



VANCOUVER MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT [2023](#)

About VMHA

The Vancouver Minor Hockey Association (VMHA) began its roots in the East Vancouver community in 1939 and was one of the three founding member associations of the Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association. Based out of the PNE Forum arena in the early years, our association has been a part of promoting minor hockey in the community for over 80 years. The association grew since its inception, joining with other minor hockey associations in East Vancouver, and now includes diverse neighbourhoods from Downtown Vancouver to Commercial Drive and Boundary Rd, and Hastings to Killarney and South Vancouver.

Mission and Vision

VMHA's mission is to support the development of hockey players to their highest potential in a safe, fun and fair environment for all. With a vision of being the "best little minor hockey association" in Canada, VMHA strives to promote healthy competition, the development of positive life skills, equal participation opportunities for players, and optimized skill development to support success for all.

Current Board Members

- President - Nick Santorelli
- VP1 - Won Nam
- VP2 - James Nedila
- VP3 - Quyen Cheng
- Coaching Coordinator - Kevin Kimura
- Referee Allocator - Michelle Young
- Equipment - Liz Urbach
- Tournament - Cora Burnette
- Secretary - Lindsay Kelly
- Treasurer - Phil Aguirre
- Fundraising Coordinator - *Vacant*

2023 AGM Elections | 2 Year Term:

- President
- VP2
- Secretary
- Equipment
- Coach Coordinator
- Referee Assignor
- Fundraiser (1-year term)

VMHA 2022-2023 *Teams in Review*

From our oldest division U21 to our youngest players in U6, VMHA had a total of 564 registered players and 36 total teams (7 rep teams) representing the association. Big congratulations to all teams as well as our banner winners! And to our U15 A1 team that made it to the final four tournament for their tier. Banners!

Key Stats

564 Players
227 Coaches
36 Team Managers

Division	# Teams	#Players	Fees - 2023/2024	Rep Fees
U6	1	18	\$ 600.00	
U7	3	41	\$ 750.00	
U8	2	33	\$ 850.00	
U9	4	55	\$ 850.00	
U11 Rep	2	34	\$ 1,045.00	\$ 600.00
U11 House	5	77	\$ 1,045.00	
U13 Rep	2	34	\$ 1,045.00	\$ 660.00
U13 House	4	56	\$ 1,045.00	
U15 Rep	2	34	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 780.00
U15 House	4	62	\$ 1,100.00	
U18 Rep	1	19	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 800.00
U18 House	5	80	\$ 1,100.00	
U21 House	1	22	\$ 550.00	
	36	564		

Development Skills/Clinics

Development Clinics have proven to be an area of strength. The clinics have allowed for increased ice time and specialized training for players throughout the season. The involvement of alumni and skilled instructors has been an important aspect of the program, providing valuable knowledge and experience to the players. Going forward, the association plans to continue networking and building upon the successful program to ensure ongoing development and growth for their players.

Key Stats

63 Skills/Clinics
12 Goalie Skills/Clinics
804 Registrations

Training Centre Overview

Our Training Centre has been an asset in helping further developing our athletes at all levels, providing additional training time on top of on-ice programming for our teams. We have been able to provide training programs that cater to the specific needs of individual athletes.

We have generated extra revenue by renting out our facility to outside parties, but the priority is for VMHA members first. However, we have faced challenges with weak flooring upstairs causing safety hazards and tight scheduling making it difficult to accommodate all teams. We plan to explore solutions such as upgrading the flooring, booking time in advance, and creating better programs to improve our services and expand our reach.

6 out of 7 rep teams committed to a 10 week program that included weights, strength training, dryland and shot / stickhandling designed for age groups. Some of the rep teams even used the facility more than once a week. Two C teams also completed a 10 week program. Many of the remaining C teams accessed the facility between 1 to 5 times. The facility will help players to reach the next level, improve shoot & stick handling as interest level has improved just in one season. VMHA has a list of approved trainers and skill providers to ensure this facility addresses extra training where more ice is just unavailable and will fill the gaps.

Key Stats

**59 C Sessions
60 Rep Sessions**

VMHA Community Day

We were fortunate that this event along with our photo day were able to continue on the first Saturday of November. The event brings our membership through the Agrodome doors for photos, & our 3 on 3 mini tournament. This year, 36 mini teams entered the fun tournament from U7 to U13. The event also included a fun photo booth & arcade area. With an event committee now in place, we are hoping to bring back other ice events like shooting accuracy & fastest skater among other opportunities. Thank you to all the organizers & volunteers who made this day memorable, including a visit from the Canucks very own Finn.

