

# VANCOUVER MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



# President *Nick Santorelli*

## MHA 2024–2025 Season Summary Report

As the 2024–25 season concludes, so does my term as President of VMHA. I want to sincerely thank all players, parents, coaches, volunteers, staff, and the Board for your dedication this season. Together, we have continued to enhance our programs, focusing on player development and creating a positive hockey experience.

### **Member Satisfaction**

Despite no recent formal surveys, member feedback guided improvements reflected in steady registration growth—even amid competition from non-sanctioned leagues. This shows the trust our community places in VMHA.

### **Skill Development**

Training Centre participation grew, with strong on-ice progress despite ice time challenges. Our referee program, led by Rupert Xu—recently named Referee-in-Chief of the Year—has also made great strides through clinics and mentorship.

### **Volunteers & Support**

Our volunteers remain the backbone of VMHA. From bench staff to event helpers, your commitment has been outstanding and essential to our success.

### **Community Involvement**

Teams continued meaningful community service, including volunteering at local charities and fundraising for important causes—an area we proudly will keep growing.

### **Financial Stability**

Thanks to the Board's oversight, VMHA remains financially sound. Continued fundraising support is vital to maintain affordability and stability.

### **Governance & Safety**

Player safety remains our top priority. We updated policies to align with BC Hockey and use third-party tools and collaborations to address concerns proactively.

### **Looking Ahead**

With a strong leadership team returning, I am confident in VMHA's future. I will stay involved in an advisory capacity to support the transition. Our active participation in PCAHA and BC Hockey committees underscores our commitment to progress.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your President.

Sincerely,  
Nick Santorelli  
President, Vancouver Minor Hockey Association

## 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.

## Our *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.

## 2024 *Board Members*

- President – Nick Santorelli
- VP1 – Chris Bedyk
- VP2 – John Lavery
- VP3 – Todd Chisholm
- Director of Initiation – Tim Matthews
- Coaching Coordinator – Kavie Toor
- Referee Allocator – Sharlene Steele
- Equipment – Suzanne Volkow
- Tournament – Cora Burnette
- Secretary – Shanna Marchuck
- Treasurer – Phil Aguirre
- Fundraising – Kristy Streefkerk
- Past President – Kevin Cartwright

## 2025 *AGM Elections* | 2 Year Term:

- President
- VP2
- Secretary (1 Year)
- Equipment
- Coach Coordinator
- Director of Initiation
- Referee Assignor



## VMHA 2024 *Teams in Review*

From our oldest division U21 to our youngest players in U7, VMHA had a total of 605 registered players and 38 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	2024/25		2023/24		2022/23	
	605 Players		563 Players		564 Players	
	216 Bench Staff		224 Bench Staff		227 Bench Staff	
	38 Team Managers		36 Team Managers		36 Team Managers	
Division	# Teams	#Players	Fees - 2024/25	Rep Fees		
U7	5	70	\$ 750.00			
U9	7	97	\$ 875.00			
U11 Rep	2	34	\$ 1,100.00		\$ 1,150	
U11 House	5	76	\$ 1,100.00			
U13 Rep	2	34	\$ 1,050.00		\$1,175	
U13 House	5	76	\$ 1,050.00			
U15 Rep	2	35	\$ 1,210.00		\$1,250	
U15 House	3	55	\$ 1,210.00			
U18 Rep	1	21	\$ 1,210.00		\$ 1,575	
U18 House	5	87	\$ 1,210.00			
U21 House	1	20	\$ 605.00			
	38	605				

## 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.

<i>Key Stats</i>	2025/2026	2023/24	2022/23
	55 Skills/Clinics 15 Goalie Skills/Clinics 851 Registrations	64 Skills/Clinics 13 Goalie Skills/Clinics 795 Registrations	63 Skills/Clinics 12 Goalie Skills/Clinics 804 Registrations



## Director of Hockey Operations *Philippe Lam*

VMHA experienced another strong year of growth, thanks to the dedication of our athletes, coaches, parents, and volunteers. Our initiation and development programs continue to thrive, supported by engaged families and committed team officials. The effective use of our training centre has strengthened player development across both Rep and C divisions. As we look ahead, we're focused on refining our program structure and expanding targeted skill development across all levels.

