

The Orono Youth Hockey Association (OYHA) is a volunteer-led organization that is governed by a 15-member Booster Board. Each member serves a three-year term, with approximately three of the 15 positions up for general election this year. When applying to serve on the OYHA Booster Board, it's important to understand that the role typically involves overseeing and supporting the hockey program by fundraising, organizing events, providing financial oversight, and ensuring the overall success and well-being of the players. Please complete the following application and submit to [secretary@oronoyouthhockey.org](mailto:secretary@oronoyouthhockey.org) by April 1, 2025.

Personal Information:

Name: **Matt Kinder**

Email: **[mattkinder2161972@gmail.com](mailto:mattkinder2161972@gmail.com)**

Phone Number: **763-370-2250**

Player Affiliation: **2024-2025 Season: 2nd Yr Squirt, 2nd Yr Mite 4, Warriors G3**

Application Questions

**1. Why do you want to be on the OYHA Boosters Board?**

*I want to serve on the OYHA Boosters Board because I am passionate about fostering a positive, competitive, and development-focused hockey experience for our young athletes. With three of my children playing in the program, Orono hockey is a central part of our family's life, and I am committed to giving back to the sport and association that has meant so much to us. I am ready and willing to do the hard work necessary to support and strengthen our program, ensuring it continues to grow and thrive. With my background in leadership, athletics, coaching, and team development, I am confident I can help enhance player development, improve communication with parents, and establish a structured, consistent approach at each level. Most importantly, I want to help foster an environment where players not only develop their hockey skills but also learn teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship—values that will benefit them far beyond the rink.*

**2. Please provide a description of your hockey background.**

*Between my hockey players, we have completed seven seasons of Orono Mite hockey, two seasons of Orono Squirt hockey, three seasons with the Orono/Mound Westonka Warriors, nine seasons in the Minnesota Made Choice League, six seasons of SDP AAA hockey, seven seasons of Velocity 3v3 hockey, and a multitude of camps and clinics.*

*Through these experiences, we have been fortunate to work with outstanding coaches who have helped us navigate the many development opportunities available for young hockey players. Having been involved both within and outside of the Orono Hockey Association, I bring a well-rounded perspective on what works, what doesn't, and how we*

*can continue to improve player development and the overall experience for our hockey families.*

**3. Please provide a description of your professional background.**

*I have 20+ years of experience in the IT industry, serving in various sales and sales leadership roles. Throughout my career, I have built, developed, and led high-performing sales teams while driving strategic and global partnerships with some of the world's largest IT companies.*

**4. What are the long-term goals you see for OYHA?**

- 1. *Strengthen the Orono Hockey Community*** – Foster a closer, more connected hockey community by engaging both players and families, creating a culture of inclusivity, support, and pride in Orono hockey.
- 2. *Enhance Communication & Transparency*** – Improve information sharing to help families make well-informed decisions about their player's hockey journey, ensuring clarity on development pathways, opportunities, and expectations at each level.
- 3. *Establish Consistency in Player Development*** – Implement a structured, programmatic approach to player development that is consistent and repeatable year over year, ensuring long-term success at each level.
- 4. *Sustainable Growth & Expanded Ice Access*** – Continue to grow the association while proactively planning for additional ice availability to support increasing participation and provide players with the necessary resources to develop.

*By focusing on these key areas, OYHA will continue to thrive, offering a strong, supportive, and competitive hockey environment for players and families for years to come.*

**5. What other information do you think the members should know about you?**

*I grew up playing a variety of sports, including baseball, football, basketball, track, and wrestling. In high school, I focused on my two main passions—football and baseball—earning three varsity letters in both. After high school, I signed with Ball State University for football, where I played two seasons at both free and strong safety. This experience deepened my love for sports, particularly youth athletics, as a powerful vehicle for teaching life lessons and character development.*

*At Orono, I have served as a head coach in multiple sports, including:*

- **Lacrosse (boys & girls)** – Coaching from 8U through 12U.
- **Football** – Two years of flag football, as well as 4th and 5th grade tackle football.

*My coaching experience provides me with a real-time perspective on what young athletes face both on and off the field. I am passionate about fostering a positive, development-focused environment that helps kids grow as both athletes and individuals.*

**6. What level of play will your children be playing in 2024-2025 season?**

- **Orono:** 2nd year Squirt and 2nd year Mite 4
- **Warriors:** G3