Key Stats

**36 Teams
564 Photos**

Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Night

VMHA's programs, events, and management are only made possible because of the dedicated and hard work of our volunteers. Without the coaches, managers, health and safety personnel, board members and committee members, which numbered a total of 242 this year, the hockey season wouldn't be possible. To recognize their efforts, VMHA held its annual appreciation dinner on May 12th at the Italian Cultural Centre. There was a great turnout for the event with over 90 people in attendance.

Key Stats

242 Volunteers
90 Attendees

As part of the annual volunteer appreciation dinner, VMHA was very pleased to recognize standout members, teams, and volunteers through special awards for a variety of categories.

Award recipients - Congratulations!

House Team of the Year - U13 C4

Rep Team of the Year - U15 A1

Johnny Mahovlich Award-Hardest Working Athlete - Conan Gilhuly

Referee of the Year - Zachary Yuen

Volunteer Coach of the Year, U6/U7 - Tyler Bentham

Volunteer Coach of the Year, U8/U9 - Tim Matthews

Volunteer Coach of the Year, U11/U13 - Kevin Kimura

Volunteer Coach of the Year, U15/U18 - Ryan Crago

Team Manager of the Year - Michelle Cranston

Volunteer of the Year - Michelle Young

Social Media *Maya Toews*

Maya Toews has been handling VMHA's social media accounts since July 2022. Engagement has been up and we have more followers! It's been great to post about our successes, from a player moving onto an AAA team or donations from VMHA or individual teams. I've tried to build community, be inclusive and show appreciation for our volunteers (they keep us going!!) by making it fun and with engaging posts.

Going into the next season - I will encourage players to fill out their social media waiver forms. As well as, inviting players and families to send in photos (and blurbs) of any tournaments/team highlights to socialmedia@vmha.com.

Key Stats

66 Unique Posts
July 2022 to date

Followers:
Instagram 1026

Facebook 356
Twitter 300

Fundraising

Similar to previous years the Hockey Pool has been our main fundraiser. Unfortunately, we only sold half the amount of tickets compared to last season. The main reason for this outcome was the policy change making the pool optional vs mandatory in previous years. We would like to see a partnership with teams and our hockey pool fundraiser.

Looking Ahead 2024

Committee Structure

- On-going committees and new committees
- Call for new recruits

Strategic Plan 2024

- A process in which we define our vision for the future and identify the association's goals and objectives.

Off Season Training Center

- Maximize the use of the Training Center

First Shift returns

- The NHL/NHLPA FIRST SHIFT program is designed to ensure a positive experience for new-to-hockey families.
- The NHL/NHLPA FIRST SHIFT designed the program to facilitate entry into hockey by offering a program that is ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE, SAFE, and most importantly, FUN!

Changes to Initiation group (U6 - U9) starting this September

- Updates to follow as it becomes available

In depth review in C Hockey in President's C League

- Many MHAs within this group are looking to review C Hockey in its current format
- VMHA will be part of the review process, including our members thru a survey

Committees *Volunteer Opportunities*

The VMHA board of directors have finalized five new committees. These committees will be the start of a new strategic plan that will guide the association for the next couple of years.

1. Strategic Planning
 - The Strategic Planning Committee (the Committee) is responsible for developing, monitoring, and amending the Association's strategic planning documents and providing input and feedback on the overall operations of the VMHA. The Committee members are expected to develop insight into the business operations and recommend strategic directions for policy & implementation for VMHA.
2. Special Events
 - The Events Planning Committee (the "Committee") is responsible for the functions of the Vancouver Minor Hockey Association ("VMHA") related to events including but not limited to the Annual Hockey Day in conjunction with Photo Day, Puck n Party & Volunteer Dinner & Awards..
3. Equipment & Apparel
 - The Equipment & Apparel Committee (the "Committee") is responsible for the functions of the Vancouver Minor Hockey Association ("VMHA") related to jerseys, goalie and coach equipment, and supplier relationships.
4. Nominations
 - The Nomination and Elections Committee will be responsible for overseeing the nominations and elections functions of the Vancouver Minor Hockey Association ("VMHA"). They will apply the principles of good governance and ensure the Board of Directors (the "Board") and ALL Committees are strong, and succession is assured by:
 - Notifying members of any current or upcoming vacancies in committees or the Board, and enabling qualified persons to be identified and nominated for these positions, and
 - Ensuring the conduct of the selection of committee members, and the Board election meets standards of good governance and the expectations of the members.
5. Tournament
 - The Tournament Committee (the "Committee") will be responsible for tournament functions of the Vancouver Minor Hockey Association ("VMHA"). They will apply the principles of good governance.
 - The work of the committee revolves around the following areas: Fundraising, Sponsorships, 50/50, raffle basket ticket coordinator, Tournament Program coordination, Donations for food, raffle baskets, & Swag coordination.

