



Vancouver Thunderbird Minor Hockey Association

2022 Annual Report

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Registration: 6:30 pm

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Virtual AGM via Zoom

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President Report

I am grateful that we were able to deliver a more typical hockey experience this past season even as Covid continued to impact the world around us. Vaccine passports, mask requirements, and spectator capacity limits were mandated by the Provincial Health Office at various times throughout the season. Handshakes turned into stick taps, travel was advised against, and tournaments were put on pause as we entered 2022. Throughout it all, families, players, and volunteers found a way to provide meaningful hockey experiences for our players. That was a win!

Thank you to everyone that assisted in providing an opportunity for our players to play and to do so in a safe environment. I would like to especially acknowledge our coaches, assistant coaches, managers, and safety people. Once again, this was a season that involved health checks, communication about expected protocols at the rink, and many, many more required items.

A shortage of referees, due partially to Covid, existed at certain levels of play this past season. I would also like to acknowledge our referees and those team officials who assisted in officiating when there was a shortage of officials at games. Perhaps it was not ideal, but without those willing to help out, games would have been cancelled. Thank you for stepping up.

Some highlights of our 2021-2022 season: Scotiabank sponsorship, support for our U6-U9 skill groups (Matt Brown/Matthew Adams/Greg Rozitis), HP programming and rep skills for U11-U13 (Derek Popke), UBC coaches provided skill development for our U15/U18 rep teams (Graham Thomas, Mike Sommer), recreational support was provided through in practice visits to all teams (Mike Todd), additional in-season camps and clinics were available to members, Pro-Formance continued to provide goaltender support and development, coach mentoring and support (Stan Sibert), our best in class officiating program (Trevor Boudreau), introducing youth new to hockey through the First Shift program, hosting a U18 C Joe Morellato Scholarship game, our very popular Family Day Tournament, and our graduating U18 event.



Our Career Mentorship virtual evenings, Players Giving Back Program, Equipment Drive, and TBirds in the Community (food bank drives) continue to grow and provide opportunities for players to connect, learn, and grow within our community.

As communicated previously, Tanya Foley, our Executive Director, decided to pursue a sports related opportunity outside of TBirds and left our organization in April. Since joining TBirds, Tanya has worked tirelessly to develop our Association into a well-run, highly respected minor hockey program. Thank you Tanya!

Audrey White, moved into a newly created Operations Manager position and has and will continue to be integral in ensuring we are well positioned for the start of the season. Ann Mukai, Ice Allocator, Taylor Philips, Communications, Shannon Butler, Admin Assistant, Trevor Boudreau, Referee in Chief, Chris Eliopoulos, Equipment Manager, have all played a role in delivering a positive hockey experience for our players.

As we look ahead to next season, we are expecting to fully return to a traditional hockey season. We are excited to plan and build our community through in person events. We also know that should Covid throw a curveball, we are up for the challenge and will continue to focus on providing positive hockey experiences for our players and their families.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our staff, the tireless work of our directors, the commitment of our players, the hard work of our volunteers, and the support and input from our families. It is incredible and very humbling to witness what people can accomplish together. Skate, Shoot, Soar!

All the best,
Chantal Cotton
President

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Finance Report

We were very fortunate this season as the pandemic didn't impact the hockey operations as significantly as the previous year. As a result, the programming was pretty much back to "normal", including spring and summer camp programs, hosted tournaments, and most importantly a season generally uninterrupted by the pandemic with league games against teams outside of the Tbirds family.

This past season's financial results were positive, with net income higher than expected. The off-season camps, higher than expected rep tryout numbers, successful hosted tournaments, and additional government COVID wage relief contributed to the positive results. Although there was a return to regular programming, the reduced availability of ice times during the season, a shortage of referees, no volunteer appreciation night, a reduction in honorariums paid, and other costs that were lower than expected, all contributed to the positive financial result.

The 2022 season was also the second year of the Bursary program to help our Tbirds families in need. This year the program contributed over \$21,000.

We'd like to thank all the members this year for their support and look forward to a full return to regular programming!

Regards,

Frank Nishi
Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Kauffman
Associate Director, Finance



Director of Policy Report

Policy Updates

The following amendments were made to our policies for the 2021/22 season:

1) an update to P-8 Rep Hockey, which was revised as follows:

- a) Removal of outdated sections on strategic vision and core values which were created separately from the standard Vancouver Thunderbird overall vision and values. All divisions should follow the same vision, mission and values.
- b) Specific language included around TBirds being the priority over all other hockey programs. As well specific reference to adhering to our governing bodies' policies around involvement in non-sanctioned leagues.

