



To the Membership of SMHA,

My name is Rod Sturge, and I am seeking a role in SMHA and have submitted my name for VP of Operations. I am confident that the local hockey community would agree that I am very passionate about hockey, and I am only looking to give back to the sport I love in retirement. I have previously been elected as VP of SMHA and was the interim President for under a year. During my tenure I kept my promises, our Executive group updated our constitution, brought back and empowered Division Coordinators, produced a tryout doc for the membership, instituted minutes and reinvigorated tournaments within SMHA. I personally coordinated SMHA's checking clinics, preseason camps, and scheduling. Additionally, I managed every sheet of ice to ensure SMHA was fiscally responsible to its membership. This allowed SMHA to cover team costs such as the hockey pool and year end banquet from team budgets. I was also the driving force behind defence clinics, goalie subsidies and Try Goalie clinics, which has increased the number of players in that position aiding in the long-term success of SMHA. We brought in spending safeguards and created a more functional structure, where responsibility was decentralized rather than a very small number of Executive members holding all the cards. Lastly, I strongly believe communication dramatically increased with my VP Points and by making myself available on multiple occasions to the membership to answer questions and listen to concerns.

I would like to provide some clarity on the reason for my resignation from VP of Operations last Fall. Unfortunately, there was a difference in understanding regarding wording when being involved in the competitive tryout process for your own child's group. Based on the tryout document that was adopted by SMHA, it was my understanding that the VP of Operations was responsible to support the VP of Competitive with the implementation and conduct of the SMHA tryout process but not partake in committees as per the By-laws page 12, which details when I would be required to recuse myself. However, my understanding was not consistent with that of some of the other SMHA Executive members. I was given a choice, resign and stay a member in good standing or be forced out and unable to coach. I choose to resign. Again, I am only looking to give back to the sport I love.

I do not want to dwell on the past, what's done is done. Moving forward, if elected I will re-evaluate changes that were made to the tryout process in the past, with fairness and transparency being the most important factors. During last years tryouts Div Coords lost access to Team Genius, this needs to be corrected. The Div Coords are the exec's link to the membership and should be aware of any issues that arise or able to bring up concerns with scoring. Div Coords should be in the room and in the know, period. That's how you empower

Platform Key Points

- Empower division coordinators during tryouts ensuring accountability and transparency.
- Provide oversight to all processes to ensure all decisions are in the best interests of the players and volunteers.
- Re-evaluate changes made to the tryout process.
- Push for more competitive teams based on the criteria set out in doc.



them and how transparency is provided. There are several other aspects of the tryout process that also need to be re-evaluated such as choosing positions below U18, the inability to flip players and team structure by division.

The role of minor hockey is two-fold, 1) to provide development and 2) to provide opportunity. Its vital that every Minor Hockey Association's primary focus is core skill development. As the skill progresses an analysis needs to be completed to ensure that you are providing the players of an association with the opportunity to compete at the appropriate level, **wins should not be a determining factor**. HNS does put restraints on Minor Hockey Associations', i.e. 110 registrations at U11 forces two U11AA teams, but there are other factors that need to be considered such as:

1. Number of registrations per division
2. Historical competitive data
3. Recreation standings
4. Number of Goalies

Below you will find a chart going back 13 years. Each birth year is different, and combinations of birth years vary making it is a useful tool when predicting and planning for how an age group will do the following season. It clearly demonstrates that SMHA does much better at U15 than U11. You are also able to see patterns form by birth year groups i.e. the 2007/08's did quite well in U11AA during 2017-18 with a 62.5 Win %, then 65% at U13AAA and again at U15AA with a 58.3%. Based on the above criteria I would propose SMHA ice the following teams for the 2024/25 season:

U11 – 2 x U11AA, 1 x A, 2 x B

U13 – AAA, AA, A, 2 x B

U15 – AA, 2 x A and 2 x B

This structure would provide opportunity, build more competition moving forward and develop more defencemen, specifically at U11, creating depth throughout a player's career. While I believe this structure is sustainable beyond next year, it would have to be re-evaluated yearly to ensure competitiveness at all levels.