We extend our sincere thanks to **Philippe Lam**, Director of Hockey Operations, for his outstanding leadership and contributions. His impact on VMHA's programs and culture will be valued for years to come.

## Introducing *Matt Brown*

Matt brings strong on-ice expertise, leadership experience, and a deep commitment to long-term player development.

A graduate of Simon Fraser University, Matt has worked with players of all ages and skill levels—from U6 to professionals in the NHL and PWHL. His coaching philosophy is rooted in skating fundamentals, skill-specific development, and mentorship, with a focus on fostering both athletes and well-rounded individuals.

As a player, Matt built a successful junior career in the BCHL with the Surrey Eagles before joining the Richmond Sockeyes, where he played a pivotal role in capturing the Cyclone Taylor Cup and later served as team captain. He continued his career at SFU, helping lead the team to a BCJHL Championship. These experiences shaped his athlete-centered approach and his drive to create a positive, competitive, and inclusive hockey culture.

Matt has coached with several organizations, including the Richmond Sockeyes, Prince of Wales Hockey Program, Thunderbirds Minor Hockey, Kodiaks Spring Program, and Van Minor. He has also successfully operated a hockey development business, further expanding his knowledge and expertise.

Throughout his coaching career, Matt has developed and executed structured programs that prioritize player progression, skill acquisition, and long-term athlete development. His high-performance training models are designed to support players at their current stage while challenging them to reach their full potential. These programs emphasize strong technical foundations and a positive, growth-oriented environment.

In addition to player development, Matt is committed to coach education and mentorship. He promotes consistency, accountability, and a shared development approach across all teams and age groups. His leadership style emphasizes clear communication, collaboration, and continuous improvement for both players and coaches.



# VP1 *Chris Bedyk*

The Discipline Committee oversees the review of disciplinary decisions and misconduct penalties involving players, members, parents, and team officials. Our goal is to ensure fair and consistent application of VMHA's conduct policies.

This year, the committee managed numerous concerns that, while not escalating to formal complaints, required support and guidance for coaches, team managers, and division managers. Building strong relationships and maintaining open communication with all parties has been a key focus.

Moving forward, we aim to enhance collaboration with division managers by clarifying the complaint process and distinguishing between team-level and association-level issues. We extend our gratitude to the Conflict Resolution Committee for their invaluable support throughout the season.

## Risk Management – VP3 *Todd Chisholm*

Thanks to all of our HCSPs working behind the scenes at all of our games and practices! It's a critical job that keeps our players, coaches, and officials safe on the ice and at other VMHA events. There's a lot that goes into that job that members may not realize, in addition to taking care of any injuries.

Checking that neck guards (and maybe keeping an extra handy) are on and skate guards are off before the players step on the ice, fixing broken skate laces, finding lost gear, checking for gear left behind in the change rooms, and making sure no one is alone while waiting for pickup after the game or practice. It's a great way to help out on a team and get to know the players better.

This coming season, I'd like to develop a community for our HCSPs. For example, we've been working on ways to share incident reports and outcomes (with all personal details removed) with our safeties so that we're all aware of and prepared for issues and injuries that can occur.

Thanks also to our VMHA officials and the parents who drive them to do their job! I've been very pleased with the direction of our officiating program, lead by our Referee in Chief Rupert and our Ref Assignor Sharlene. Our officials are well-trained, with great attendance in our training sessions and through the excellent feedback from our in-game supervisions. This makes a huge difference in the quality of VMHA officiating, and our officials know that they have a positive, supportive environment to get their questions answered and concerns addressed. It's a challenging job that affords great opportunities for young players to improve their understanding of the game, get more time on skates, and build confidence.

<i>Key Stats</i>	2025	2024	2023
	111 HCSP	81 HCSP	67 HCSP

# Training Centre & VP2 *John Lavery*

The 2024/2025 season was one of steady growth and development of groups at the Training Centre. With 100% utilization by our rep teams, the TC began to integrate as the unique and critical piece of infrastructure that was originally envisioned. It continued to enable VMHA to provide additional training and skills opportunities to all levels of players and coaches outside of programmed ice time.

