bedford Bantam AA
- 2019 Annual Colin Chipman - Bedford Blues Bantam A White Team
- 2020-2019 CMHF Regular Season Champions – Bedford Bantam AA
- 2020-2019 CMHF Regular Season Champions Atom A
- 2020-2019 CMHF Regular Season Champions - Atom B
- 2020-1029 CMHF Regular Season Champions – Bedford Peewee AAA
- 2020 CMHF Playoff Champions – Bedford Atom AA Blue Team
- 2020 CMHF Playoff Champions – Bedford Atom A White Team
- 2020 CMHF Playoff Champions – Bedford Atom B Blue Team
- 2020 Pownal Hockey Tournament - Midget Coyotes

Unfortunately, our recreation teams did not get to the MMHL Championship day, but I know our teams would have represented our organization very well.

## **Gear Swap**

Our first ever Gear Swap was held in August 2019, and was a huge success. Thank you to all the families who donated gear and to the volunteers who organized and ran our gear swap. Overall, we raised \$1,380 for the Player Assistance Fund but more importantly we helped many players in our organization. This is a great initiative and will hopefully be having another gear swap before next season.

## **Social Media Presence**

The 2019-2020 hockey season was the first time that BDMHA had an individual responsible for the BDMHA Social Media accounts. It was also the first year we had a social media strategy and focus. PJ Mäkinen is our Social Media Coordinator and he has done an incredible job showcasing our association. BDMHA currently has social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and all these accounts have very active and engaged followers.

To date our followers on each platform are as follows:

Social Channel	Followers (May 2019)	Followers (Aug 2019)	Current Followers (June 2020)
Facebook	502	603	1,141
Twitter	1,125	1,169	1,331
Instagram	0	265	863

Some of the key highlights from the 2019-20 season are:

- Our most successful social media timeframe was during the Thanksgiving weekend when we played host to the Jordan Boyd Memorial Tournament and Rogers Hometown Hockey.
  - The Atom AA Blue team had a post about inclusiveness featuring Jack Henry that reached 104,000 people on FB alone.
- Each of the BDMHA competitive teams were given access to their own Twitter accounts and most of the teams used these accounts. We have kept access to the new accounts so that they can stay the same year after year.
  - **We will be adding all Recreation teams in the 2021-2020 hockey season**
- We took a stab at producing a podcast in partnership with our clothing sponsor, Nova Trophy called The Blues Report: presented by Nova Trophy. We recorded and released 6 episodes. We will plan to expand on this somewhat next season with some interesting interviews and topics.

Follow along on all of our social media accounts:

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BDMHA/>
- Twitter - [https://twitter.com/Bedford\\_Blues](https://twitter.com/Bedford_Blues)
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/bedfordblues/>

Please send all photos/videos to our social media coordinator at [bdmha.socialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:bdmha.socialmedia@gmail.com)

We will continue to work on our communication, increasing our social media presence and strengthening our BDMHA brand across Canada.

### Referee-In-Chief

I am also very proud of the decision to move to a four-man referee system for all levels of competitive and recreations from Atom to Midget. This change was supported unanimously by the BDMHA board. We implemented most of this strategy in 2019-2020 but will continue to ensure we have a four - man referee team in place for all games.

Some highlights:

- BDMHA player suspensions decreased from the prior year
- Parent behavior was improved (this is reflective in our association survey).
- We received less complaints about our referees from other associations, from coaches and from parents.



- Hosted our first BDMHA referee training sessions in partnership with Hockey Nova Scotia
- Most important we improved significantly the referee experience.
- Added Cody Stone and Bob Chisholm to our referee leadership team (To support Gary Couch)

We will continue to focus on referee experience, referee development, referee recruitment and referee retention. In addition, we will continue to roll out our four-man referee system. Our goal is for BDMHA to be leaders in the development of referees and to make the referee experience a positive one.

### **50/50 Program – Offsetting Costs of Registration**

During the 2019-2020 Hockey season we implemented a new 50/50 fundraising program and we couldn't be happier with the outcome. The goal of this fundraiser is to help our members offset the raising costs of hockey. Helping BDMHA families financially is the sole goal of this program. Many would focus on the size of the pot as our ultimate goal and a measure of success but for our Board we will continue to focus on helping families with the costs of hockey. The more families we can help the better and we would like to see more of our members take advantage of this program. As much as we would like to have a big prize payout, our ultimate goal is to help make hockey accessible to everyone who wants to play the game.

BDMHA would like to recognize our three top 3 contributors to our 50/50:

- Thomas Armsworthy – full registration covered and money available to use for development and 2020-2021 registration.
- Max Roussel and Logam Uruhart - both raised more than \$800 towards their registration.

In addition, we would like to congratulate our 2019-2020 winners:

- 2019 September winner – Jessica Burke took home a prize of \$25,727
- 2019 November winner - George Coupar who took home \$21 864
- 2020 January winner - Jacqueline Bramwell who took home \$14 311.

Overall the 50/50 was very successful this year with over \$44,000 in player payments made to various members.

Our March draw will take place on July and the winner will take home \$7 862. We are already busy brainstorming ways to make the next campaign even better so stay tuned. I remind members that BDMHA does not receive any of the 50/50 fundraising money and all tickets sales go directly back to our members (after costs and 50% for the winner)) We fully expect this program to continue and grow in BDMHA

### **Other Initiatives - Highlights**

BDMHA is working on numerous initiatives and ideas to move our organization forward. Here are some examples of initiatives completed or currently in progress:

- **Ice allocations** – Over the year Matt Oxford and I have been working very hard in the area of ice allocations and this will continue. We meet with the Halifax Regionally Municipality on a regular basis and overall our ice allocation at BMO for the 2019-2020 was significantly better then the prior year. Our relationship with HRM continues to be very strong and we will work very closely with the them on our ice allocations and ideas to improve our BDMHA experience.

- **Nustadia** – Over the year we have worked very closely with Bill Cruickshank at Nustadia on several ideas/improvements to the BMO facility. Our relationship with Nustadia is very strong and we will continue to work with them in partnership on ideas that improve our BDMHA experience.
- **BDMHA Office/Shawn's Dressing Room** – this year we invested in some new shelving for Shawn's equipment room. It looks great and it has helped organize his equipment in dressing room 10. Nustadia also painted our BDMHA office and we made some improvements there as well.
- **Tryouts Rink D** – I am very happy to that all tryouts for the 2019-2020 hockey season were held in rink D. It provided lots of space for our evaluators and parents to watch the tryouts. This will continue as we move into the 2020-2021 hockey season.

As we move into the 2020-21 hockey season, I have the following priorities. I will ensure we move forward in each of these areas and I feel they are critical to raising the bar and increasing our expectations of our organization.

