



BDMHA Executive Nomination Candidate – VP Competitive

Brian Furdas

Background

- 3 kids who all played in BDMHA this past season at U11, U13 and U15. Have been a parent and coach at both competitive and recreational levels.
- Executive Committee member for 4 years with last role being in 2021.
- Coach or Assistant Coach for 8 seasons in BDMHA and at other organizations prior to having kids.
- Always looking to progress the association when possible. Pushed for more teams in the past most notably 4 years ago with the creation of the second U11A team which is still in place today.

Why am I running?

- Hockey is my favourite sport and the potential for the game is great. There have been a number of unsavoury issues within the game - nationally, provincially and locally that can tarnish this great game and I want to be a part of the solution not the problem.
- Was elected to the role in 2021 and had a vision to see through for the full term or through two evaluation cycles. Unfortunately, this was cut short for a variety of reasons.
- Mistakes were made, and owned and I'd be happy to answer any questions anyone has. It is time for some more robust overall governance and operations within our association. We need a renewed vision with the input of membership and a robust Executive Committee to see it through.

What can I bring to the association:

- I've lived through several evaluation cycles, one of which was at the wheel, and I know all the pressure that comes with it. I know what mistakes were made that wouldn't be repeated and what is needed to see things through the 2023-2024 season.
- There is a general angst/stress when it comes to evaluations, some is grounded, and some is unavoidable. The goal would be to control what can be controlled, communicate clearly, stick to schedules, and outline the overall plan.
- I've seen the good, the bad and the ugly and want to be part of the solution to move us forward.

Any tasks that I would like to see accomplished if elected:

- Constitutional amendments to increase the access to VP roles within the Association. These include reductions in qualification parameters or prerequisite positions. For example, a person currently has to serve on the Executive Committee for 1 year (recently interpreted as a full 365 days) in order to run for a VP role. We are therefore excluding people not including them. I feel this access should be expanded to include coaches, managers and other association volunteers. There should be more participation, not less and more elections, not less.
- Amend the VP of Competitive role.

- Two years ago I suggested it be split into VP U11/U13 and VP U15/U18 but that wasn't taken up. I would table this suggestion for discussion and hopefully get it passed. This would then align well with the current VP U7/U9 and create balanced roles and also provide access for a new voice by adding a role.
- VP Competitive would be eliminated or amended to be a non-parent who is tasked with overseeing the logistics and on-ice component of evaluations and scoring. This could potentially be a role with a nominal stipend.
- The VP U7/U9, U11/U13 and U15/U18 would focus on "in season" hockey operations including being a part of a coach selection committee, managing call ups and affiliate players, working with coordinators and team staff on scheduling matters, discipline matters and general issues as they arise.
- Include the HDP in more key association decision making. Potential consideration to amending this role to Director of Hockey Operations. We have a lot of great hockey minds in the association and we need to rely on their experience and expertise when available. Having said this, there needs to be controls in place so that past issues are not repeated. It is supposed to be a member run association with a duly elected board overseeing established policies and procedures.
- Make meetings more accessible to those who wish to participate. The AGM should be in late April or early May and should not be mid afternoon on a Saturday. It should be in the evening and perhaps on a Sunday like it is at Dartmouth, Sackville and Metro West, for example. Each of these associations are having their respective AGMs on June 25th at approx. 6pm +/- . This was suggested but dismissed.