*Potential new
for 2024*

**Coaching
Committee**

**Training Center
Committee**

**Fundraising
Committee**

President *Nick Santorelli*

It's true that life always throws curve balls, which is something that this board and previous board before us have been successful to stick handle and still deliver a great hockey program despite uncontrollable events. With Covid now behind us, the unexpected shut down of the Agrodome which handles close to 33% of our ice was shut down for 7 weeks this past season. Between the hockey ops committee, ice allocator and our understanding coaches; we all came together to ensure ice was made available to everyone in the fairest process.

This was our start to the season. I would like to thank everyone, especially Lana who had to redo that seasonal schedule not once, not twice but 3 times. As the season settled in, we have been trying different approaches to engage every player, team, parents and coaches to find useful ways to maximize the training center. Just 2 years ago, the concept was relatively new. Today, there have been many facilities opening in the Lower Mainland. With lack of ice, the concept of the training center needs to be adapted into our programming. There are so many benefits to owning this facility. Many thanks to our rep teams and C teams who took advantage of the training center during the past season. Our on ice skills were cut short due to the Agrodome issue, but we were able to continue skills through the pop up clinics for the remaining season. Structured and scheduled times may be difficult due to ice being taken away from us due to other users. In order to maintain extra ice times, the reality of sharing practices may come to fruition sooner than later as many MHAs across the Lower Mainland have been doing so for years.

We were able to combine picture day with VMHA community day once again. This is a great event where members can engage with other members while enjoying the 3 on 3 mini tournament and other activities. Our annual Christmas Tournament finally came back post Covid where many of our C teams were well represented along with a couple A2 teams. Though primarily a charity tournament with the Canucks Place as the primary recipient, partial proceeds also goes towards VMHA's general operating expenses. We are hoping to grow this tournament back to over 60 teams next season.

Our U18A & C players were well represented in their respective PCAHA's scholarship showcase tournaments. Unfortunately, none of our U21 group were able to attend due to other commitments.

The lack of commitment to this year's annual hockey pool was not as successful as in previous years. Maybe there was too much team fundraising or the lack of understanding of why we need to fundraise as an association is so critical. This is the single largest fundraiser for VMHA and the easiest. Everyone by now knows that costs for living expenses & goods post Covid have gone up dramatically. VMHA is affected by rising costs of ice, referees / development, skills sessions, poaching of paid coaches & skill providers are just a few that come to mind. Without fundraising, further increases will continue to happen. Basically, we all need to be better.

As we entered the final months, many rep teams played in the final four or presidents' playoffs. Congratulations to the U15A2 on winning the league title and the U11A1 for the presidents series playoff. League winners for C was U11C4 & Banner Champs U11C4. Also a special shout out to all of the other teams when in tournament play or in play offs that represented VMHA.

In closing, lots of planning for the upcoming season is underway, introduction & implementation of new committees to help shape, including the overall health of Vancouver Minor Hockey for years to

come. To all of the volunteers, coaches, team staff, div managers and administrative staff; thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping our players in having an enjoyable season. To our board members who are stepping down from their roles after many years of service, James Nedilia – VP2, Michelle Young – Ref Assignor, Elizabeth Urbach – Equipment Manager, Kevin Kimura – Coach Coordinator and Lindsay Kelly – Secretary...Your unwavering commitment and time for the betterment of our association to provide the best possible experience for our players goes without notice. Some very big shoes to be filled in the next chapter of VMHA and appreciate the time we worked together and overcoming so many obstacles.

Hockey Operations Coordinator *Philippe Lam*

2023 has been an incredible year for VMHA, and I would like to express my gratitude to all the board members, coaches, and volunteers who made it possible. We have achieved many positive highlights, such as working closely with the majority of players and coaches within our association. Moreover, we effectively utilized our ice time, which had previously been wasted in previous years. However, we did face some difficulties, including the challenge of getting all our members into the training center during the season and ensuring that our VMHA coaches' credentials were completed before the deadline.

As the Head Coach for U11A2, it has been an extremely positive year. Our group has shown significant improvement in a short amount of time, and we take pride in the development we have provided them. We are always seeking ways to enhance our coaching methods and further improve.