2) an update to P-9 Rep Hockey Tryout Process, which was revised as follows:

- a) Removal of "process" elements. The specifics of the process should be communicated in early August to those participating but a policy should not include detailed logistics as it becomes very difficult to remain compliant in all elements as tweaks are required each year based on learnings but also on the numbers of players involved each year.
- b) A clearer policy around assessing an injured player. Having dealt with a few of these over the past four seasons, the policy was not clear in how to proceed.
- c) Inclusion of a note that the players are only being assessed based on their play at tryouts. This has been part of the communicated process but is one of the most asked questions and is greatly beneficial to have in the policy to direct families to.
- d) Timing of roster formation: previously it was set at 3 weeks from start of process. This worked well for those divisions we can do a concentrated beginning with at the end of August (U13 and U15) but becomes more difficult for the others who have to start after school is back in session. We will now communicate the timeline as part of the process communicated in early August each year with the intent to be able to be as close to a 3 week process for U13, U15 and U18. U11 will be dependent upon PCAHA and their scheduling plan.

3) an update to our P-24 COVID-19 Impact Policy, which was revised to align with the then current health guidance from our governing bodies and the provincial government.

Peter Tolensky
Director of Policy





U6-U9 Report

The U6-U9 Divisions were ecstatic to resume game play this season. For many, it was their first season with game play. The season began with assessments, followed by skill sessions, balancing drafts and of course games!

We are fortunate to have Derek Popke return for the 4th year as Hockey Advisor for our younger divisions and we welcomed Stan Sibert as the U7-U9 Coach Development Lead. Our U8 and U9 players had the incredible opportunity to participate in goalie training sessions with Pro Formance Goalie School, which was a big hit with our younger players.

During the season, the U6-U9 divisions had their first "Canucks Nite Out" where our families took in a Canucks game with Tbirds friends and family. It was a huge success and we look forward to hosting one next season!

With help support of Betty Chuck, the Tbirds Family Day tournament was planned in just three weeks! We hosted 50 teams with so many on our waitlist. We would not have been able to pull off the tournament without each and every family that volunteered from picking up dividers, sorting swag bags, to time keeping. We truly appreciate everyone coming together to make this event a huge success.

Lastly, we want to give a special and heartfelt THANK YOU to our amazing Division Ambassadors, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, On Ice Volunteers, Skills Managers, and Safety Persons who went above and beyond this season. We could not have navigated this "better than last COVID season" without you.

Until next season,
Rhiannon Wong, Director, U6-U9
Cecilia Rosner, Associate Director, U6-U9

Recreational Hockey Report

What a great 2021/22 season! Finally, back to "normal" after a couple tough COVID seasons. It was amazing to see all the smiles on faces both on the ice and in the stands. It was a fantastic year of competitiveness and fun. We were so fortunate, not only to have U11, U13, U15 and U18 with in Recreation, but also to have our U21 division return!

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I want to acknowledge and thank all the countless hours of volunteering from families that helped us run the season. From coach staff, Team managers, team treasurers, timekeepers and scorekeepers, fundraisers, and just those who cheered the kids from the stands. Your collective effort is what makes TBirds so great.

I would now like to acknowledge our amazing Division Ambassadors who put in so many hours to help each division run smoothly through the season:

U11 – Yuki Namekawa and Joanne Sharples

U13 – Ernest Au

U15 – Dian Moon and Gina Nasrabadi

U18 – Kalpna Dhanda and Karrie Bogart

Recreational Achievements

Congratulations to this year's winner's, including:

Playoff Banner winners:

- U13 C2, U15 C1, U15 C4

Team Achievement Awards:

- U11 C1, U15 C7, U18 C4

Teams that made Championship day:

- U11 C5, U11 C6
- U13 C3, U13 C4, U13 C5, U13 C6
- U15 C1, U15 C2, U15 C6
- U18 C1, U18 C3, U18 C4, U18 C6, U18 C8

PCAHA Scholarship Winners:

- Ryan Becker, Jonah Bogart, Ajel Dale, Carson Davis, Burke Morrison, Jacob Wong
- Bryn McColl – BC Hockey Officiating Scholarship

Thank you to all of our Recreational players and families for making this a very fun, successful season!!!

Jody Yau Director Recreational
Peter Tolensky Associate Director Recreational





Rep Hockey Report

Thanks to all the Thunderbird coaches, parents and guardians, and supporters who put in such a lot of time and effort to make the season great. There are so many roles to be filled and responsibilities on and off the ice to make a team even possible. Thanks to your efforts, the players will have developed lifelong friends and lasting memories.

This year PCAHA awarded the John Grisdale Scholarship Award to a Thunderbirds graduating player. Congratulations to Ryan Ho

The season ended with a range of team achievements:

League Winners GVC Flight 2 – U11 A2
Presidents Series Winners – U13 A4, U15 A3
Host for Final 4 for GVC Flight 2.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at the rink!

Bruce Gregg	Director Rep
Steve Gully	Associate Director Rep

Projects Report

Tournaments

Three tournaments were held by TBirds last year: Atom/Peewee A at Thanksgiving, Atom C at Remembrance Day, and Below Atom at Family Day. Our 27 TBird teams (about 425 players) hosted 53 visiting teams and about 550 visiting players. We had a profit of \$13,000 (FY2021 budget: breakeven). Due to a lack of city ice, we had to limit the number of visiting teams and had to purchase more expensive ice, which impacted our profitability.