1. Rebound Plan – we will be working very closely with Hockey Nova Scotia and our Board to ensure a smooth transition back to the ice for our players.
2. MMHL – we will be working much more closely with MMHL and the Presidents of the other associations to make improvements to the MMHL divisions, the categorization, and the league in general.
3. Referee Development – we will be looking for ideas and ways to ensure we have the best referee development programs in the province.
4. Social Media Strategy – we are continue to build on our social media strategy. This will better connect our membership and improve our overall communication.
5. Midget Competitive/Recreation – we will be looking very closely at the entire Midget division this year. We will be looking at any and all ideas to make improvement to this division. We want to ensure our players have the best possible experience.

As we move into the 2020-2021 hockey season there are lots of questions and things, we currently just don't have answers to. As information becomes available BDMHA will adjust accordingly. I am confident that we have a very strong organization, we have very committed/dedicated volunteers and that BDMHA will come out of this pandemic stronger and ready to compete. Our team has been working very hard to make BDMHA the very best organization it can be, and this will continue. We will continue to have very high expectations and continue to try new things.

Two years ago, I presented to Hockey Nova Scotia on "Raising our Expectations". I believe very strongly in setting high expectations and building environments where coaches/teams/ players/kids can rise-up and succeed. Players should feel great about themselves, believe they can do everything and be a part of a team that fosters great player experience.

Three key concepts/principles I live everyday and I think it is important for all BDMHA members to understand in building a high performing organization:

- **“High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectations” - (BDMHA will have high expectations of our Board, our Coaches, our players, our teams, and our parents)**
- **“Nobody rises to low expectations” – (key in thinking about our players – we should teach kids to dream big, build confidence and have teams/coaches that foster positive player experience)**
- **“Everything in life is a reflection of a choice you have made. If you want a different result, make a different choice” – (we have to try new things and have to be open to change)**

**As we move into next season, I will be building on the idea that we have to ‘raise our expectations’ and will focus on creating a high performance organization and also creating a high performance culture.**

In closing I want to thank everyone in the association. If anyone has any comments, questions or ideas please direct your comments to my attention at [bdmha.president@gmail.com](mailto:bdmha.president@gmail.com). You could also stop me in the rink as I am always willing to chat and listen.

In closing I want to thank everyone in the association. We had a tremendous year and we all should be very proud of our organization.

If anyone has any comments, questions or ideas please direct your comments to my attention at [bdmha.president@gmail.com](mailto:bdmha.president@gmail.com). Stay safe and see you at the rink.

**Jason Hale, CPA, CA**

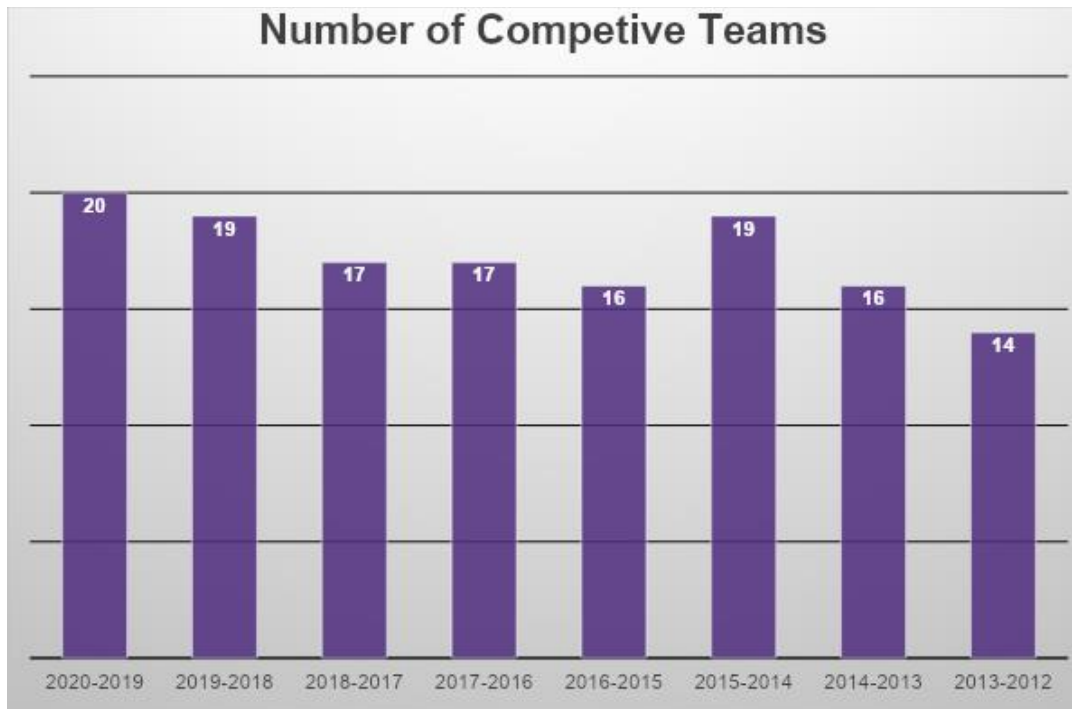
**President BDMHA**

# Appendix A

The following outlines the total registration per year for BDMHA.

