



Executive Report

Annual Congress Reports

USA Hockey, Inc.

PROGRAM SERVICES DEPARTMENT (2022-2023 Season)

2023 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The mission of Program Services is “To drive USA Hockey grassroots participation and volunteer growth through innovative programs and initiatives that increase awareness and access for all.”

REGISTRATION SUMMARY: 8U registrations continue to rebound from the COVID dip in numbers. Registrations grew slightly in 22- 23 to a total of 121,732. Total registrations at 8U grew at 1.9% year-over-year, largely driven by strong retention following last season’s robust influx of new (first-time) players. While the total grew just slightly by 1.9%, it’s worth noting that retained players were up 9.0% over last season, the highest percentage of retained 8U players in some time. The influx of new players last season is already seeing trends as total 9–14-year-olds grew just slightly by 0.6% and we expect the retention rate in that age category to increase as the new player base ages up. New boys grew in each of the age categories from 4-8 in 2022-23, yet only 5- year-old boys have fully returned to pre-Covid registration levels. Girls at 4 and 5 years old have yet to return to pre-Covid levels, 6, 7, and 8-year-old Girls outpaced pre-Covid levels in each of the last two seasons.

NHL/NHLPA Learn to Play Program: The NHL/NHLPA Learn to Play initiative continues to be a positive influence on participation. USA Hockey has worked in conjunction with the League and the Players Association, to make sure that all the NHL Clubs are seamlessly able to transition their participants into a continue-to-play option registered with USA Hockey. As part of the partnership with the NHL and NHLPA, they now cover 50% of the membership cost for Learn to Play memberships issued. This allows USA Hockey the ability to protect the participants, host sites, and NHL Clubs. USA Hockey also ensure coaches and administrators are completing ageappropriate coaching education and safety training.

IIHG GIRLS HOCKEY WEEKEND: Program Services helped organize Girls’ Hockey Weekend to celebrate, build awareness and grow girls’ hockey as part of the eighth-annual IIHF World Girls Ice Hockey Weekend on October 8th and 9th. Over 50 associations participated to find new and creative ways to celebrate female hockey players. Examples of some of the events that took place are rink open houses for current female players, town hall events to educate parents, and carnival-style off-ice celebrations. Program Services staff will be working in conjunction with the Girls Council to rebound to our previously high participation rates.

WELCOME BACK WEEK 2022: Welcome back week is an effort between Program Services and local



associations to invite players back that have not yet registered for the season. In addition to national registration reminders, associations are provided lists of unregistered players from the previous season as well as a handbook on best practices and tools to reach out to those players. Additionally, we continue to work with digital advertising to target all non-current members that registered or tried hockey with USA Hockey for the last three years during September. Individuals would have seen advertising to sign up with hockey on websites they visit and on their social media feeds.

TRY HOCKEY FOR FREE DAYS: National dates for the season were Nov 5th, 2022, and Feb 25th, 2023. National date events helped introduce over 13,000 new players to hockey. Associations continue to utilize the THFF platform for custom dates throughout the year, which not only ensures USA Hockey sanctioning and ease of participant registration, but also provides hosts with event guidelines, marketing materials and best practices.

OTHER PROGRAM SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS:

- We have already begun connecting with the newly formed Membership Council and look forward to renewed growth efforts locally with the council in place.
- Continued efforts to increase/retain membership by working closely other departments is evident with partnerships such as our Hockey Director/youth leader course and Game On Summit, program services exposure at events such as the Level 5 coaching symposium, and assisting other councils and committees with growth structures that program services has already built.
- Program Services will once again host meetings with our NHL growth counterparts, the NHL and NHLPA staff during annual meeting. Focus will be on shared initiatives and how we can better utilize data for growth action items.

SEASON END

USA Hockey Adult Hockey membership finished the 22-23 season at 166,462 members, 3.17% ahead of last season. The adult hockey staff along with the adult council, is continuing to focus on retention efforts, well- run USA Hockey adult events, and searching for new ways to add leagues and members as we continue the hard work of rebuilding adult hockey membership.