Throughout the season, Rep teams take up weekly training opportunities at the TC, with U18A1 taking two. Vancouver Angels took up a weekly ice time, and T-Birds again tried the facility out. Notably we continued to have external contractors use the facility, providing a small income stream which we aim to grow this coming year. Collectively, the teams using the facility again won honours throughout the season, including several banners and tournaments, with one team making it to the Final Four.

This year spring and summer programming have come to the TC. Regular goalie and young player shooting development have taken root, and it is hoped that older age-groups will begin using the facility for summer training, in order to meet the high expectations placed on our rep team by incoming Hockey DIRECTION. The TC is placed to be an important part of improved development and skills work as we welcome Matt Brown as our Director of Hockey.

Recreational Hockey flourished again this year, with near record numbers of players participating with VMHA. From U11 through to U18 and U21, teams had successful years of growth, with relatively low numbers of conflict situations or disciplinary issues.

Changes and evolution to the balancing process for Recreational stream hockey continue to improve our ability to field balanced teams, while from a board perspective, we continue to advocate, particularly at the U18 level, for at least one tier of competitive recreational hockey streams. This advocacy with PCAHA is intended to improve the recreational hockey experience for all levels of players, as balancing becomes more difficult with a broader skill set required for each team. We look forward to a strong 2025/26 season in the recreational stream and at the TC for VMHA

	2024/2025	2023/24	2022/23
Key Stats	51 C Sessions 120 Rep Sessions 110 Goalie Sessions 11 External	25 C Sessions 70 Rep Sessions 5 External	59 C Sessions 60 Rep Sessions

## Director of Initiation *Tim Matthews*

This was the first season where VMHA had a dedicated director in place for the Initiation divisions (U7 and U9), and what a year it was. The VMHA Initiation Program grew from 3 U7 teams and 6 U9 teams in 2023–2024 to 5 U7 teams and 7 U9 teams in 2024–2025. The future is definitely bright at VMHA.

The U9 season at VMHA was a little different than in years past because we were part of a pilot program that involved starting full-ice games at the start of December rather than in mid-January. It's not clear if a December start to full-ice games will continue next season, but preliminary feedback suggests that an earlier start to full-ice play is seen as a positive.

Other items of note in Initiation this season were a more structured approach to affiliating players between divisions, an increase in the number of skill sessions that were offered, and great camaraderie and collaboration between the teams that shared practice times. The goal is to continue to build on these successes in 2025–2026.

In closing, it's important to recognize all the excellent work that was put in by the U7 and U9 coaches, team managers, HCSPs and division managers. The enthusiasm and energy of these volunteers was infectious, and was likely the most important factor in the Initiation program being a positive and enjoyable environment for our players. Kudos to you all.

## Fundraising *Kristy Streefkerk*

VMHA had a strong year of fundraising and community engagement. The second annual Shoot-a-Thon was a major success, raising \$27,325 with participation from 135 players. With all VMHA players invited to take part in on-ice events during photo day. Looking ahead, plans are in place to hold the event later in the season, and move it back to the training center to preserve valuable December ice time. The Holiday Skate also brought the community together, resulting in a \$155 donation to the Vancouver Food Bank. Additionally, VMHA launched its official sponsorship program and is actively seeking sponsors for the 2025/2026 season—more details can be found on the website.

Key Stats	2024/25	2023/24
Shoot-A-Thon	\$27,325	\$25,655
Holiday Skate	\$820	\$1,237

# Equipment Manager *Suzanne Volkow*

The 2024/25 season saw continued replenishment of goalie gear, including new sticks as well as the introduction of goalie throat guards for the U9 group. The reversible tryout jerseys used for rep tryouts and house assessments will be topped up for the 2025/26 season to ensure there are enough jerseys for each division and to eliminate the need to share jerseys throughout the tryout/assessment process.

VMHA socks are ordered at the time of registration. For those who did not order socks at registration, there will be one more opportunity to order socks at the beginning of the season.

Coach and safety kits were collected at the end of the 2024/25 season and will be re-distributed to Division Managers at the beginning of next season.

VMHA apparel and merchandise continues to be available through Scoffs. A link to the merchandise page can be found on the VMHA website.

The VMHA Apparel and Equipment Policy was updated in 2024. Please check the VMHA Policies and Procedures on the website if you have any questions.