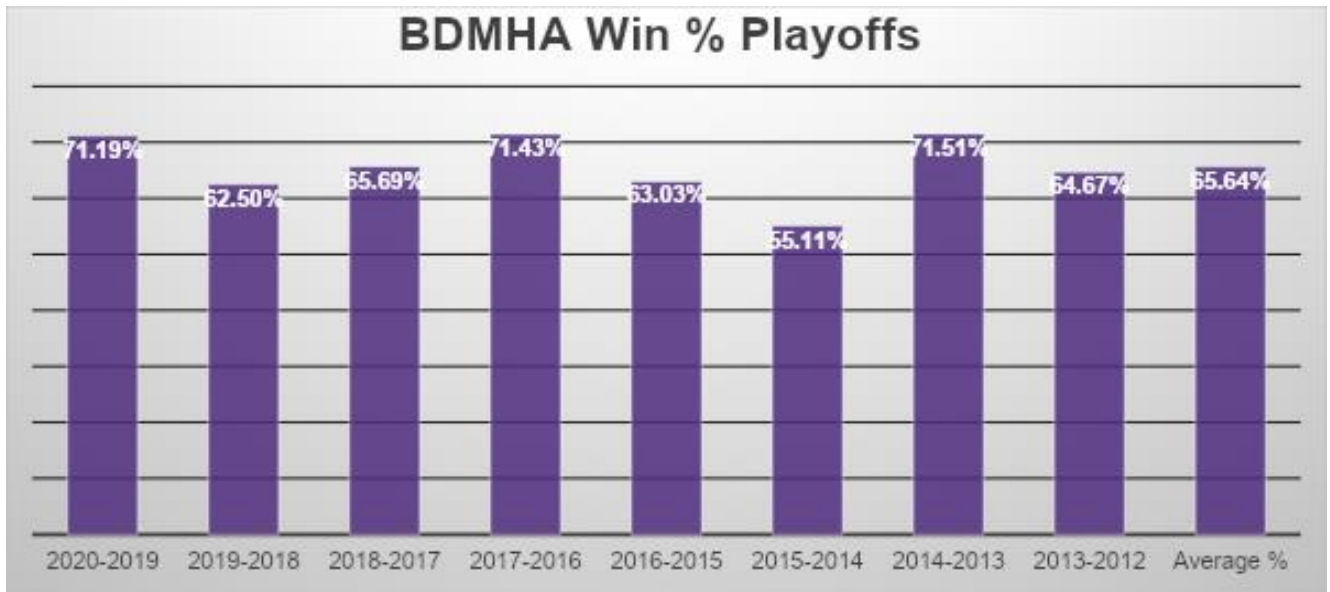
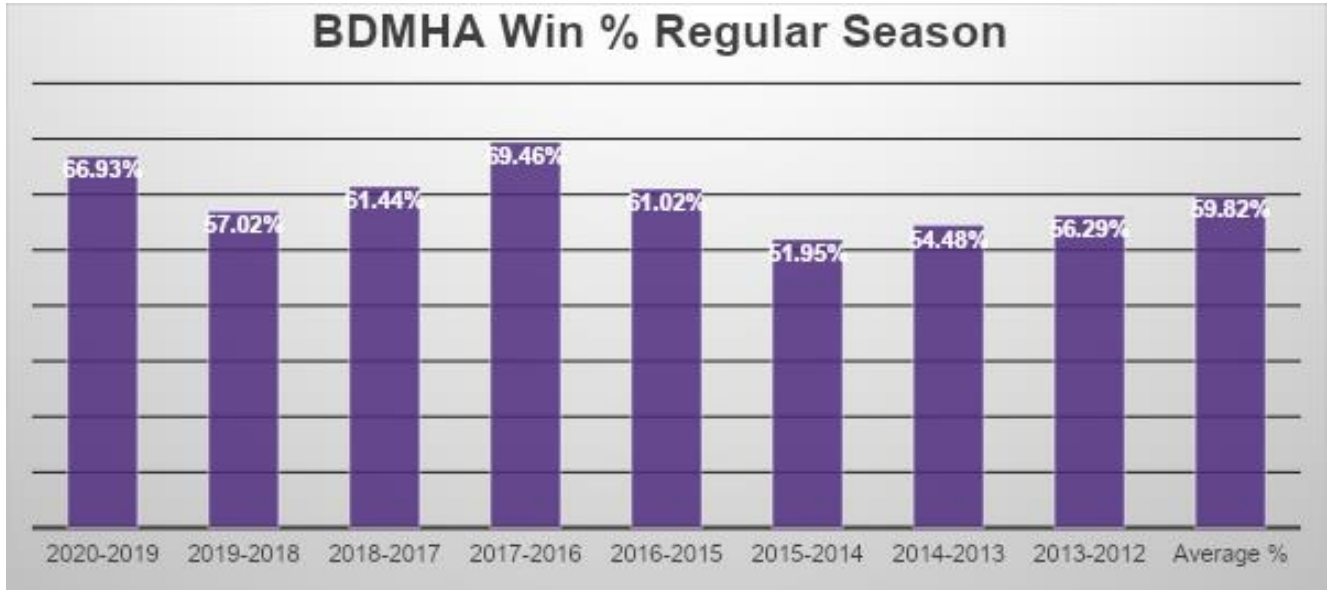


The following outlines the total number of competitive teams per year for BDMHA.



The following outlines the BDMHA win % over the past 8 years. The analysis reviews all hockey seasons from 2012-2020. The following charts show the performance of BDMHA over this period.

BDMHA win % for the regular season

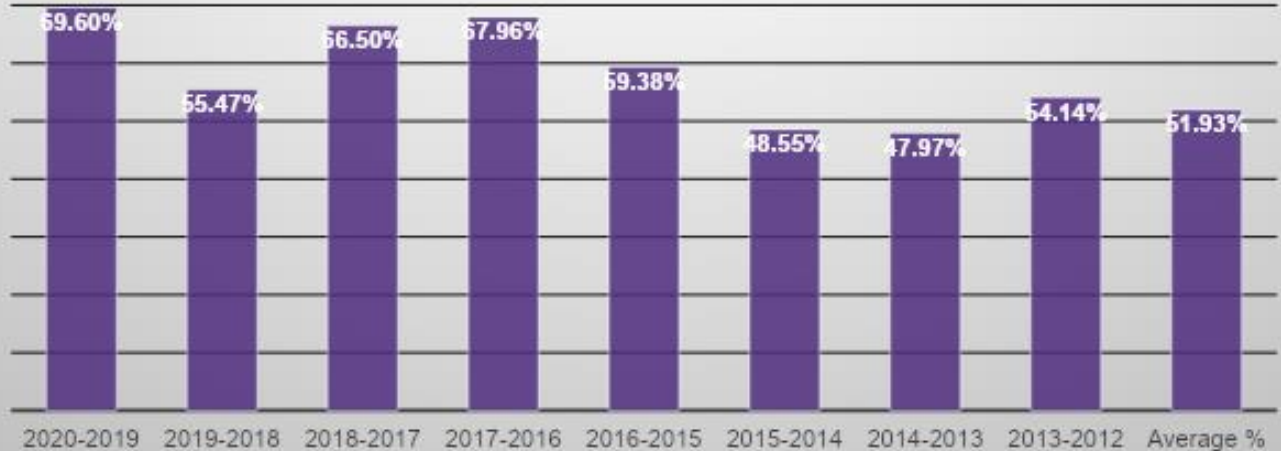


## BDMHA Total Win % - Regular Season and Playoffs



The following charts outlines BDMHA win % with all Midget Statistics removed from the calculations.