Looking ahead to next year, we have exciting new initiatives in store. We will focus on securing more rental programs for our training center at a consistent level, implementing an early coaching deadline for all coaches to meet requirements promptly, and enhancing our off-season and in season coaches and player programs. Additionally, we aim to establish a dedicated goalie department at VMHA and create an initiation guide for our coaches to follow throughout the year. We will also leverage the Hockey Canada App to streamline communication and organization.

Our future will continue to revolve around our members and community, ensuring a fun, safe, and competitive environment. Our immediate focus will be on smooth rep tryouts, meticulous preparation, and readiness. Strengthening the goalie department and providing in-season training instructors will be vital to our program's success. Ultimately, we remain committed to delivering the best experience for everyone involved with VMHA.

VP1 *Won Nam*

Throughout the year VMHA received numerous concerns that could have turned into official complaints but we tried to support Coaches, Team Managers, Div Managers and those who were involved. Positives were the relationships and trust built with our volunteer team and communicating with those who had concerns. Area of focus is to meet with the Div managers and communicate the process and to differentiate team and association complaints. Would like to thank the conflict resolution committee as they have been a tremendous help and guidance throughout the season.

Key Stats

4 Official Complaints

Equipment Manager Report *Liz Urbach*

Equipment & Apparel Committee

The equipment and apparel committee has been formed and has already been hard at work. The first priority was a merchandise review (see apparel below), this committee will also be working on trying to improve the jersey collection and distribution process. We are looking for an initiation representative for this committee, if you are interested please email equipment@vmha.com. The time commitment is 4 meetings per year and some emails.

VMHA Apparel

2022/23 Season we launched a new partnership with Scoffs for the sale of VMHA branded apparel and merchandise. They have shown to be a great partner allowing us to offer a large selection of quality items and we look forward to continuing with them for next season. For 2023/24 they will be bringing in some retro "East Van Minor Hockey" items to add to the selection of apparel. As per last year they will have a merchandise booth at VMHA picture day.

***Please note:** Scoffs will be moving to Norland Ave near Burnaby 8 Rinks as of August 1, 2023.

VMHA Goalie Gear

Over the past two years we have been slowly replenishing the goalie gear for the initiation group that had not seen a refresh since 2015. This includes new goalie pads, blockers and catchers. We continue to see strong usage with this group as well as the U11's. With the increase in spring/summer clinics the equipment remains in high demand and we hope to continue to have strong goalie interest. This year we will be focusing on refreshing some of the chest protectors and goalie sticks. A big thank you to the parents who have provided feedback along the way.

VMHA Jerseys

The VMHA Jersey Policy was updated in 2022. Please check in with the VMHA Policies and Procedures webpage if you have any questions.

Coach and Safety Kits

Coach and safety kits are distributed each year to new coaches and safeties as well as an annual refresh for those that had high use. Returning coaches and safeties are encouraged to keep their kits for following years.

Christmas Tournament *Cora Burnette*

I would like to first of all thank all of the teams and players who participated in our 2022 tournament and made it an absolute success. We had 42 teams attend 630 players, and our raffle and 50/50 raised \$9000 for our charities - Canucks Place Children's Hospice and Canucks Autism Network - and \$9000 for our Association. These funds go towards helping lower our fees and costs for camps throughout the year.

Key Stats

42 Teams
630 Players

Raised
\$9000
Canucks Place

Revenue
\$9000
VMHA

Our raffle was a success due to the overwhelming response from our membership in donating raffle baskets and prizes. This is a critical component to our tournament in order to support both the Association and our chosen charities.

The feedback from the tournament was also incredibly positive. Some highlights were the addition of daily snacks for teams and referees, signage for the change rooms, and the overall schedule being efficient and considerate of away teams and age groups. It seems the MVP socks were also a big hit!

It was a bit rough getting going, and ultimately we had to cancel our U11A and U13A divisions due to low numbers. There are quite a few other tournaments now going on at the exact same time as ours, and we expect this will change the landscape of our tournament going forward. However, considering the positive feedback, we are hopeful that word will get around and that this year's tournament will quickly fill up.

We had close to a full roster from our own VMHA teams, which was wonderful to see. We even took home some hardware! While we do not intend to make it mandatory to participate in the tournament as other Associations might, we do have an expectation that our own teams participate as we are the host. Looking forward to full participation next year!

