

Chad Olson

## Position Nominated For: D5 Representative

### Professional Experience:

Realtor, Minnesota Lakers AAA assistant coach

### Volunteer Experience:

Assistant Coach, STMAYHA (2022-2026); Scrimmage Coordinator, STMAYHA (2025-2026); Board Member, Hanover Athletic Association; Board Member, St. Michael Catholic School; Commissioner, City of Hanover Planning Commission,

### Why are you the best candidate?

With Minnesota Hockey not redrafting district boundaries anytime soon, I believe a huge part of making our association stronger is working closely with District 5 to raise the level of play of the entire district. In doing so, we would create a more challenging district schedule, preparing our skaters for the elevated level of play during tournaments and non-district games/scrimmages. I have been attending District 5 meetings over the course of the past season, and I have become familiar with the board members and other association representatives.

As a voting member of the board, I would propose that the hockey operations committee and the executive board develop a power skating and edge work program to work with teams at every level, raising both the floor and ceiling of our association's potential. I would strongly encourage other District 5 associations to do the same, as a rising tide raises all ships. A huge part of creating stronger teams and more talented players starts with skating fundamentals, and the returns on such investment are notable.

In addition, I would be strongly in favor of rewriting the association's ice time policy to create a more balanced distribution of ice touches across each talent level without taking touches away from any level. To the association's credit, this past season was a huge improvement over the previous season; there is still work to be done to improve on that metric.

One area where our association has ample room to improve is in the way in which we train and develop our coaches. While we already have many talented coaches within our association, I would push for the creation of a D5 coaching symposium, bringing in proven, successful coaches--in addition to other relevant professional speakers--to share their knowledge, leadership and coaching techniques with all district associations.

While making District 5 stronger as a whole should be a goal, we also need to ensure that we are doing what is best for our association and players. Deciding at which levels our teams will compete is a big factor in making each season both fun and competitive while maintaining an environment that pushes our skaters to improve. We need to be strategic as an association how to structure our teams, being mindful that more than half of the games at the travel hockey levels are typically outside of district play.

As a voting board member, I would encourage the HOC and executive board to implement a development program that combines practices on a regular basis with the teams both one level below and above, creating

competitive spaces where our players are pushed outside of their comfort zone, which is where meaningful development occurs.

Finally, I would like to see our association become much more transparent in the manner in which decisions are made, information is shared and meetings are held. If we are to leave this hockey association better off than we were handed it, we need more input from more people....not less.

**Personal Interests:**

Hockey, golf, local politics, volunteer work.

**Family & Player(s):**

Wife Gwen, daughter Camille (Cami), son Isaac (1st year bantam), son Calvin (2nd year peewee), dog Otto.

**Anything Else You Wish to Share:**

One aspect of youth hockey I didn't think I'd enjoy so much is watching the players work, grow and improve from season to season. It is beyond rewarding to be a small part of that growth and personal development, and I'm excited to see this association's players continue their ascent. Go Knights and RiverHawks!