## BDMHA Win % Regular Season - Excluding Midget



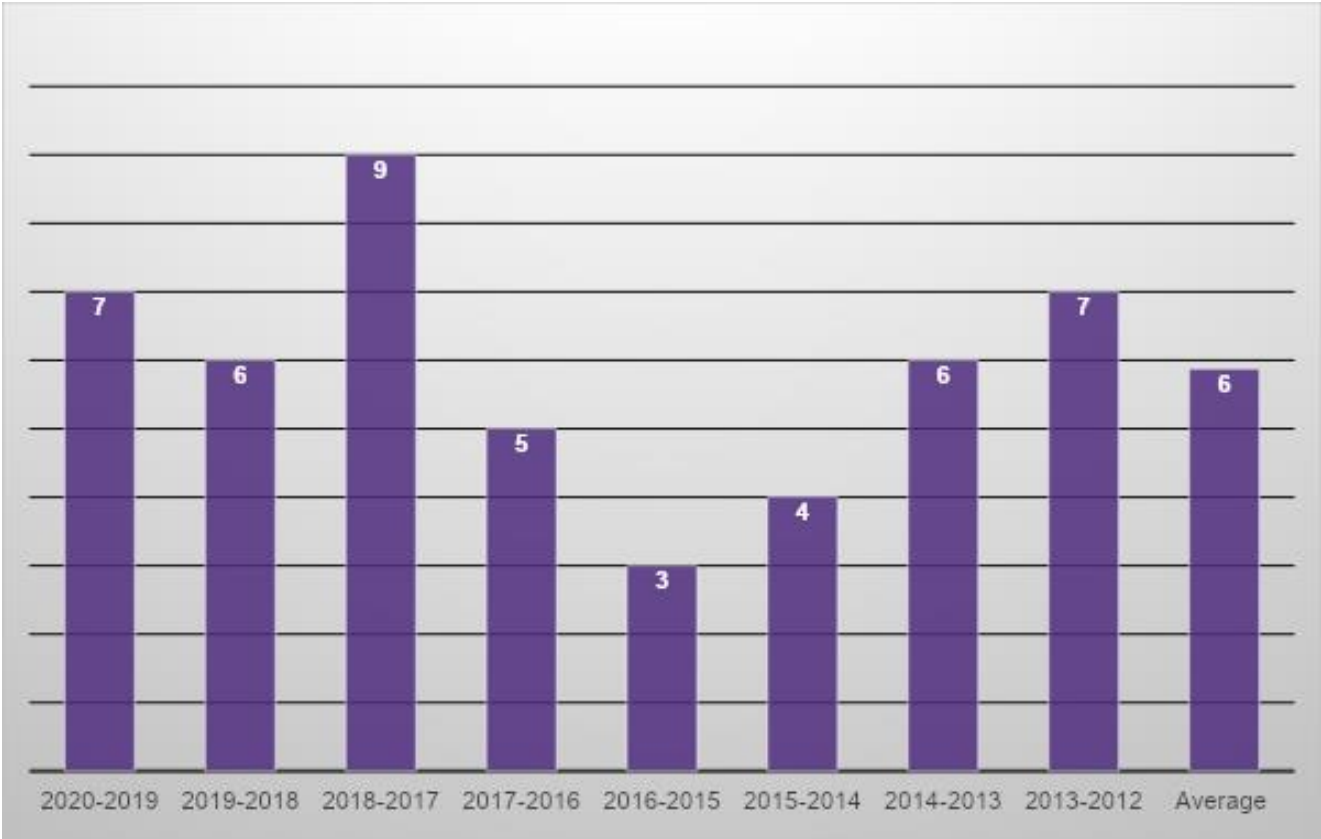
### BDMHA Win % Playoffs - Excluding Midget



### BDMHA Total Win % - Excluding Midget



The following charts outlines BDMHA banners won over the past 8 years.





## VP Operations

The 2019-2020 season did not end the way we all had hoped but I would like to provide an overview of the season. The VP Operations is responsible for supporting the overall operation of BDMHA. It was a busy season with plenty of activity for our association that includes 1105 players on 60 teams (IP - 6, Novice - 10, Atom - 11, Peewee - 12, Bantam - 10, Midget - 9, Minor Junior - 1, Jump Into Hockey - 1). This year we also introduced Para/Sledge Hockey in partnership with Hockey Nova Scotia (HNS). This program is open to children of all abilities from across the HRM. Bedford teams joined in the weekly practices and really enjoyed the experience of trying a new and exciting game.

Our teams achieved great success this season with a number of tournament and league championships and great standing in both recreation and competitive leagues.

### **Coaching certification:**

HNS audits the qualifications of volunteer coaches in every minor hockey association to ensure that all coaches meet the requirements. BDMHA's Certification Coordinator is Christien Lefebvre and I would like to thank him for the many hours that he dedicates to ensure that all of our coaches are up to date on their certifications. HNS has a deadline of Dec 1 for completing the Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check, and Respect in Sport Volunteer Program. As well, all coaches must be up to date with coaching clinics and safety training certificates.

### **Hockey Development Professional (HDP):**

Shawn MacKenzie continues in his role as HDP and does a tremendous job in designing and implementing development programs for players at all ages and levels. The Core Skills Program is the biggest program and runs throughout the season from the first week of the season until the last. Shawn also runs other in-season programs catered to specific positions. Another important area of focus for the HDP is developing and supporting the coaches in BDMHA. With all of the uncertainty surrounding what next season will look like due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the disruption it caused in March and resulting in the premature end to our season, Shawn has been working towards planning different scenarios for tryouts, checking clinics and development programs for whenever we are allowed back on the ice. A big thanks to Shawn for all of his time and energy in helping make our association such a successful one.

### **BDMHA Administrator/Ice Coordinator:**

Matt Oxford fulfills both of these roles for BDMHA and ensures that everything runs smoothly in everything from registration to ice allocations, supporting the Executive and the BDMHA website. Matt also does league scheduling for the MMHL and CMHF, tournament support (Noah Llewelyn and Jordan Boyd) and communicates directly with HNS and the other Minor Hockey Associations. Thanks so much to Matt for all of his time and expertise which are instrumental in BDMHA being a model association in Nova Scotia and beyond.

**Apparel:**

IIG/Nova Trophy continues to be the official supplier for BDMHA. They added a number of new products and new designs to our offering this season and make things easy for families by coming into the BMO Centre to sell the apparel. We continue to bring in new jerseys so that all Bedford teams look unified and professional.

**Referee In Chief:**

Gary Couch started as our new referee in chief this season and has done a tremendous job in helping organize an in-house training session for new and experienced officials in partnership with HNS. The feedback was excellent and HNS was delighted with that program.

Gary also rolled out the new 4-man system at certain levels and that, too, has been a success.

Thanks very much to Gary for all of his efforts in helping to mentor and teach our many new referees who have joined this group for the first time.

**Executive Members:**

I would like to thank all members of the executive who dedicate so much time to our association. Their efforts have been instrumental in the success that we saw this season on many levels. With an association as big as ours, it really does take the collective efforts of the board members and the families of our players to create such a great environment to play hockey.

Thanks to everyone involved...it is a real pleasure to work with all of you.

