

Hello Sackville Flyer Players, Parents, Coaches and Families

My name is Brad Aucoin and I have been nominated for the Vice President of Competitive hockey for this upcoming season and I have accepted the nomination. In the following paragraphs I will tell you a little about myself and my vision for this position if I am successful.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

In my day job I am a Chartered Professional Accountant working for a medium size public accounting firm in Halifax. I have 1 son who just completed his second year of Under 13A. Although I was not born and raised in Lower Sackville I have spent the majority of the past 20 years living in Lower Sackville, many of these 20 years volunteering my time to Sackville Minor Hockey Association. In fact I was a volunteer in Sackville as a non parent many years before my son was even born. I truly believe it is important to volunteer in local sports Associations because many people did that for me when I played minor sports including my dad who was the president of Glace Bay minor hockey when I was a player. I have spent the majority of my time in Sackville volunteering in Sackville minor hockey. The following is a list of positions I have taken on:

- Treasurer - 10 years
- Interim VP of Competitive for 1 year when the individual resigned
- VP of Development – 1 year
- Under 15 division coordinator – 2 years
- On ice tryout lead instructor – 4 years
- Minor hockey Head coach – 4 years (under 15 AA for 2 years, and Under 11A and Under 13A)
- Minor hockey assistant coach – 5 years from Under 7, under 9, under 11 and under 13)
- Head Coach Sackville High – 8 years (not minor hockey related by relevant for this position)
- On ice hockey official – just finished my 10th season

As you can see I have a passion for this community and our minor hockey association. I have a motto that reads – “Be part of the solution, not part of the problem”. This is why I have accepted this nomination

VP OF COMPETITIVE POSITION

I believe there are 3 critical roles for this position:

1 – Tryout Process is Fair and Transparent

I would ensure the tryout process is fair, transparent and every player receives the same opportunity to showcase their skills to ensure they end up on correct team based on their

skill level. This will be the most challenging aspect of this job and one I will work tirelessly to ensure happens. If elected I will work with the newly created competitive tryout committee to review the current tryout model, looking at ways to improve the system to ensure fairness and transparency. I believe this starts with recruiting qualified and independent evaluators who are committed to the job. I would have the evaluators in place at the end of August and conduct an evaluators meeting to go over software, scoring and criteria to ensure everyone is on the same page. I also believe the sessions need to be reviewed and I would work with the committee to ensure the tryout model and drills are appropriate to assess ALL skills that make a good hockey player.

2 – Coach Selection and Development

I believe we have many talented coaches in our association. The VP of competitive's job will be to ensure each team is staffed with qualified coaches and assistant coaches who can properly coach, develop and motivate our players to be the best they can be. I also believe we need a coaching development program to support our new and experienced coaches. I would like to create a "Coaches Corner" program whereby coaches can get together to share ideas and drills. We can pool our resources to help each other become better coaches which will directly benefit the players. I would create a drill library as well as drill of the week which would be made available to coaches to use with their own teams.

3 – Coach, Parent and Referee Relations

We all know that coaches, parents and on ice officials don't always see eye to eye and never will. As a parent, coach and on ice official I see this first hand. I believe we can create a more positive environment for everyone by working together to improve the communication lines among these groups. I would work with our Director of Officiating and coaches to improve these lines of communication to ensure everyone enjoys going to the rink to enjoy this amazing game.

In closing I thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope there are things in here that pique your interest and you will consider voting for me. If there is not I still believe you should get out and vote for the individual you believe in. This is your chance to make a difference and to be part of the solution.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me via email at Brad@s-t.ca and I will get back you.

Keep your head up and stick on the ice,

Yours in hockey

Brad