2022-2023 USA HOCKEY ADULT CLASSICS EVENTS

The Adult Classic tournament series are marquee events as a benefit of being a member with USA Hockey and remain popular. During this season six USA Hockey Adult Classic tournaments took place in Nashville, Las Vegas, Columbus, Lake Placid, Denver (women's), and finally saw a return to our very popular Anchorage adult classic. Events held in NHL markets ensured a schedule that allowed them to attend an NHL game via group tickets in partnership with those teams.

2023 USA HOCKEY ADULT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

USA Hockey's Adult Nationals were once again held in Wesley Chapel, FL. There were 110 teams across men's and women's nationals, with the women's 21+ division once again seeing the most exponential growth in participation with 20 teams overall. We hope to once again secure a national beer sponsor to



continue to provide additional benefits to our USA Hockey adult events.

2023 POND HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS The USA Hockey Pond Hockey National Championships are the highlight of USA hockey's adult events season. Due to detrimental weather conditions, the event took place this season at our alternate location- the Rinks at the Derby Complex in Eagle River, WI. Despite unseasonably warm weather throughout the weekend- all games took place and champions were crowned across 21 divisions with a total of 231 teams. Coors was a first-time sponsor for pond and we look forward to expanding on their involvement in future years. In addition to the outdoor hockey atmosphere, Pond Hockey is highlighted by unique event merchandise and prizing, local concessions on-site, and a wonderful host in the town of Eagle River, WI- who supplies the huge volunteer base that really makes the event happen.

AMERICAN COLLEGIATE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

The Adult Council has a long standing and successful partnership with the ACHA that has resulted in exceptional growth at the non-varsity college hockey level. We were thrilled to sign the ACHA for three more years as vital members of USA Hockey and are continuing to explore ways to increase our partnership opportunities for their player base.

SUMMARY AND ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

A focus of the 22-23 season was to increase engagement with our adult hockey membership and work more directly with affiliates on retaining existing leagues, presenting benefits of USAH membership to leagues that did not come back after Covid, and help currently registered leagues grow with new players. We will expand on those efforts with new strategies and support in place via the adult council and local affiliate leadership. Renewed efforts to be customer focused at all USA Hockey-run events will no doubt increase the relationship with our loyal tournament participants. We are focused on increasing revenues by both getting back to high participation numbers and offering additional benefits like high-quality merchandise and prizing. In addition to areas where we know we lost large numbers of registered adult players during the pandemic, the Adult Council and adult hockey staff will be leaning on local knowledge of lapsed leagues and other unregistered leagues as we look to increase membership numbers overall by providing excellent benefits both at a national and affiliate level. Efforts to re-engage our adult league operators have already begun by way of the Adult League Director Alliance and outreach to affiliates with support pieces for their local leagues. We are also working with partners like Pure Hockey to offer more adult-specific benefits.

COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM At the end of May 2023, the Coaching Education Program hosted the bi-annual USA Hockey Level 5 Coaching Symposium at the Sea Crest in Falmouth, Mass. Alongside the 436 coaches looking for their Level 5 coaching level in attendance included District Coaches-in-Chiefs (CICs), USA Hockey Staff, and Massachusetts Hockey staff making such a special experience. Speakers ranged from NHL coaches such as Jay Varady to current and former Massachusetts college coaches who face-off in the infamous The Beanpot tournament, such as hall of famers Jack Parker and Jerry York.



Also, they heard from Dartmouth Women's Head Coach and U18 Women's National Head Coach Liz Keady and U18 National Team Head Coach Dan Muse. Coaches received main stage presentations and breakout classes facilitated (on-ice, in the classroom and even some activities on the beach) by our Player Development Managers (PDM), content created with the curriculum committee. For inspired recap with photos and video click here for the summary:
https://www.usahockey.com/news_article/show/1273112

Over the past year, there have been 8 different Coach Developer Academies (CDAs) hosted across the country working with over 250 Coach Developers to facilitate the Coaching Curriculum across the country.

Coach-in-Chiefs have added back a third in person meeting to discuss and vet out improving the program. This includes focusing on growth and retention of coach developers, an updated CIC handbook, budgeting, clinic season role out, job descriptions and more.