Next year we will not be hosting a Thanksgiving tournament. It is always very rushed and is most impacted by lack of ice availability. Thanks again to Betty Chuck for making our tournaments run smoothly. Thanks also to all the sponsors, parents, TBird volunteers, Midget players, and TBird staff that worked hard to make our tournaments successful and fun events for all the kids.



Bursaries

Our bursary program continues to help kids and their families who need a little financial assistance. Last year we were able to help 26 kids with \$21,000 of bursaries.

Thanks also to all of you who participated in Thunder No-Ball as well as provided contributions during registration, which generated the \$27,000 in funding for this program this year. We look forward to continuing to provide a little help to those of our families who need it next year.

Clothing

Our partnership with Cyclone Taylor is deepening next year. We will see increased stock so much of the wait for clothing items will disappear. Also, the logistics will be improved... no more managers chasing players for sizing and cheques... simply go to the store on Oak Street and try on sizes when it is convenient for you. Heat press customization will be while you wait. Embroidery customization should be just a few days as the TBirds logos etc. will be pre-done. This will apply for both High Performance gear as well as regular gear such as socks, etc.

We will continue to offer a heavily discounted package for first year players.

Steve Gully
Director Projects

Fundraising Update

This season we continued with our 3 great fundraisers

FlipGive – 100% of all money made by the team went back to the team.

Purdy's – This fundraiser continues to be one way to support the association so we can keep registration fees as low as possible. This year, we as an association bought over \$40,000 worth of chocolate! That means that TBirds made over \$10,000 from this campaign. What a delicious way to raise money!

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Thunder-No-Ball – This is my personal favourite fundraiser of TBirds because 100% of the profit goes to support out TBirds Bursary Program which helps kids get on the ice who would not otherwise be able to afford the registration fee.

It was such a fun event and it would not be as great as it was without all the support from each team who put together amazing and diverse items for auction. This season we saw 612 total bids!

The total donations/auction items was - \$27,706.92

This was year #2 of us going to an on-line silent auction and take-out dinner night. We were so fortunate to be able to partner again with Biercraft as well as their new brand Community Taps & Pizza who supported us. I want to thank also, Brenda Goehring and Christine Briggs who organized all that amazing wine from all the teams.

Thank you to all families who participated in one or all of our fundraisers. We look forward to doing it again next season!!

Jody Yau Fundraising Chair
Patricia Tait Fundraising Support



Officiating Program Report

We recognize the challenge all associations had at the beginning of this season with the shortage of officials. This occurred because the season past, there were no games to officiate and with the uncertainty of Covid fewer officials than ever before were certified which carried forward into the start of this season. BC Hockey was diligent in hosting multiple clinics every weekend for returning officials. The Vancouver Thunderbirds led the province hosting 3 separate clinics for new officials and piloted 2 very successful "Try it" sessions for players wanting to see what officiating is all about without the commitment.

1. New Officials

- Piloted a very successful "Try it" ice session for players wanting to see what officiating is about.
- With 2 sessions and 52 participants we will certainly be offering this next year for anyone interested.
- 60 new officials were certified by the T-Birds this past season.

2. Supervisions & Shadows

- 105 games supervised – An outstanding achievement to get this many in.
- 33 games shadowed – Targeting more for next year.

3. On Ice Training Sessions

- 18 ice sessions to the end of January split between 2 try-it sessions, 3 carding clinics, 7 new official sessions, 3 returning official sessions, and 3 sessions for the High Performance Program

4. High Performance (HP) Program – 3 Sessions

- Nov 6 Early Season Preparation & Performance
- Dec 18 Qualities of a Successful Official
- Jan 29 Playoff Hockey
- 14 Participants from the T-Birds and surrounding associations attended all 3 sessions.

5. Officiating Awards

- Junior Official of the Year – **Jamie Song**
- Senior Official of the Year – **Brandon Park**

The Vancouver Thunderbirds Officiating Program is a provincially admired program.

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Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey Annual Awards

Congratulations to the 2021/2022 Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey Annual Award Winners.

- Brad Addison Award – Calum McLeod
- U11/U13 Coach of the Year – Sean Atkinson
- U15/U18 Coach of the Year – Jason Chiu
- William Staiger Award – Jens Persson-Thomas and Jordy Engleson
- Don Currie Award – Jim Davis
- Manager of the Year Award – Betty Chuck
- President's Service Award – Matt McColl
- Eliopoulos Outstanding Service Award – Greg Rozitis
- Junior Referee of the Year – Jamie Song
- Senior Referee of the Year – Brandon Park

Dale Cheney Grade 12 Scholarship Winners

- Cedric Armstrong
- Ryan Becker
- Brayden Chan
- Jack Cox
- Ajel Dale
- Carson Davis
- Luciano Faugno
- Ben Gutman
- Ryan Ho
- Andrew Joe
- Bradley May-Young
- Kade Manning
- Bryn McColl
- Tyler Mueller
- Matheson Ramage
- Forrest Rozitis
- Aranan Thayaparan
- Jacob Wong