Congratulations on a great season and I look forward to our return. While it will definitely not have the same look and feel as normal, I am very confident that BDMHA will find a way to create a fun hockey environment for next season where our players will continue to grow in the game.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

**Eric Villeneuve**

## VP Competitive

The 2019/20 hockey season was quite a different year for all of us at Bedford Minor Hockey compared to previous seasons. We were not able to finish our season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and it unfortunately cut a lot of our teams season short. This was an unforeseen situation that fell upon us, and for the health and safety of the players and their families the season was called by Hockey Canada, and Hockey Nova Scotia, and was supported by all associations. As much as we all hated to see that happen for our players, we all felt for the health and safety of players, parents, coaches, siblings, and our extended families, it was a big disappointment for all about, but the right thing to do.

On the competitive side we found some success, but unfortunately because of the pandemic we could not see some of those successes to their end. We had the PeeWee AAA team on the way to the provincial championships, where I was very confident they would have repeated, and on the road to the Atlantic to do the same. Atom AA Blue (MacLean), were also on the road to getting to the provincials with winning the CMHF championships. As was our Atom B White (Ujvary) having won the Central Minor Champion, along with Atom A White (Schmeisser).

As with all seasons, I along with our Hockey Development Professional, Shawn MacKenzie have have met with all of the teams, and have gotten feedback from the coaches on all players, along with our own observations, and have already started on a plan to build on our successes of the previous season, into the 2020/21 season. This past spring, with the closing out of the season, Shawn has put in great efforts in reaching out to all players, in providing off-ice development, as well as offering invaluable player feedback to the players, and parents.

When counting championships for Bedford Minor we didn't quite get to where we would like to be, but I believe we are on an upward climb in regards to development, and building teams that will be able to compete, and win at a high level in seasons to come. We continued the weekly defense, and goalie training in order to improve on both areas, where we as an association felt could improve upon in order to make our competitive teams stronger in years to come. We added a puck skills, and shooting session in the second part of the season as well, which was also popular. These sessions were very successful, and improvements were very visible on the ice during games on the later half of the season. As we continuously continue to build our development sessions, the outcome will be a stronger player foundation, which will build a better, more skilled association from the Atom level to Midget.

We grew to 20 competitive teams and statistically speaking, for a successful year, Bedford would like our divisions to run minimally at 50% and preferably > 60% win / loss ratio. While we can drive the same expectation down to a team level, with 20 teams it is inevitable that some teams will be much stronger and weaker in any division in any given year. If we review the divisional results of the regular season for Central Minor:

1. Atom – competitive having earned 79% of possible points (up from 65% last year).
2. PeeWee - competitive having earned 67% (up from 65% last year).
3. Bantam – competitive having earned 63% (up from 34% last year),
4. Midget – competitive at 40% (down from 55% last year)

Overall the Bedford Minor competitive teams earned 67% of the points, up from 57% last year, of total potential points using the bench mark as Central Minor regular season, not including central minor round robin, finals, day of champions, provincials, tournaments or exhibition games. This is based on over 900+ games!!!! That's a lot of hockey and a lot of success.

We all know it is not the scoreboard to ultimately determine success in Minor Hockey, but it is an indicator we can use to determine if we are struggling competitively in any of our divisions, a factor in competitive hockey. As in any year, we do have a few teams requiring attention for various reasons and we did work with these teams to ensure they have the best possible outcome, and resources available to have a successful year. Our percentage of winning went up in the Atom, PeeWee, and Bantam divisions. We have seen percentages increase, due to the development programs we have implemented the last two years.

With an association this size we will have issues and this year was no exception. Continuous discussions were held with our HDP, and a lot of various meetings occurred with the coaching staff and players to assist them in any short falls. Bedford Minor Hockey continues to have a large pool of players that are interested in trying out for competitive teams and each year this continually grows. We saw once again a record number of players trying out. The challenges faced with the increasing number of players trying out for a competitive level is trying to make room for them all. This year was the largest number of competitive teams that Bedford Minor has ever had compete. Having more players play competitive hockey, and also take advantage of the core skills programs allows the association to develop more players which will make the association stronger and more competitive in years to come.

We had a total of 258 call-ups this past season, an increase from 106 call ups last season. Some of these were players on other competitive teams who had the opportunity to experience playing at a higher level, as well as in some cases practice prior to the call up game as well. Of those call-ups, 24 players came from the recreation level to play competitive hockey this year.

There are big changes in store for Bedford minor this coming Fall season. Hockey Canada has [renamed](#) the divisions we currently use, in order to make hockey more inclusive, and welcoming to everyone. This change will be fully implemented in the Fall tryout. This renaming will align hockey with other sports such as soccer who also use this structure to organize their divisions. Bedford minor fully supports these changes, as it simplifies the system for all families, especially those new to hockey.

The divisions will be broken down as follows:

Minor Hockey Age Division Chart   2020-21 Season		
Year of Birth	Age on Dec. 31, 2020	Age Division
2014 and earlier	6 or under	Under-7 (U7), Initiation
2013	7	Under-9 (U9), Novice
2012	8	
2011	9	Under-11 (U11), Atom
2010	10	

2009	11	Under-13 (U13), PeeWee
2008	12	
2007	13	Under-15 (U15), Bantam
2006	14	
2005	15	Under-18 (U18), Midget
2004	16	
2003	17	
2000-2001-2002	18-19-20	Under-21 (U21), Junior

With the end of the season comes preparation for the next season, which we are in full swing. We are awaiting Hockey Canada, and Hockey Nova Scotia to give the ok to return to the ice once again. We are accepting applications for coaches, which we take great pride in making sure we make the right selections each year to have the best coaches who represent the Bedford Minor Hockey values we strive for year after year.

And in closing, without the help of all of the competitive coordinators this year, tryouts and other regular season duties / issues would have been much more difficult to accommodate. I would like to extend a big thank you to Brian Furdas – Atom/PeeWee, and Glen Breen - Bantam/Midget.

I look forward to remaining part of the executive team in 2019/2020.

Good luck to all in the fall tryout process.

***Scott Urquhart, VP Competitive***

## VP Recreation

Our 2019/2020 season was a successful one despite ending not exactly as we had planned. The effects of COVID-19 on not only minor sports but our community were vast and changed the world as we know it. The season ended abruptly and ahead of our Day of Champions where we would have most certainly seen several Bedford teams go for gold and continue on to the City Championships. The Day of Champions is one of my favorite events of the year and I am sad that our young players did not get the chance to compete for the banners. Many teams also missed out on end of the year parties, I was happy to see teams who adapted and did video calls as a way to cap off the season.