This past season, the previous Age Specific Modules (ASM) were completed by 29,885 coaches. This upcoming season, the 8U, 10U, 12U and 13+ modules have been launched and used by over 2,000 coaches to date. The modules have been designed to be less repetitive, more engaging, and more effective using adult learning techniques. The modules were designed in collaboration with EmergelD, a curriculum and technology Learning Management System (LMS) company.

The entire program hosted 618 coaching clinics ranging from Level 1 through Level 4 this past hockey season. These clinics serviced 29,596 hockey coaches across the country. The National staff rolled out the preliminary season of the updated Level 4 curriculum, which was developed by the Coaching Curriculum Committee. This upcoming season, the Level 4 curriculum will be presented by the Coaching Section.

A curriculum sub-committee was created to review and suggest changes to curriculum's A, B, and C. Those changes were reviewed and the agreed upon and will be implemented in the upcoming season.

Continuing Education opportunities have started to become available to coaches in need. There has been upwards of 10+ opportunities, including the Level 5 for the returners to that event. Moving forward there will be even more opportunities available to all the coaches via zoom, online modules, national and local clinics, and third-party events.

The USA Hockey Podcast has been a success in its infant stage with over 300 followers and over 5,000 plays through 14 episodes and 3 listening platforms. Currently, people have listened to the podcast from 25 different countries. The show has had USA Hockey Staff, hockey and youth sports experts and others on as guests, such as Performance Mindset Coaching experts, various USA Hockey staff, collegiate coaches, NHL youth hockey development programs and more.



Click here to tune in: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/usa-hockey/>

Collaboration between the Coaching Education (CE) and Officiating Education (OE) continues as the Officiating Education Program (OEP) further develops the new Level 1 curriculum. Areas of overlap and opportunities to present similar or the same information to both coaches and officials continue to be identified and integrated into both educational curriculums. A female coaching (and coaches of female players) event was held in conjunction with the Women's Frozen 4 in Duluth, Minnesota. Forty local youth, high school and college coaches attended a social/networking event during the games on that Friday. On the next Saturday morning, 30 coaches returned for a coaching education event (CE credits were for Level 4 and Level 5 attendees). Amber Frykland (ACIC, MN), and coach developers Tracy Johnson and Ashley Holmes, along with Kris Wing (CIC – Female Development) and Heather Mannix (Manager, Education) held a 2-hour event where small groups rotated through several 25–30-minute discussion on topics including Bench Management, Off-Ice Training, Confidence, Managing and Navigating being a Female in a Male Dominated Environment, and Feedback for USAH on How To Better Support Female Coaches.

A Level 1, 2, and 3 assessment subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee reviewed and assessed suggestions from Coach Developers delivering the curriculum over the last year. The curriculum committee values collaboration between volunteers and staff and this is another example of ensuring more voices are heard to confirm we're creating the best content possible for our coaches. The Subcommittee included Jim Clare, Daniel Gomez, Bob Deraney, and Larry Rocha. They met for over 7 hours as a group to discuss suggested changes and then presented those changes to the curriculum committee.

During this time, the Coach Developer Academy (CDA) curriculum committee met weekly to prepare for the next season of the Coach Developer Academies. From April 14-16, 2023, Dallas, Texas was the proud host of the first Coach Developer Academy of the year, and Detroit, Michigan followed as the second on May 19-21st. Notably, this year's CDA is unique in that it caters to two different tracks, each designed to meet the needs of new and more experienced CDs.

Track 1 attendees (16 in Dallas, 28 in Detroit) delved into the basics of the facilitation process and were introduced to the curriculum and technology required to produce clinics. Meanwhile, Track 2 (13 in Dallas, 29 in Detroit) participants were treated to a deeper understanding of the theoretical constructs of the curriculum and given opportunities to support their Track 1 counterparts.

GOALTENDING

Goaltending NHL Partnerships:

For the 2022-2023 season we partnered with the Boston Bruins for the annual Silver Goalie Coach Developer Course. It was an incredible partnership which led to the first ever NHL Intermission Cross-Ice



Goalie Scrimmage where all eight of the youth goalies were in equipment that matched Jeremy Swayman's and Linus Ulmark's pads. The goalies finished the intermission with an 8-year-old goalie hug and the sold-out crowd when bananas. The day before the game we also had a few youth goalies out with the Boston Bruins and Goalie Coach Bob Essensa. The kids received a few shots on the ice from a few of the Bruins players and were coached up by Swayman. We were very happy with the event and look forward to hosting it again next season with a new NHL partner!