We also did well with sponsorships, and are looking forward to even more sponsorships next year with an earlier start. We now have a Tournament Committee, which will help facilitate the monstrous job of running this show. Please reach out if you are interested in joining the committee and lightening the load.

Overall, the 2022 Charity Tournament was a fantastic success, and we look forward to 2023!

U11C		U13C		U15C		U15A		U18C	
Gold	Semiahmoo U106	Gold	Burnaby MHA U13C4	Gold	Vancouver Tbirds U15C1	Gold	Albemi Valley	Gold	Vancouver Tbirds U18C2
Silver	VMHA U11C4	Silver	VMHA U13C2	Silver	VMHA U15C2	Silver	Kerry Park	Silver	Cloverdale U18C2
Bronze	VMHA U11C2	Bronze	Ridge Meadows U13C4	Bronze	Surrey MHA U15C1	Bronze	VMHA U15A	Bronze	VMHA U18C1

Referee Allocator *Michelle Young*

Thank you, VMHA referees, for yet another successful season. Under the leadership of our new Referee-in-Chief, Rupert Xu, our officials started the season with a lot of supervision, which helped them to grow as an official. Throughout the season, we have seen steady improvements. A number of our 4th year officials are being noticed and were sent to work U15AAA games and even at PCAHA U13 Tier 1 and Tier 3 BC Provincials. This is a great opportunity and accomplishment for VMHA officials.

Within VMHA, there are 80 active officials who are still players themselves plus 10 adult officials. 30 of whom are new 1st year officials this year. 18 of them are 2nd year officials. Needless to say, retention of experienced officials has always been a challenge, not just for VMHA but for all

associations. Our hope is to continue to provide training and more opportunities for our keen officials to continue their officiating career.

For those who turn 12 this year by Dec 31, 2023 (birth year 2011 and older) and wish to start their officiating journey, please contact Ref Assignor at refassignor@vmha.com and visit our VMHA website for more information.

Key Stats

80 Referees

30 New Referees

499 Games

Referee-In-Chief *Rupert Xu*

The Referee-In-Chief of VMHA assumes all responsibilities for, and oversight of, the officials and officiating program of the Association. The RIC is responsible for recruiting and development of young officials into the system to ensure the program remains vibrant and the Association's needs are met. The position of the RIC is critical to the ongoing development, mentorship and success of the VMHA officials.

Our new RIC, Rupert Xu, has had a very busy season with our officials. Rupert was responsible for the development and training, recruitment, evaluation, mentorship, assignment, and oversight of the Association's officiating program. Some of his responsibilities included:

- Ensure that the referee program supports the Association's needs including development, recruitment and succession plans to meet game demand and referee attrition
- Monitor, supervise and evaluate all active officials within the Association, including conducting on-ice instruction for the purpose of upgrading minor hockey official levels and completing evaluation forms
- Coordinate and facilitate referee clinics and additional training during the season
- Monitor, supervise, evaluate and provide feedback to active referees regarding their knowledge and application of the rules of hockey and on-ice performances
- Asked officials monthly rulebook questions
- Recommended VMHA officials to U15AAA tournaments
- Assisted with organizing officials for our VMHA tournament and provided supervision and constructive feedback to officials
- Liaise with the VMHA Referee Assignor to ensure all games have scheduled officials

A huge **THANK YOU** to Rupert for your time, commitment and dedication to VMHA's officiating program. We appreciate your motivation, encouragement and guidance of our officials. We've seen the hard work, support and care you've invested in our officials this season. Thank you for motivating our officials to set goals and strive diligently to accomplish them.

Risk Management – VP3 *Quyen Cheng*

Keeping all VMHA members safe is our priority, from dealing with physical injuries to ensuring our dressing rooms, stands and events are safe havens for everyone. Policies and procedures are in place to create and maintain safe programs in safe facilities overseen by qualified and/or trained volunteers or staff. All minor hockey teams in Canada must have a HCSP – certified Safety Person. The emphasis is on injury prevention and safety through risk management and education.

If a player or team official is injured during a game, a HCSP must complete the online VMHA team injury report. If an injury requires medical referral and/or hospitalization, a Hockey Canada Injury Report and Return to Play form are to be completed and submitted. For the 2022–23 hockey season, we received 20 injury reports from various teams in our association. It is important that all HCSPs in our association continue to report any injuries and complete the required forms. VMHA is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and fully inclusive environment for players, parents/guardians, staff and volunteers.

THANK YOU to all HCSPs who make the minor hockey experience safer and more enjoyable for everyone involved.

Key Stats

67 HCSP Volunteers