

Lloydminster Minor Hockey Association

General Managers

2024/25 Annual Report

Dear LMHA Executive, Board Members, Staff, and Members,

As we conclude the 2024 – 25 seasons, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments, acknowledge those who make this organization successful, and share a vision for continued growth.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to recognize and express my sincere gratitude to our executive committee and board members. Your dedication, leadership, and countless hours of service ensure that LMHA continues to run smoothly and efficiently. Your commitment to our players, families, and community does not go unnoticed.

A special thank you goes to our office staff, Tracy and Denise. Your ongoing support and expertise have been invaluable to me personally, especially as I navigated my second year as General Manager. I truly appreciate your patience and dedication to LMHA.

To those board members who are moving on, thank you for your service and contributions. Your efforts have helped shape the direction of our association, and your impact will be felt for years to come.

To our incoming board members' welcome! I look forward to working alongside you as we prepare for the 2025 - 26 season.

Registration Trends

I am pleased to report a positive trend in player registration over the past three seasons:

- **2021/22:** 1,019 registered members
- **2022/23:** 1,065 registered members
- **2023/24:** 1,125 registered members
- **2024/25:** 1,136 registered members

This consistent growth reflects our community's strong interest in hockey and the hard work of everyone involved in promoting LMHA.

Team Formation & Evaluation

For the upcoming season, we once again utilized independent evaluators in our team formation process to ensure fairness and appropriate player placement. While we strive for accuracy, we did receive feedback from some of our age groups. We take this input seriously and will use it to improve our evaluation process this fall.

Despite these challenges, we feel that this year's team formation was successful and are committed to continuous improvement.

Development Initiatives

We've listened to our members, and it's clear there is a strong demand for more development opportunities. In response, LMHA is increasing our investment in development:

LMHA's Focus: Supporting Player Development

LMHA is committed to helping our players grow and excel in the game they love. Our focus in this area includes:

- **Skill Development Sessions** – Regular training to enhance player abilities on and off the ice.
- **Coach Education Seminars** – Informative sessions and resources to support coaches in guiding player development.
- **Access to Hockey Skill Equipment** – Providing teams with the tools they need to run effective and engaging practices.

LMHA was fortunate to have Mitchell Cobbs and Andrew Kreis working closely with our teams throughout the 2024/25 season. Mitchell led numerous power skating sessions that significantly contributed to the development of our players' skills and on-ice performance. Meanwhile, Andrew provided dedicated support to our younger goalies, helping them build strong foundational techniques and confidence in the crease.

Both Mitchell and Andrew brought incredible enthusiasm, professionalism, and character to LMHA. Their commitment to player development has been greatly appreciated by players, coaches, and families alike.

We are proud of the work they've done this season and are excited to continue our partnership with Mitchell and Andrew in the years to come.

LMHA Welcomes Skills Coach Chase Haygarth for the 2025–2027 Seasons

LMHA is thrilled to announce the hiring of Chase Haygarth as our new Skills Coach for the 2025–2027 seasons. Recognizing the importance of skill development for our players, we are confident that Chase's addition will be a tremendous asset to our program and membership.

Chase brings outstanding character, high energy, and a dynamic personality that make him a well-respected and popular figure in our community. He is the founder of **Twins Hockey Development**, a successful skills training company that has been operating for the past three summers, helping players elevate their game through focused and effective training.

Throughout his time with LMHA, Chase will be working closely with our coaches, maintaining open communication to identify specific skills and areas of development that align with each team's needs. His collaborative approach ensures a strong support system for both coaches and players.

We are excited about the positive impact Chase will have on our association and look forward to the growth and development of our players over the next two seasons.

Reflections on Year two.

Serving as General Manager has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. I'm proud of the strides we've made this season and even more excited about what lies ahead for LMHA. From improved development initiatives to increased registration and competitive success, this year has marked a significant step forward for our association.

While we faced a major setback as an organization in October, it's important to recognize that healing and progress take time. Our focus now must be on staying positive, building a strong presence in our community, and continuing to *believe in the process*.

On a positive note, we had an incredibly successful season on the ice. At the Provincial level, we saw outstanding representation:

- **6 Mainstream teams and 2 Elite teams** qualified for the Provincial Championships.
- Both our **U13AA** and **U15AA** teams earned **silver medals**.
- Two additional mainstream teams also captured **silver** in their divisions.
- Our **U13AA Female** team hosted their playoffs, and our **U18AA Female** team hosted their league showcase tournament—both events were a great success.

One of the biggest highlights of the year was Lloydminster hosting the **ESSO Cup National Championship**, featuring the top six teams from across Canada. The community stepped up in a big way—through volunteering, sponsorships, and outstanding support. Thanks to everyone's efforts, this was the most successful ESSO Cup in the tournament's history:

- We **broke attendance records** throughout the week, including a single-game attendance.
- The event generated **funds** from Hockey Canada, earmarked specifically for **female hockey development in Lloydminster**.
- We are also very proud of Lloydminster U18 AAA PWM Steelers of their accomplishments for hosting and finishing fourth in Canada.

It's clear we are moving in the right direction—on the ice, in the community, and in our long-term development goals. Thank you to everyone who continues to support LMHA. Let's keep building.

However, to truly elevate LMHA into one of Alberta's premier minor hockey programs, we must continue to:

- Improve internal and external **communication**
- Foster a **positive and inclusive environment**
- Emphasize **development** at all levels—players, coaches, and volunteers

Final Thoughts:

I want to commend our teams on their strong performance this season. The level of **competitiveness** and **sportsmanship** on and off the ice has been exceptional. With continued effort and collaboration, I'm confident we can build on our success.

Thank you once again for your support, dedication, and commitment to LMHA. I look forward to working together to make the 2025/26 season our best yet.

Sincerely,

Dan Auchenberg

General Manager

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