

## 2021 AGM Report

### **Introduction**

Our goal every year within TASA is to continue to find ways to make the hockey experience a positive one for our kids, volunteers, and the coaches. Each time a player comes to the rink we want it to be best experience of their day or week. We will continue to keep this as our goal when implementing player development programs, and coach development opportunities.

### **Development Programs**

TASA takes a lot of pride in the camps we provide for our players. It has been our goal to offer TASA players not only additional development opportunities, but quality camps that allow for improvement. We want to establish a high standard within the camps where participants have a positive experience and build a strong skill base. Hockey is a very difficult sport and if we want to achieve our goal of making it a positive experience for kids it's important to over-emphasize the fundamental skills in the game.

Below is a list of camps offered last season:

Pre-season Camps: Power Skating; Position Specific (Forward, Defence, & Goaltending)

In-season Camps: September Development Camp (3 week camp prior to competitive tryouts); Power skating and Puck skills, Goaltending camp, & March break camp.

Spring Camp: This season we ran a 6-week skill development camp for U9-U18 which included goaltending instruction from Carter McMullin. The camp structure was practice 2x per week and 1 game on Sunday.

U7 3v3 Cross-ice Hockey: This camp ran for 6 weeks in the spring season introducing participants to a modified version of the game. Players were given a chance to compete against one another in a cross-ice hockey game.

TASA Checking Clinic: We hosted this camp at the end of April for all players moving into the U15 level next season. After the completion of this camp players were given certification to participate in checking hockey at the U15 level.

### **Coach Development**

Each year we do our best to provide our coaches with learning opportunities and equip them with resources to help with practices. The association purchased a subscription for each coach to a great online coaching resource called *Ice Hockey Systems*. In addition, we provided a drill of the week that was emailed to our coaches every Friday along with a short description of the skill within the drill and how we use it. Our goal from the association level is to create

consistency in what our coaches are teaching, and the weekly communication can help us achieve this.

Whenever we provide learning opportunities or resources for use, we are mindful that many of our volunteer coaches are parents and live very busy lives. The days of sitting in a classroom for coach education are mostly behind us. We want to create a coaching education program that is respectful of their time, and easy to access. We continued to offer on-line versions of presentations on different topics for coaches to watch at their own convenience, and along with the drill of the week we were able to communicate with our coaches more frequently. This past season coaches accessed a presentation on teaching skating by Derek Miller -- Ottawa 67s Skills Coach, as well as a presentation on puck skills by Dwayne Blais -- Washington Capitals Skills Coach. Our coach development opportunities will continue to complement and align with our goal of over-emphasizing the fundamental skills of the game.

In addition, we partnered with a few other neighboring associations to offer an out of season virtual coaching conference scheduled for the end of May. There is a great lineup of speakers from NHL skating coach Paul Matheson to the Director of Hockey Development for Hockey Canada Corey McNabb. This conference should attract coaches to take the time to tune in. Out of season learning opportunities like this one is something that we will continue to offer.

On-ice learning is our best way to share and help assist our coaches in developing the players within our association. We were able to offer a free on-ice fundamental skating clinic where we used it for both a learning opportunity for the players who attended but also for our coaches who were encouraged to attend. In addition to the skating clinic, we provided a similar opportunity for our goalies. Acadia Axemen goaltending coach Evan Mosher led a free goaltending clinic for both competitive and recreation levels. We offered a second session led by goaltending coach Carter McMullin. Both sessions were well attended, and coaches are always encouraged to join us on the ice.

Lastly, getting out and running practices for teams, and talking hockey with the coaches is always the best part of aiding our coaches within TASA. With Covid restrictions in place for a portion of the season this interrupted our regular schedule of getting out visiting team practices.

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