

SAMHA Fall AGM  
September 12, 2019

## Presidents Report

I want to start off by thanking everyone for welcoming me onto the board. Since May I have been working to get up to speed on the inner workings of Eastman, Hockey Manitoba and Hockey Canada as well as with the Constitution of the SAMHA. These are the four areas that shape the decisions of the board. I also want to thank the entire board for all of their efforts. The volunteers on our board put in countless hours of board meetings, Eastman/Hockey Manitoba meetings, and emails to help ensure hockey runs smoothly for all participants in St. Adolphe.

Enrollment has been strong going into the 2019/2020 season which is great to see. As St. Adolphe grows we WILL continue to build a strong and inclusive Minor Hockey Association, making hockey accessible to everyone in our community. Leading into this season we have been working to increase the ways we communicate with our members including both email and a new social media presence.

I also want to take a moment thank all of you who have and continue to volunteer within the association including but not limited to Coaches, Managers, Team Volunteers & Fundraising Committees. I would encourage you get involved in the association this year as best you are able. It is on the backs of volunteers that we will continue to move the association forward.

Here are a few updates on some areas which are of importance to our association:

**Initiation Festivals (IP)** – Hockey Canada has ceased funding the IP Festival, however Hockey Manitoba and Eastman will continue to cover the program. The IP Festivals provide important information on the Initiation Program to Timbits parents, support and training for coaches, and most importantly a fun atmosphere for our Timbit players!

**Novice Development Day** – There will be a Novice Development Day in Landmark on October 12<sup>th</sup> for novice coaches. We must minimally send 1 novice coach (and a maximum of 3). Eastman is committed to continuing to build up our coaches and to provide them the tools to help our players succeed. There will be training on the proper use of the development zone during this seminar.

**Intermediate Nets (20/21)** – At the recent Eastman AGM the Associations agreed that moving to an intermediate size net for novice would be a good step. Rather than the full sized 6'x 4' net (which can feel like a soccer net to young goalies) a 4' x 3' net should be used. This will help to increase the confidence of young goalies, will help with their positioning, and will also aid in the development of shooters.

**Bantam A1** – At the current time, Eastman has asked SAMHA to host a Bantam A1 Female Team out of St. Adolphe. Female hockey is one of the fastest growing sports in Canada, and Eastman is focused on building a stronger program starting this year. In St. Adolphe alone this year, we have 14 girls signed up playing Pre-Novice. Amazing! My hope is that having the Bantam A1 program out of St. Adolphe will

help to continue to encourage our young females to take up hockey!

**All-Star Games** – At the current time Eastman has decided not to have All-Star games within the Association because of too many complaints and issues with timing and playoffs.

**Coach Mentorship Program** – Eastman is continuing to focus on skill development for players and coaches. The theory behind the Coach Mentorship Program is to mentor Peewee Coaches who can then come back to our associations and further mentor all association coaches. More information will come down the road with regards to this.

In closing, thank you all again for the support. I will continue to do my best to keep everyone apprised of all of the pertinent information to your Hawks and our association. Have a great season!

Respectfully,

Darren Skelton

St. Adolphe Minor Hockey Association President