

2024-25 NBAHA President's Report

What an amazing first season that North Branch Area Hockey Association had being back on its own in District 10 Hockey. Our teams might have been small in numbers, but all four of our traveling teams competed well and had successful seasons that everyone should be proud of. Our Bantam B1 team not only finished 1st in District play during the season but also won the District 10 season ending tournament and advanced as the #1 seed out of District 10 to the North Region of the MN Hockey Region Tournament. This was such an outstanding achievement being our 1st year on our own to make it to regions (1 of 32 teams) left in Bantam B1 Hockey in Minnesota playing to try to advance to the state tournament. Our Peewee B2 team won 7 regular season games. They finished the regular season in 8th place out of 12 teams. They were able to play the most playoff games (5) and advanced all the way to the consolation championship game in the District 10 playoffs. Our squirt teams were just as successful. Our Squirt B2 team finished the regular season in 5th place out of 20 teams. They came up just short in the Championship game in the District 10 playoffs. Our C squirt team finished the regular season in 7th place out of 16 teams and made it to the 2nd round of the playoffs. All 4 teams were able to get trophies in mid-season tournaments which will be nicely displayed in our trophy cases soon at our arena site. Our Co-Op girls (Northern Tier Stars) had a good season as well. The U15B team made it to Regions as well. Our 12B and 10B2 teams had 5 regular season wins. The 10B2 team was the Consolation Champions in District 10 playoffs. I know U15's and U10's had success in mid-season tournaments and were able to get some trophies.

One compliment I heard multiple times throughout the season was our jerseys. A big shout out to Becky Parlin designing these jerseys. We were not only the talk of D10 associations with our jerseys but also a ref up in Chisholm during the Bantam regional tournament said that our jerseys were the best he had seen all season.

We continue to make progress on our arena. We had a video created that highlights North Branch Hockey and our arena progress. This will help tell our story of our hockey association and will help generate interest towards our arena efforts. This past year, besides having it fully insulated inside, the north exterior elevation is now completed with EFIS. We applied for and were selected for the Minnesota Community Facility Projects Grant. The grant offer is \$500,000. We are now starting to work through all the details with this grant offer. With this offer along with money from our gambling and donations from subcontractors, we should have phase 1 completed by early 2026.

All of us with the North Branch Area Hockey Association should be proud of all the accomplishments that were made during our inaugural season being on our own. Due to the dedication of the parents and our players, there is no doubt our future is bright!

Vikings Strong!

Jason Zerwas

President

NBAHA