# Social Media *Maya Toews*

It’s been great to post 129 times 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](mailto:socialmedia@vmha.com).

Key Stats	2025	2024	2023
Instagram	1323	1190	1026
Facebook	460	430	356
Twitter	329	356	300



# Christmas Tournament *Cora Burnette*

The 17th Annual Vancouver Minor Charity Hockey Tournament was a great success! We welcomed 65 teams and 1,035 players, raising over \$25,900 for our Association through entry fees and sponsorships—funds that support our general operations.

Our raffle and 50/50 draw brought in \$18,000 for Canuck Place Children’s Hospice. Thank you to everyone who donated raffle baskets and prizes—your generosity plays a key role in supporting both VMHA and our chosen charities.

It was great to see strong participation from our own VMHA teams, and even better—we brought home some hardware! While participation isn’t mandatory, as hosts, we do expect our teams to take part, and we’re aiming for full involvement next year.

Sponsorship support was also strong, and we’re planning an even bigger push for 2025 through our website and social media.

A huge thank you to our Tournament Committee for managing the enormous task of running this event. If you're interested in joining the team, we'd love the help—many hands make light work! We’re proud of what we accomplished in 2024 and excited to build on that success in 2025!

Key Stats	2025	2024	2023
	65 Teams 1,035 players	67 Teams 1,072 Players	42 Teams 630 Players
	Raised \$18,000 Canucks place	Raised \$12,000 Canucks Place	Raised \$9,000 Canucks Place
	Revenue \$25,900 VMHA	Revenue \$22,198 VMHA	Revenue \$9,000 VMHA

# Referee-In-Chief *Rupert Xu*

This past season (2024-25) we saw a huge influx of supervisions. With 93 supervisions and 20 shadows, more than 40% of our “A” home games were supervised. This allowed for continued development and more consistent feedback for the officials. The development of our officials showed as we got many praises from adult officials from across the lower mainland and local RIC’s. Officials also have voiced their gratitude for the amount of development and support they’ve received.



We had three returning officials clinics in September which was a huge success. Over 20+ participants at each clinic. The clinic consisted of an on ice portion + an off-ice classroom style portion. Which allowed officials to ask questions and clarify certain rules before the season began.

We also had two additional clinics, one in October and one in November on pro-d days which also garnered a lot of interest, between 15-20 officials attended those.

Overall, the season was a huge success with many officials being supervised multiple times throughout the season to ensure the proper standard is being followed.

Congratulations to our own RIC, Rupert Xu, for receiving this year's PCAHA Head Referee of the Year Award. This award recognizes the Association Referee-in-Chief who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of officiating in conjunction with his/her Association. As VMHA's Referee-in-Chief, Rupert has significantly enhanced the officiating program, growing our numbers of certified officials and implementing rigorous training and mentorship programs. His efforts have led to high-quality officiating, positive feedback from the community, and a waitlist of eager new officials.

Thank you, Rupert, for your unwavering commitment to our officials and the sport of hockey, ensuring that play remains both safe and fair!

	2025	2024
Key Stats	93 Supervisions 5 On Ice Sessions 20 Shadows	56 Supervisions 3 On Ice Sessions 23 Shadows

# Referee Allocator *Sharlene Steele*

Thank you, VMHA officials, for another successful season! As Referee Assignor for VMHA, I oversee officials for U9 to U13 rep and house games. Under Referee-in-Chief Rupert Xu’s leadership, officials began the season with on-ice and classroom clinics. Rupert and a group of senior officials also ran two mid-season clinics, including a high-performance session. He led a core team that conducted 93 supervisions, helping officials grow. Rupert also certified 19 new officials through classroom and on-ice clinics, plus on-ice shadowing. These new officials were mentored for 20 games by our own Level 2s.

We’ve seen steady improvement throughout the season. Officials were recognized via our Spotlight of the Month and monthly rule book quizzes. Notably, two of our female officials were selected to officiate at Provincials—an outstanding achievement that reflects the quality of Rupert’s mentorship. Thank you to all VMHA teams who supported Officials Recognition Week!

This season, 522 were assigned games, including tryouts, regular season, playoffs, and tournaments. VMHA has 83 active officials—19 new first-years and 20 adults who regularly officiate. We’ve retained several second- and third-year officials, a key success. With 17 officials graduating this year, we hope many continue with us as adult officials. We aim to offer ongoing training and more clinic opportunities to build confidence and experience.