We created 23 teams at the recreation level this year, 5 Atom; 5 Peewee; 5 Bantam; 7 Midget and 1 Minor Junior team. Helping support the players and families on each of those teams was a fantastic group of volunteers who I would like to thank for their countless hours dedicated to helping these children through their hockey journey. This group includes the coaches, managers, and divisional coordinators, without you we could not provide the same high-level hockey experience we have come to expect for our players. Thank you for the countless hours you have contributed not only to our players and families, but to our entire organization. This year our divisional coordinators were:

- Atom – Jennifer Oake
- Peewee – Jennifer MacLeod
- Bantam – Krista White
- Midget – James Mitchener

Each of the coordinators ensured that their respective divisions ran smoothly this season and have provided incredible support that is very much appreciated and acknowledged by myself and the rest of the association. I cannot thank you enough for everything you have done. In addition to the divisional coordinators, support to our teams and managers as always came from our Bedford Minor Coordinator, Matt Oxford. A special thanks to Matt for all of the hours spent scheduling games and practices for our recreation teams this year.

Our core skills sessions for Atom and Peewee were again a huge success, developed and coached by our own Hockey Development professional, Shawn Mackenzie. These sessions help to ensure development and coaching has consistency across our teams. In addition to leading our Core Skills, Shawn provided hours of both on and off ice support to our coaches, players and association as a whole. I want to thank Shawn for his continued commitment and focus specifically on our recreation teams and their development.

This year we hosted the most successful and highly attended Noah Llewellyn Memorial Hockey Tournament ever. A new structure helped players see more ice time and provided chances to teams who, in a more traditional format, may not have had the chance to play for the banner. Congratulations to all of the Bedford teams who participated! The success of this tournament was due to the amazing volunteers who spent days at the rink trying to ensure everything ran smoothly and that players had fun at this wonderful tournament. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time! I cannot express enough

thanks to the tournament chair, Jason Foster. Jason's commitment to this tournament was immense, a true leader who we are so fortunate to have as a part of our organization.

We had a wonderful group of players on our recreation teams, every year there are a few standouts who truly show us what it means to be a well-rounded, dedicated team player. This year one of our players was awarded the Outhie Moriarty Memorial Award from Hockey Nova Scotia, an award given to the recreation player who most epitomizes the objectives of minor hockey through dedication, responsibility and reliability. Having personally watched many of this young mans games I can say this award could not have been presented to a more admirable player. Congratulations to Kyle Orychock, you are a fantastic young player with a heart of gold. I look forward to watching you continue to be a leader within our association.

As the summer approaches we are preparing for the 2020/2021 season. Our executive team is working together to ensure we can provide the best hockey experience for all of the players within BDMHA. Preparation has begun for returning to hockey in the fall and we will continue to work with Hockey Canada and Hockey Nova Scotia to follow their guidance in providing a safe and healthy environment for our children to continue to play. As a reminder, great hockey experiences come from a team of people, most notably great coaches and we are looking for coaches for the upcoming season. You can submit a coaching application online through our Bedford Blues website.

In closing I want to again thank our coaches, managers, divisional coordinators, tournament volunteers and the other members of the executive who have helped make this year such a success.

Looking forward to when we can meet again at the rink, stay safe and healthy!

***Stefanie Redden, VP Recreation***

## VP Novice/Initiation

The 2019-20 Novice, Initiation (IP) and FUNdamentals programs had another very successful season this year, despite being cut short by the Covid-19 pandemic and the cancellation of hockey on March 13<sup>th</sup> this year. We had close to 400 players registered at Bedford & District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA) between these programs. Below is a brief summary and overview of our Novice, IP and FUNdamentals programs this year.

### **Novice Program – Year End Report:**

The 2019-2020 year was another successful season for our Novice players (players born in 2011-2012). As a division, our primary goal was to focus on developing player skill in a fun and enjoyable environment. None of this would have been possible without the many volunteers and parents who dedicated their time to making our hockey program a success. The 173 players registered for Novice hockey benefitted greatly from the commitment of the BDMHA community.

The 173 players were distributed amongst ten (10) teams - two (2) Advancing teams, three (3) Intermediate teams and five (5) Developmental teams. The number and distribution of teams was based on the number of players registered and the results of the player evaluation process.

Teams were provided with 3 ice times per week. The early part of the season (to November 30<sup>th</sup>) consisted solely of practice sessions to improve skating and player skills. In December, half ice games were rotated through the schedule to allow for further development and confidence building. The improvement in skill and development of player camaraderie was evident as the season progressed.

Early in the season we recognized low numbers of players that identified as goalie. To encourage goalie development, the BDMHA Association offered “Come Try Goalie” sessions to Novice players. The response was very positive from players and approximately 20 players participated in the goalie sessions. Each Novice level team was assigned goalie gear and rotated players through the position, encouraging players to trial the goalie position in a safe and fun way.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the hockey season was cut short when Hockey Canada cancelled all play effective March 13, 2020. This abrupt end to the hockey season prevented many teams from finishing their season and recognizing the contributions of players with year-end events. Player safety was of utmost importance. Teams quickly adapted with some participating in virtual team events, some conducting social distancing drop offs or making plans for future in-person events to recognize players.

A special thank you to the many volunteers who made the Novice program a success. We were very fortunate to have coaches dedicated to our players and would like to recognize Charlie MacLean, Rob MacLean, Ryan Connors, Donnie Ruiz, Jason Troini, Gavin Isenor, Warren Hefford, Alain Lefebvre, Neil Cooper, Brian Furdas, Wayne Cochrane and Chris Kelly. We would also like to recognize the BDMHA parents that provided support as Assistant Coaches, Managers and volunteers for our organization. Our successful year could not have been possible without you!



## **Initiation (IP) / FUNdamentals Program – Year End Report:**

Our Initiation (IP1 and IP2) and FUNdamentals have wrapped up another successful season at BDMHA. Our FUNdamentals program is geared towards four-year-olds (born in 2015). This year we once again reached our capacity of 40 players registered for this program. The FUNdamentals program continues a successful partnership with the Bedford Skating Club, offering one session of CanSkate per week run by the Bedford Skating Club and one session of hockey run by BDMHA.

With over 70 players registered in IP1, BDMHA had 2 teams for five-year-old players (born in 2014), and with approximately 85 players registered in IP2, we had 3 teams for six-year-old players (born in 2013). All IP1 and IP2 teams had two hockey practices each week. The focus of these practices was on skill development in skating, puck handling and shooting.

These teams also participated in the Mooseheads Timbits Jamboree in November, and some Christmas jamborees. Several teams were booked to play additional year-end Jamborees during March Break, but unfortunately our season was cut short by Covid-19 and the cancellation of the remaining season and jamborees as of March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Our IP2 players also had the chance to play during the Mooseheads intermission games throughout the year. 40 of our players were randomly chosen for this fun opportunity. In addition, for the first time 10 of our female IP2 players were selected to play during the intermission of a SMU women's playoff game. We hope to continue this partnership with the SMU women's team and expand it to include more players next year.

