

Hockey Eastern Ontario Board of Directors

Annual General Meeting

July 21st, 2025

Presentation Report to HEO Members



President's Report

- My first year as President has been exceptionally busy, marked by major events like the World Juniors and a full calendar of meetings and engagements.
- I attended an Ontario Junior Hockey Summit meeting with HEO's Executive Director. The meeting included all junior hockey leagues in Ontario being represented except for EOJHL. The overall goal was to create a new development model for Junior Hockey in Ontario. Several committees were formed in which a revised transfer agreement between the Ontario Members was approved by Hockey Canada.
- I also have had the pleasure to be part of the Hockey Canada Risk Management Committee which has been very informative with discussion on different policies and insurance pillars.



President's Report continued

- HEO participated in the 2nd Beyond the Boards Summit which Hockey Canada hosted to address critical issues in hockey culture, focusing on inclusivity, safety and meaningful change. The summit spotlighted sexism, gender-based violence, homophobia and transphobia.
- The topic of non-sanctioned hockey has emerged as a key focus within Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO) and the growing of non sanctioned programming in our area. After discussions with Hockey Canada, HEO needed to adjust the NS Policy to allow players who participated in non-sanctioned hockey to participate in spring tryouts.
- HEO teamed up with Hockey Québec to host the Cross Border Challenge, spotlighting U14–U16 AAA Program of Excellence players. The event was a resounding success, and we're excited to build on its momentum to create even more opportunities for HEO athletes in the years to come.



President's Report continued

- This past year there has been more collaboration with the OHF and HNO in such things as the Ontario Screening Policy
- I have taken part in Hockey Canada Member meetings which discussions occurred about Governance, policies, infrastructure, ITP and many other strategies to build on working together.
- I had the opportunity to be part of the World Junior Steering Committee, although Canada didn't do as well as was hoped, we are proud of the event.
- I continue to extend my heartfelt thanks to the dedicated leaders of Minor, Junior, para, and special hockey. It's been both an honour and a privilege to collaborate with you in shaping a more inclusive and thriving hockey community for all.



Executive Director's Report – a busy year

- HEO was fortunate to have 29,258 total participants registered in 2024-25 of which were players, coaches/bench staff and officials.
- HEO families received \$70,409.96 from the Hockey Canada Assist Program in 2024-25. There were 146 approved applications.
- HEO organizations ran 5 NHL First Shift programs involving 200 participants.
- Thirteen HEO bursaries were awarded to deserving HEO participant/students in 2024-25.
- Hockey Canada continued to having Members focus on reporting and investigation obligations under Rule 11.4 (Maltreatment). HEO had 115 11.4's this past season.
- This season the 11.4 form and process was changed slightly to help make it more seamless.



Executive Director's Report – continued

- There were 35 maltreatment on ice allegations reported (15 were considered unsubstantiated and 20 resulted in further education to the team of accused player)
- HEO had staff take part on Hockey Canada Committees such as the Hockey Canada Awards group, HCR Committee and Rule's Committee.
- The staff worked with the AAA organizations on the Gold Medal Pathways and a successful Cross Border Challenge event.
- HEO hosted instructional stream clinics at no cost for all coaches which helped with Professional Development
- HEO worked with the African Hockey Association to get more participants on the ice.
- There was a webinar series that coincided with the Gold Medal Pathways for AAA players and coaches. The hope is that for the 2025-26 season this will be open to all players and coaches.
- Excited to host HEO's first "We are Coaches" clinic which was a female on Coach 1 clinic with a female instructor. For the 25-26 season we are wanting to host a Coach 2 and Development 1 clinic.



Executive Director's Report – continued

- We had the opportunity to engage in different programming around the World Juniors which included:
 - Goalie skills clinics at the Fan Fest. We saw approximately 120 goalies take part.
 - Skills events at TD place, Arnprior and Brockville with approximately 360 participants at the three venues.
 - Try Hockey event at TD place where we saw 30+ new Canadians learn to love the game like all of us.
 - Coaching clinic hosted by Hockey Canada which included World Junior staff.
 - We saw underrepresented groups utilize the synthetic ice surface and families able to skate and much more.
- Congratulations to:
 - Jim Perkin-Richard T. Sennott Award
 - Tom Stephens-HEO Volunteer Award
 - 13 HEO bursary winners



HEO delivered improvements in minor, junior and officiating programs in 2024-25.

- Approved recommended revisions to the Player Pathway policy
- Approved an Ontario wide policy for PRC/VSC
- Approved an Ontario Junior transfer agreement
- Revised the 11. 4 Form and process
- Video Review policy revision
- Approved recommendations to Minor Policy 6.49

HEO Priorities for 2025-26 (subject to confirmation by the incoming Board)

The Board and staff are committed to return to the HEO Strategic Plan priorities for the coming season:

- providing stronger support to Minor Hockey Associations in house league coach and goalie coach development, and in volunteer recruitment and retention
- supporting districts/associations and risk and safety officers with clearer Maltreatment procedures
- support to MHAs, Districts, Leagues in managing governance issues
- reviewing the growth of the game in HEO boundaries
- Professional Development for players and coaches
- strengthening HEO's branding/ marketing/communications efforts

2024-25 season wrap-up

- In conclusion, the HEO Board and staff thank all volunteers and program leaders across the Branch for your dedication to hockey, and your leadership.
- None of “Hockey For All” happens without your contribution to the game and to your communities.
- See you in 2025-26.