Explanation of the chart below:

The top line of the box is points accumulated vs maximum achievable.

The bottom number of the box is winning % for that season.

The far right is historical Win % by division.

The bottom is the associations Avg Win % for a specific year.



SMHA HISTORICAL WINNING %															
	YEAR	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	DIVISION
U11	B	25/40	20/44	14/36	40/88	32/94	29/44	30/106	41/120	33/48		30/48	20/48	32/40	50.7
		62.5	45.5	38.9	45.5	34	65.9	28.3	34.2	68.8		62.5	41.7	80	
	A	19/28	5/48	20/48	44/56	24/48	53/108	30/48	23/54	14/54		66/96	29/48	28/46	51.6
		67.9	10.4	41.7	78.6	50	49.1	62.5	42.6	25.9		68.8	60.4	60.9	
	AA	12/42	10/48	18/48	27/44	37/94	46/96	65/104	42/104	20/96		40/48	17/96	23/96	40.4
		28.6	20.8	37.5	61.4	39.4	47.9	62.5	40.4	20.8		83.3	17.7	24	
U13	B	19/38	54/94	26/40	12/48	18/44	21/44	13/52	37/54	49/54		34/52	64/96	34/44	56.6
		50	57.4	65	25	40.9	47.7	25	68.5	90.7		65.4	66.7	77.3	
	A	9/40	28/48	34/40	13/60	26/48	18/56	8/46	38/56	24/42		18/50	30/48	38/48	49.5
		22.5	58.3	85	21.7	54.2	32.1	17.4	67.9	57.1		36	62.5	79.2	
	AA	9/44	24/48	9/42	12/56	13/48	39/58	12/56	33/54	37/48		21/48	18/48	19/48	40.7
		20.5	50	21.4	21.4	27.1	67.2	21.4	61.1	77.1		43.8	37.5	39.6	
AAA	12/48	24/48	13/40	19/56	10/54	27/56	28/56	30/56	39/60		12/56	35/60	29/60	42.1	
	25	50	32.5	33.9	18.5	48.2	50	53.6	65		21.4	58.3	48.3		
U15	B	29/54	21/48	21/42	31/56	10/40	22/48	61/112	33/112	31/48		35/46	63/96	87/104	54
		53.7	43.8	50	55.4	25	45.8	54.5	29.5	64.6		76	65.6	83.7	
	A	10/42	31/48	24/42	74/104	46/90	20/48	31/48	21/60	35/60		42/48	35/48	24/40	57.3
		23.8	64.6	57.1	71.1	51.1	41.7	64.6	35	58.3		87.5	72.9	60	
	AA	36/48	40/48	38/48	43/56	30/48	34/56	42/60	38/54	23/56		28/48	35/48	16/48	65.3
		75	83.3	79.2	76.8	62.5	60.7	70	70.4	41.1		58.3	72.9	33.3	
YEARLY AVG		43	48	51	49	40	51	46	50	49		60	56	59	
50.1															

My last point of discussion is executive responsibilities. If you, the membership, vote a member in then that person should be expected to perform their duties. There are safeguards built in so no one executive member can negatively affect the outcome of tryouts or decision-making processes if the bylaws and policies are strictly followed. I firmly believe that during tryouts the President, VP of Comp and the VP of Hockey Ops should be ever present to ensure a fair and transparent tryout regardless of what age group is on the ice. If they are unable to attend for any reason, then another executive member should be appointed and responsible to fill the role temporarily. This, with the empowerment of Div Coords is the oversight that SMHA needs to trust in the tryout process.

I have the time, energy, and passion to work with SMHA's board and membership to see long lasting progress for our association. I truly want to ensure the kids are given every opportunity to develop and succeed in sport and life. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at rodsturge@hotmail.com

Rod Sturge