This year, practice times were on Saturday and Sundays for our IP1 and IP2 teams. Saturday practices took place at the BMO Centre with the Sunday practices at the RBC Centre in Dartmouth. We were able to secure funding for 6 new mini-nets for BMO Centre and moved 4 of the old ones over to RBC Centre for the teams to use during practices.

The IP1 and IP2 players were able to have 4 sessions this year devoted to power skating with coach Marie Bowness. These sessions were very well received by the players, coaches and parents, and we plan to have them continue next year!

BDMHA provided the three IP2 teams each with 2 sets of goaltender gear to use for the season. Players rotated the equipment each practice so players had a chance to try it out prior to making an investment in equipment of their own. BDMHA would like to continue to support the development of goaltenders starting at an early age.

We piloted the Hockey NS "Junior Coach Leadership Program" this winter, where second year PeeWee players were trained as Junior Coaches and assisted on-ice during the IP team practices. This was very successful with lots of positive feedback from all players (both PeeWee and IP), Coaches and parents involved. We hope to continue this program next year.

With 6 teams, we are very fortunate to have amazing head coaches that will lead large groups. We would like to recognize and thank Charlie MacLean, Head Coach of FUNdamentals, IP1 Head Coaches Greg Crowell, Denis Aucoin and Tyler Whitehead, and IP2 Head Coaches Mark Peveril, Rob Dickson, Mark Clare and Craig Lynk for taking the lead on their teams and the incredible amounts of work they did for our youngest players. Furthermore, thank you to all of the Assistant Coaches and team Managers for their commitment to the program.

Thank you to all of the parents, coaches, managers and all of the volunteers who make Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association the successful association it is. I thoroughly enjoyed the year and look forward to continuing to build Bedford's IP and Novice programs into the best in the country.

And lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Nancy Oldford (Novice Coordinator) and Stephanie Maidment (IP Coordinator) for their continued dedication and commitment to their programs this year. Their organization, initiative, and hard work were very much appreciated!

**Denise Crowell, VP Novice/Initiation**

## VP Finance

For the 2019-2020 Covid-19 shortened season we budgeted registration fees based on a total player registrations of 1,153 players. Our actual player registration was 1,112 players (2018-2019 registration was 1,129). The 1,112 does not include any registrations with Metro West Female Hockey registrations or Bedford Armada.

The overall 2019-2020 budget for the organization had total budgeted net revenues (including camps and development) at \$1,354,700, total budgeted expenses of \$1,316,100 leaving a budgeted surplus at the end of the fiscal year of \$38,600. Additional revenue included in the above arises from tryouts, development sessions, interest income, and tournaments.

The organization has worked hard to meet this budget and to continuously manage all programs/expenditures based on our budget. However, as a result of the pandemic shortened season, budgeted Spring development and 3-on-3 camps were cancelled, resulting in a loss of \$15,000-\$20,000 of budgeted net revenues.

In the Fall of 2019, we hosted a Rogers Hometown Hockey tour stop and received a grant from Scotiabank for \$5,000. The event was exciting and fun for the players to go out and try their skills, meet some former NHLers, play interquad ground hockey and have a parade on live television. Costs associated with this event were around \$3,000 for a contribution to the city and other BD&MHA promotional items.

Similar to the competitive evaluations in the 2018-2019 season, Team Genius was extended and used for recreational evaluations at a cost of \$2,000. These costs will be recouped through future tryout costs.

For Atom and Peewee Competitive and Recreation teams, we continue to invest in our Core Skills program, which has been extremely successful in the development of players and success of our teams. We continue to monitor and evaluate these and the costs of various camps to ensure they are in line with budget.

At the outset of the year, we also changed our family discount policy to provide greater relief to those families with 3 or more children which resulted in reduced revenues of \$14,061 vs. our budgeted discount of \$4,400.

Finally, there was an unexpected \$25,000 unbudgeted expense for insurance/certifications from Hockey Nova Scotia from previous years which was unknown at the time of the preparation of the budget.

As a result of these initiatives and expenditures, it is expected that the final 2019-2020 fiscal year end results will result in a loss of approximately \$5,000.

For the 2019-20 fiscal year the player registration fees were set at the following amounts:

	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Fundamental	\$530	\$515	\$505	\$495	\$495
Novice IP	\$530	\$505	\$490	\$485	\$485
Novice	\$730	\$720	\$710	\$705	\$700
Atom Rec	\$875	\$835	\$825	\$810	\$805
Peewee Rec	\$875	\$835	\$825	\$810	\$805
Bantam Rec	\$875	\$835	\$825	\$810	\$805
Midget Rec	\$875	\$840	\$830	\$810	\$805
Atom Competitive	\$995	\$955	\$945	\$930	\$925
Peewee Competitive	\$995	\$955	\$945	\$930	\$925
Bantam Competitive	\$995	\$955	\$945	\$930	\$925
Midget Competitive	\$995	\$955	\$945	\$930	\$925
Minor Junior	\$705	\$695	\$685	\$670	\$665
Jump Into Hockey	\$425	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$410

We had an increase in every division due to multiple reasons. The first reason was to adjust for the increasing cost of referees and the 4-man system. The second reason was based on our detailed budgeting process to ensure each division was running at a breakeven from a surplus/deficit perspective. The third was to continue investing in equipment and core skills mandates.

The organization's largest expense is our ice rental contract. The budgeted expenditure for ice associated with registration fees is \$478,998 (2018-2019 season \$434,200). This does not include ice costs associated for camps, tryouts, and development programs. We are tracking ice costs very closely as this is our most significant expense. The final ice expenditure was above our budgeted amount at a total of \$481,981.

Spring camps and development sessions were cut short this year due to Covid-19. However, next year (likely starting in the summer), we will continue with successful user-pay sessions such as the popular Defence Camps, Forward Camps and Conditioning Camp.

In addition, the organization remains committed to our core skills development program. The budget for core skills is \$31,600. The core skills program is focused on our Atom and Peewee divisions and is an integral part of BD&MHA development. The program is 20 weeks of development for approximately 24 of our teams. This program was on budget for the 2019-2020 season.

As part of our duty to the membership of the association, the Board also took advantage of several government incentive programs during the pandemic such as the payroll wage subsidy, provincial subsidy of \$5,000 and the CEBA loan program which allowed us to continue without any negative employee implications. We fully intend to repay the CEBA loan as required by the end of 2022.