Our VMHA Annual Charity Tournament was another great success, using 87 officials from 11 associations—62 from VMHA. Bronze and gold medal games offered a chance to officiate in a four-person system at the U15A level. Our tournament has earned a strong reputation, and it shows in how well we support our officials.

As an association, we’ll continue working with our VMHA community—parents, players, and coaches—to foster a respectful, supportive environment for our officials. Their role is vital, and we’re committed to their well-being. Official retention remains a top concern across all minor hockey associations.

If you turn 12 by December 31, 2025 (birth year 2013 or earlier) and want to start officiating, contact the Ref Assignor at [refassignor@vmha.com](mailto:refassignor@vmha.com) and visit our VMHA website for more info.

	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
Key Stats	83 Officials 19 New Officials 522 Games Assigned	86 Officials 25 New Officials 456 Games Assigned	80 Officials 30 New Officials 499 Games Assigned

# 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 April 10th at the Italian Cultural Centre. There was a great turnout for the event with over 90 people in attendance.

	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
Key Stats	320 Volunteers 98 Attendees	282 Volunteers 96 Attendees	242 Volunteers 90 Attendee

## Award recipients *Congratulations!*

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

**U13C3** House Team of the Year

**U15A1** Rep Team of the Year

**Isaac Cheng** Johnny Mahovlich Award – Hardest Working Athlete

**Kailee Lowe** Referee of the Year

**Enzo Nardi** U7/U9 Volunteer Coach of the Year

**Derek Welbourn** U11/U13 Volunteer Coach of the Year

**Ryan Crago** U15/U18 Volunteer Coach of the Year

**Shiho Uzawa** Team Manager of the Year

**Cora Burnette** Volunteer of the Year

## Congratulations *Nick Santorelli*

Congratulations to our VMHA President, Nick Santorelli, on receiving this year's PCAHA Don Ackert Award for "Amateur Hockey Executive of the Year." Presented annually, this prestigious award honors an administrator who has made a significant impact on hockey in their community and across the Lower Mainland. For over forty years, Nick has worked tirelessly to strengthen minor hockey and build a supportive VMHA community focused on putting players first. Thank you, Nick, for your incredible dedication and service!



## Team Accomplishments

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.

**U11C1** Presidents League Winner Green Group & Playoff Champions Blue Group

**U11C5** Presidents League Winner Orange Group

**U13C3** Presidents League Winner Orange Group

**U13C4** Playoff Champions Red Group

**U15C1** Playoff Champions Orange Group

**U15C3** Presidents League Winner Green Group

**U18C3** Presidents League Winner Red Group & Playoff Champions White Group

**U18A1** Presidents Series Playoff Champions

## Committees *Volunteer Opportunities*

Joining a VMHA committee is a great way to make a meaningful impact, support the growth of minor hockey and help shape the future of the association. It's also an opportunity to connect with other dedicated members, share your skills, and contribute to a positive experience for all members.

### Strategic Planning

Leads the development and review of VMHA's strategic plans, offering recommendations on business operations, policies, and direction.

### Finance

Oversees VMHA's financial operations to ensure sound financial health and governance.

### Special Events

Plans and manages VMHA events, including Hockey Day, Photo Day, Puck n Party, and the Volunteer Awards Dinner.

### Equipment & Apparel

Manages jerseys, goalie and coach equipment, and vendor relationships for VMHA.

### Nominations

Handles board and committee nominations and elections, promoting strong governance and leadership succession.

### Tournament

Organizes tournament logistics, including fundraising, sponsorships, raffles, donations, and event coordination.

### Fundraising

Develops and executes fundraising initiatives to support VMHA programs and events. Focuses on sponsorships, donor engagement, campaigns, and creative revenue opportunities.



# Looking Ahead 2026

## Strategic Plan

VMHA's Strategic Plan will guide our priorities and actions over the coming years. Designed to reflect our values and goals, it provides a clear framework for decision-making, standardizes planning across all focus areas, and helps track our progress annually.

This living document will support board members in developing effective, goal-driven action plans. Implementation begins summer 2025, setting the stage for a strong, coordinated path forward.