



## Glacier Hockey Association

Annual General Meeting Date: 05.19.2025

Time: 6:00 PM Mountain Time – came to order 6:03 pm

Location: Whitefish Community Center

### Attendance:

Amanda Hayes - Interim Hockey Director; Jesse Rigler - President; Matt Schwartz – Vice President; Heather Vezane – Treasurer; Brittney Crest – Secretary; ~~Cristina Gebbia~~; Susie Kalgren; Matt Lawrance; ~~Derek Peachey~~; Roger Rudd

### Welcome/Vision for the Future: Jesse Rigler, President

- Call Meeting to Order 6:03pm
- Growth of membership: 80% increase in membership; 29% past 2 years; 99 skaters in 2021/2022 versus 178 this past year; We have added around 6 teams; our ice time hasn't changed at all.
- Use of Woodland ice
  - We worked with FVHA to find common ground
  - Board understands the concerns over the ice availability/quality vs Stumptown
  - Driving time concerns over distance to Woodland rink
    - A factor is that over 58% of our membership call home outside of whitefish; most families then are traveling regardless
- Ice Time ~ Our kids at 10 and 12u get more ice than any other org in the state and at every other level our kids are comparable with the top ice times in the state.
- Board voted to look at Cooperative Programming with FVHA in April.
  - Discussions are continuing and we are working on schedules, practices, leagues, and coaches
- Executive Director & Hockey Director
  - With the growth and the complexities of navigating MAHA, TSL and EKL, it has outgrown a single person running it all
  - One person to run the business of GHA and lead GHA and another solely focused on hockey and hockey development.
  - We have 4 ED applicants and interviews start this Thursday
  - The HD has until the end of May for applications

### Season Review:

Amanda Hayes - Interim Hockey Director:

- Thank you to the Board for their countless hours of work and support. Thank you to the membership, coaches & managers for the support & grace throughout the season.
- Team Highlights



- Learn to Play - Record Participation with 20 players for the 2nd session
- 19U Girls - Inaugural Season
- GHA Girls - U11 EKL Participation - First Female League in 5+ years
- EKL Participation - 10U (2 Teams), U11 Female, 12U & 14U
- TSL Participation - 12U, 14U, 19U
- Banners/Accomplishments
  - 8U Red - 5 Banners - Battle of the Border, Great Falls Mighty Mites, Crowsnest Pass, Bozeman, Kimberly
  - 8U Blue - Moscow Winter Freeze
  - 10U Rep - Bozeman Cup, Battle of the Border, U11 EKL A Banner
  - 10U Rec - U11 EKL B 3rd Place Finish
  - 12U EKL - 2nd Place Fall Brawl, Brent Roeber Memorial Trophy, U13 EKL A Banner
  - 12U TSL - 12U TSL C Division State Champions
  - 14U EKL - U15 EKL A Banner
  - 14U TSL - Walley Floen Memorial Banner, 14U TSL B State 3rd Place Finish
  - 19U Girls - WickFest 2nd Place, Invermere Tournament Champions, 19U TSL 4th Place Finish, 2 All State Defense-women
  - GHA Girls - WickFest 2nd Place, U11 EKL Female 2nd Place, successful 10U/12U Jamborees
- Junior Coaches Program
  - Fusion coaches at 8U, 10U, House & Learn to Play
  - 19U Girls coaches at Girls Fall into Hockey & Girls Jamborees
  - All were successful. Players were engaged with having the Junior Coaches. Coaches appreciated the help.

## **Policy Changes**

- Bylaw changes:

### **6.8 Terms of Office**

Appointment of the Board of Director positions shall occur at the annual meeting. A complete profile of each candidate shall be forwarded to the Board to share with the general membership for a vote. Directors of GHA shall take office at the close of the meeting at which they are elected, or immediately upon appointment by the Board in order to fill a vacancy through a special election. Directors shall serve three-year staggered terms of office, with one third of the members elected each year. Directors may not serve more than three (3) consecutive full terms.

#### **6.8-1 Election of Board Members**

The Board of Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the general membership.

- The Board of Directors shall, on an annual basis, begin accepting nominations for open board positions on April 1st.



- The members shall vote as a general membership for the election of the new Board of Directors. Balloting shall be conducted by voting procedures as specified by the Vice President.
- Candidates will be notified of results no later than one week in advance of the May Annual General Meeting, with the public announcement at the AGM.
- A quorum for voting shall be at least 10% of the total eligible voting membership. In the event quorum is not met, the current Board will make the final decision.
- Voting results of the election will be shared with all eligible candidates upon request to the President.
- In the event of a tie, it will come to the current Board of Directors for a majority vote.

#### **Introduction of New Members:**

- New members are: Roxann Lucas & Katarine Egressy (not in attendance)
- Exiting members are: Matt Schwartz & Derek Peachey

#### **Committee Introduction and Targets:**

##### Finance – Heather Vezane

- Last year during the AGM, our biggest priorities were to work on communication and transparency.
- Started the year with no real budget
  - With Amanda's help, our finances have been cleaned up and we have begun to create a budget
    - Have taken care of some big ticket items that had not been taken care of appropriately.
- Moving forward - we will have a better idea of what each level (8u-19u) actually costs the organization and help GHA not have such a large deficit that has been seen in the past.