2019-2020 also marked the first year for the 50-50 draws with Metro West Force which were successful. BD&MHA does not receive any amount directly from 50-50 and only serves in an administrative capacity for the benefit of its membership. Due to the popularity of the program, it will likely return in the 2020-2021 season.

Overall, the current financial and cash position of BD&MHA remains in excellent shape, even in light of the events of the last few months. The association continues to use a very detailed budgeting process which monitors our actual results to focus on the ongoing financial stability of the association.

Respectfully,

**Jeff Christian, CPA, CA, CIM**

VP Finance

## Hockey Development Professional

Certainly, a different looking season for minor hockey. As Scott and Stephanie touched on in their reports, there was much on ice success achieved in BDMHA. Strong regular seasons carried over to a very good playoff with a large number of teams getting to championship weekends. Unfortunately, we did not win as many championships as we would have liked, and those that did succeed had the provincial pursuits taken away by Covid-19. Recreation championships were also impacted by the epidemic.

Things are not all about winning, but winning is what the teams look to achieve and championships are something players cherish. It is always disappointing to get so close to a goal and not totally realize it, but with proper perspective strength can be gained through disappointment. We don't want a negative result of a one game winner take all to overshadow the successes of a 7-month journey.

### **Meeting Growth:**

Each season poses the question of how do we continue to improve. The leadership of BDMHA is committed to provide the best hockey experience possible to our players and families. Some of the challenges we face are unique to BDMHA as we have large numbers and are seeing increases. These increases are not only in registration numbers but also in the abilities of player groups.

Placing players at levels that best reflect the abilities of each individual is a priority for Hockey Canada. One of the bigger challenges we see in our association is a surplus of players that can perform at a given level. We have had good overall success with a multiple team approach, and we will likely need to continue to have more than one team at some levels of play. The formula for how many teams and where they are placed is not one that can automatically carry over from the previous year. Each pool of players represents different depth and capabilities. Decisions on number of teams and where they are placed must consider ability, growth environments, ice availability and to some extent what competing MHA s will be fielding per level.

The extra team approach is not always the best solution. A selection pool may not have the needed 34 players of capabilities for two teams at a level. In this case you may have players playing at a higher level than what would represent best placement. This is really a rock and a hard place situation. In the group we will have those that are certainly capable of the higher level. If only one team is chosen these players would be in danger of playing below capabilities.

A winning first approach would see only one team per level with a trickle down of players landing at levels below capabilities. This would arguably lead to more championships and there are some that gauge success in hockey by that. Much thought goes in to what is the right thing to do for team placement. Placing players below their abilities or beyond the same capability can be detrimental to player experience. Each player's individual experience must be considered.

In BDMHA, our goal is to achieve success by managing our depth and being accountable to each player's journey. We also want to be true to Hockey Canada's desire to best develop ages where the pyramid of hockey needs the most participants. Our association will always compete with a goal of finishing on top. Should we come up short, it is important that we do not lose sight of the value and multiple life lessons of the pursuit.

**Development programs:**

Core skills remains the foundation of our development. Last year U13 AAA was excluded from this program. Based on conversations with AAA coaches and personal observation we would like to see this team return to participating in this program.

Our weekly Defense camps and Goalie sessions looked to be beneficial and we will plan to continue with these. We would like to add a couple of development hours on Thursday's as it traditionally is a day of limited game conflict. If we are successful, we have programming ideas we feel would fit in well. Our Novice offerings were well attended with strong numbers in the Advancing and Intermediate Core Skills. Players in Novice Developing were given a Power Skating opportunity.

This past season we had morning sessions on the go. These were very well received and it is something we are looking to expand on. Mornings work quite well for some families and others not so much. But early morning is certainly a productive time of day for the players. Ice costs in the morning are lower and this makes our cost recovery easier to achieve.

**Areas of Concern****Goaltending:**

A shortage of goaltenders at the younger ages is a major concern for BDMHA. The current Novice cross ice formats have exposed a greater number of players to the position of goaltending. Few are opting to pursue goaltending upon entering Atom. This has been a trend for a couple of years and our association has tried to make goaltending more attractive and accessible. Some of the steps we have taken are:

- We have purchased quality goaltending equipment for the IP and Novice levels.
- We offer no charge goalie development as part of our Novice Core Skill programs.
- We provide goaltender training in all of our U11 and U13 Core Skill programs.
- We have a weekly one-hour goalie training session each Thursday for the U11 and U13 Rep goaltenders.

These sessions are funded by team fundraising and through BDMHA directing a portion of each goalie registration towards the program.

We receive very positive feedback on our current goaltending development and we will be looking to improve and if possible, add to our programs. We feel we are making an effort in providing for those that have chosen to play goal but that our efforts have not resulted in nearly enough recruits to the position. We are currently at a point where we simply do not have enough young goalies to fill our projected number of teams. We will look to borrow from other associations but several of them also have shortages and those that don't often will only make the weakest players available for transfer.

I have received some very good suggestions on how we can grow goaltending in our association. I welcome any member with thoughts on this to send to me directly at [shawnmackenzie1@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:shawnmackenzie1@ns.sympatico.ca) We will look to assemble a leadership group to discuss ideas that would address the shortage.

**Midget:**

In my opinion, Midget Rep hockey is an area that could use an inside out review. The 15-year-old Minor Midget program does well, and I would say Midget Recreation in Bedford is healthy. It is the Rep levels of AA and A that we feel has lost some of its direction. Midget has always been an age group that presents different influences and challenges. The Midget level is important to BDMHA and our association may need to adapt in order to best provide for this group. Any review of Midget should include player voices. We will look to assemble a group to discuss our Midget Rep programs.

**Covid-19 Update:**

BDMHA is currently a part of a rebound group that Hockey Nova Scotia has assembled in support of Hockey Canada. The group is looking at return to hockey possibilities and different stages of programming that could be offered. At this point there is still much unknown, but we feel it is important to prepare for several scenarios that may develop.

BDMHA would like to be seen as a provincial leader in getting our kids safely back on the ice. Our mission would be to provide safety and first-rate growth opportunities. BDMHA feels that with adjustments many of our current development programs could still be offered. We feel programs that focus on skill development in the areas of skating, puck skills, individual tactics and position specifics can still be conducted.

The biggest hit we anticipate would be in head to head or group competition. Content that leads to close quarter scenarios are not a realistic expectation of initial return.

We are confident that we will be able to offer quality programming to our membership, keeping kids in the game and developing them despite the situation.

**Conclusion:**

I am very appreciative of the cohesiveness of the BDMHA executive, managers, coaches and our membership. But mostly, I am grateful for being able to share our game with the 1150 plus young hockey hearts.

Hope to see you soon,

**Shawn MacKenzie**