



DARREN HARVIEUX

Candidate, VP Of Operations

A massive thank you to the current volunteers throughout Sackville Minor Hockey Association, including those who have put their names forward for this year's available positions. It takes a village of volunteers to successfully operate a minor hockey association and Sackville is second to none!!

It's easy to underestimate the impact that organized hockey can have on someone. The list of important life lessons are endless. Teamwork, communication, commitment, failure, success, discipline, just to name a few. Having spent my entire life around the rink its evident that these lessons learned have had an impact on me both personally and professionally. That is why I'm passionate about volunteering and giving back to programs like minor hockey. And why I would like to put my name forward for the next VP of Operations for Sackville Minor Hockey.

My wife Jada and I, and our two kids Landon (U13) and Kyle (U11) have made many great friends and met many awesome people through hockey. As newcomers to Sackville two seasons ago, hockey helped integrate us into Sackville in a big way. Arriving in September, just as hockey was starting for the season, it could not have worked out any better. A week later we were introduced to our hockey family where so many of our close friendships have since formed, in our new community.

This might be why my name may not be familiar to some of you. We relocated with TD Bank where I work in Business Banking here in Sackville. Having grown up not far from here in Digby, it is certainly nice to be back in Nova Scotia. During our time in Corner Brook, I was actively involved in the local minor hockey association holding multiple roles including Coach, Manager, Treasurer, and President. Throughout those times we juggled our way through many trying times for the association including the Covid Pandemic and a very challenging financial situation. More information can be found here.

[Corner Brook Minor Hockey News Article](#)

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During my first year here, I managed to snag the last available volunteer position with the association. Hockey Pool Coordinator. After getting to know more people, and the ins and outs of the association, I expressed my interest in taking on a more prominent volunteer position. I showed interest in multiple director positions and was happy to be awarded the Director of



My oldest son Landon (Lando) and I



the CMHL where I spent last season. And found a spot behind the bench and with the kids in both U13 and U9.

The X's and O's of the VP of Operations Position are clear throughout our by-law documents and in discussion with other members, and I'm 100% committed to making sure that job gets done. But really, as a VP it's important to be available for other things that come up outside of the normal duties and responsibilities. As your VP of Operations, I will focus on open communication with all members on any topics they feel the need to discuss. Its also important to think outside the box and collaborate when it comes to decision making. This will be an area I feel I can excel in given my past leadership experiences and involvement with associations that operated differently. An experienced, fresh perspective with fresh ideas. The following are some of my initial thoughts regarding processes and immediate new ideas. With plenty more to come.

Some of the ideas and thoughts related directly to the role of VP of Operations...

Player Evaluation Process – Tinkering with this process and policy will be a yearly focus for both competitive and recreational divisions. Yearly focus will give it the attention it deserves and will allow us to adapt as an association with changes. The important thing here is to always have an open ear when it comes to suggestions for improvement. The implementation of the Player Evaluation Process Committee was an important first step in getting members of the association involved in active feedback around the process. I look forward to helping put a plan in place once the committee has concluded and new ideas are ready to implement. An important aspect here will be communication to the entire membership.



My youngest son Kyle and I

Risk Management – Throughout the 2022/2023 season I sat on multiple discipline committees. The truth is that VPs, Directors, Board Members, and other volunteers are spending too much time dealing with disciplinary issues. The process can be trying and long as every complaint or incident related to the breaking of policy or procedure must be investigated in a fair and transparent way. This takes time. Time that could be spent exploring new ideas and discussing things that could move our association forward. The groundwork and investigation have to be completed for every incident; it's deterring the behavior in the first place that will be key. Developing a list of people with different perspectives, board members, outside volunteers, officials, coaches, etc. that can sit on investigation committees and help with the workload. Outside of this, harsher penalties if investigation warrants it and regular social media post and email reminders to the members of these policies.

Ice Time – A big part of the Operations role includes coordinating all things ice time with teams, associations, and facilities. Last year I spent the year as the Director of CMHL, and in the absence of a VP of Operations that role had increased responsibilities. The process last year was a bit clunky and changes will have to be made in order to streamline the process this coming season and make sure we maximize the ice time we have. Over the summer it will be important to develop a plan that works, and clearly communicate that plan to the association so that when the 2024/2025 season starts there is a clear process.



Some ideas and thoughts that will involve the other members of the executive, board, and membership, whom I look forward to working with...

Fiscal Responsibility – Hockey is too expensive. Work with VPs and Directors to review expenses related to operating a successful hockey association and the teams within it. See if there are opportunities to save our members more or get them more for the money they currently pay. This is especially important as the prices of many things around us continue to rise. Keeping cost in check will allow more people to comfortably enjoy the sport. Hockey should be accessible to any child who wishes to play, it should not be a “privileged sport”.

Community Involvement – Suggest and help organize a new position of *Director of Community Relations*. This position will be a liaison between SMHA and the communities our kids come from. Some of the main responsibilities will be getting our members/players in the community volunteering, helping with community events, and inviting the community into our association. It's about more than just hockey.

Communication Newsletter – Outside of being available to the membership, develop a monthly newsletter to all association members coming directly from the VP of Operations. Communication is important and it will be paramount that we pass along to you what is happening within the association. This newsletter can include multiple things. Updates on things being worked on, celebrating our volunteers, stories submitted by teams, pictures from the association, and other things as well.

Hockey is for Everyone – The game of hockey is changing, and it is moving in a positive direction. It is important for us to speak to this message, but it's more important for us to take action in this. It will be paramount that Sackville Minor provides a safe and inclusive environment for anyone who wants to be involved in the game of hockey. Hockey is for everyone. Regardless of their race, gender identity, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status (see fiscal responsibility above), etc. This sentiment can be expressed in many ways. Social media post recognizing significant days and months, Community Relations Director connecting communities to hockey, celebration days and events, etc.

I'm excited to put my name forward for this opportunity with Sackville Minor Hockey. I bring many years of experience and ambition to make minor hockey better. Listening to our members, active communication, and healthy discussion are important, and that will never change. I have been involved in these discussions for many years and I'm looking forward to continuing them with this association. Outside of the fundamental things we do as an association, we can make a bigger impact. We want to focus on not only better hockey players, but better community members. We need to elevate those ideas and think outside the box to push this association further.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have any questions at all don't hesitate to reach out to me at darrenharvieux@hotmail.com.

Top Shelf.

Darren