##### Fundraising – Derek Peachey (via Jesse)

- Record fundraising year, punctuated by the Great Fish Challenge (\$26,530 total dollars raised, plus a \$14500 match from the Whitefish Community Foundation). This is up from \$14,185 in 2023.
- Established corporate sponsorship packages and tiers for the upcoming season.
- Inaugural Ice Gala (October 2025)
  - Spearheaded by two parents (Cassie Furda and Shannon Christensen) with direct solicitation of "title sponsors" ongoing
  - Focus on fundraising for the new position: Hockey Director
  - Anchor of the event will be a Calcutta with a 5-10k cash prize at the end of the night
  - Will also have a silent auction element

##### Disciplinary – Roger Rudd

- Slight revamp of some coach/player policies in last year



- Several minor incidents (a few to MAHA) most handled in house
- We have created a team building document for coaches to use to build unity

#### Community Outreach – Susie Kalgren

- Updated the GHA Handbook for the first time since the '22 Season
- Assisted with webpage content and updates
- Successful “Try Hockey for Free” days in both November and February
  - Flyers printed and handed out at local schools
- Donation flyers and Booth Set-up at Great Fish Fun Run
- GHA Goody bags presented to the new Learn To Play participants
- GHA Girls and 19U Girls
  - Caroling around downtown Whitefish in December
  - 19U Girls Bake sale at the WF Christmas Stroll
  - Participation and Float in the Whitefish Winter Carnival Parade (and handed out pinwheels advertising February Try Hockey for Free)
- Lobby TV donated and installed to put up Team accolades, weekend schedule/recaps and GHA info

#### Tournaments – Brittney Crest

- Committee is working on defining the purpose
- Working on a GHA tournament policy to keep consistent across all levels
- Discussions continuing with Fundraising Committee to create a policy around where fundraising profits get allotted (bc Battle of the Border raises funds)
- GHA hosted: Battle of the Border 10U & 8U; 12U MAHA jamboree; 6U-12U girls jamboree
- Battle of the Border
  - Brought in teams from Calgary & across Montana
  - Profits: 8U (\$9,800); 10U (\$7,100)
  - Amanda created a P&L for the BoB to be able to compare each year (a first for GHA)

#### Hockey Development – Cristinna Gebbia (via Amanda)

The Hockey Development Committee advises the Executive Director and Hockey Director on coaching selection, the evaluation process, hockey programming, and player development. The committee consists of the Executive Director, 2 Board Members and several volunteer coaches from each different level within GHA - representation for 8U thru 14U, including a representative for Girls Hockey. Committee worked on the following:

- Clinics & Camps
  - 3v3 Spring program ran for 6 weeks instead of 4 like in the past years
  - Skating Clinic
  - Upcoming Summer Camps - 10U/12U, 14U+ and Mites
- 12U Tournament Team viability - only 8 families interested



- Improved the Evaluation Process and Feedback
  - Coaches were able to complete end of season evaluations for each player
  - Evaluations will go out to families
  - Improving process for 2025-2026 season
- Improved the Coaching Selection Process
  - Coaching applications are in & HDC will be reviewing
  - Coaching selection will be much earlier
- End of Season Coaching Debriefs happened
- End of Season Survey results are in and will be reviewed
- Will be able to open registration earlier - July 1, 2025

#### Girls Programming – Matt Lawrance

- 24-25 Season - Girls programming highlights
  - 2023-2024 - 38 Girls registered – 27% of registration (141 Players)
  - 2024-2025 - 44 Girls registered – 25% of registration (178 Players)
  - Girls' hockey is the fastest growing female sport in the US with a 65% increase in participation.
  - GHA hosted a MAHA 12U Jamboree in December and a Girls Jamboree in April with 50 girls across 7 "local" organizations.
  - GHA is leading the charge in 8U-12U girls programming across the state with designated teams and practice times.
  - Big/Little Sister mentorship with the 19U girls' program and the GHA Girls with team building activities.
  - Girls' hockey was well represented at Winter Carnival parade and GHA Float!
- 10U/12U
  - Regular Season Record 6-1-1
  - Coached by: Lini Reading (HC), Aly Wells (AC), Sarah McCormick (AC)
  - Attended Wick-fest; 2<sup>nd</sup> in Wick-fest vs Las Vegas Golden Knights
  - Played in EKL; 2<sup>nd</sup> in EKL Banner
- 19U
  - Coached by : Bobee Hyland (HC), Alex Olsen (AC), Beth Schule (AC)
  - Season Record – 8-11-1
  - Tournaments: Wickfest in Calgary – 2nd Place; Bozeman Cup; Northern Rockies in Missoula; Invermere Girls Tournament – 1st Place; Tri-Cities Tournament in Vancouver – 2nd Place
- Programming moving forward
  - The Girls Hockey Committee and Hockey Development Committee (HDC) agreed that developmentally it would be great to combine forces.
    - Jill Lawrance has joined the HDC to fill this role, representing Girl's hockey and the development of programming at GHA.
- Goals for 25/26 season:



- Supporting age-appropriate teams at all levels, 8U-HS
- Specific focus on supporting a 14u girls' program
- Seeking out more opportunities for girls' hockey development and tournament experiences across the state and in Canada.

**Closing Points:**

- Registration - the process is slightly paused while we hire our Executive Director. This person will be responsible for working with the Board as well as a newly hired Hockey Director to make final decisions.
- Thank you to those in attendance

Meeting Adjourned by Jesse Rigler at 7:01 pm

Next Board Meeting: June 11, 2025