In addition to the CEP partnership, this season we also worked with the Anaheim Ducks on a goaltending growth initiative. Their program has seen a very steep reduction in goaltenders, and we worked together on building strategies for growth next season. We are hopeful that they new ideas will be executed within the next year and in response there will be more kids in the net with all of their teams. If any other clubs are having similar shortages, please let us know!

Goaltending Coaching Education Programs –

During the 22-23 season our Goalie CEP team certified 212 bronze coaches and 47 silver coaches. This brings us to a total of 1794 bronze, 183 silver, and 20 gold level coaches as we head into next season. We're in the process of surveying all previously certified coaches to get a better understanding on the demand for our silver and gold course next season. We've capped our silver course at 50 coaches the past two years and may open that up a bit if we see a high participation rate of current bronze coaches who are interested in taking the silver next season. We are also committed to hosting our first gold course in its new format which we're really excited with more details to come. Overall, we're very happy with the product and quality of coach that leaves our courses. The biggest hurdle is bringing awareness to the goalie track, as many coaches at the Level 5 this season still mentioned that they had never heard of the goalie courses. We've been hosting these courses for over 5 years now and we need to make these courses a bigger priority if we want to see real change. In addition to the Goalie CEP track, we also partnered with the San Jose Jr Sharks, Michigan High School Hockey, and all of the Anchorage, Alaska youth hockey clubs to host a two-day coaching symposium which was all about how to best help your goalies in practice. These events were very well attended and received high praise from the coaches in attendance. That has inspired us to host more next season. If you know of any other clubs who may benefit from an event like this, please let us know.

Goaltending Development –

During the 22-23 season we hosted a 15's Goalie Camp in conjunction with our Girls National Player Development Camp for the very first time and with our Boys National Player Development Camp for the 5th year. Both were very well received, and the goalie parents have been over the moon appreciative for the additional attention and development. We also held District goalie camps in Pacific, Minnesota, and Northern Plains which also have been very well received. Our goal is to continue to grow that program and to ultimately host those events in all 12 of our districts in the future.



We made road show stops to Buffalo, New York and Burlington, Vermont this season to host some local goalie development camps. For both free goalie clinics we opened it up to first come first serve and saw over 100 goalies register at each location. It was very promising to see the turn out and all the parents asked for more opportunities in the future, which we'd like to host in all affiliates soon. Lastly, we hosted our 5th annual National Team Goalie Camp for our World Juniors and Women's National Team goalie prospects in Plymouth, Michigan. Gold Medal winning goalies, Aerin Frankel and Trey Augustine, were in attendance and we're very proud of the product that we provide for our countries best net minders. Our goal is to make our country's best, the world's best and we believe we take a step forward within that mission each May.

Goaltending Growth:

As mentioned above, we partnered with the Anaheim Ducks to help solve a goalie shortage problem that they are working through. We discussed equipment, programming, coaching, and recruitment strategies to increase the supply of goalies in their market. We also held try goalie for free events in Buffalo, NY and Burlington, VT. Both sessions were sold out in days and we're very confident that if we host more clinics and bring more positive awareness to the position that we will in fact see more goalies. Katie Holmgren will be joining our June Goaltending Summit to better equip our local GDCs next season to host these events.

June 1-4, 2023 is hosting 50 Goaltending Staff for training that will be for the first time since 2016 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. By the end of the weekend the attendees will have worked through strategies to grow goaltending participation, learn the entire USA Hockey Goaltending Coaching Curriculum, and review best practices for evaluations.

HIGH SCHOOL

The High School section has taken a new look this year under the leadership of Don Wright. Under Don's leadership the section has discussed ways to make the section more valuable to the HS Membership. This year the women's division introduced four new teams to HS Nationals. The section has discussed ways to modify the look of Nationals in a way that will create more parity across all divisions of Nationals. The prep division in 2023 HS Nationals took the approach of having a division with the best teams rather than what they classify as. The games were closer and more competitive as a result. As the section continues to evolve, we feel Nationals will not only grow to more teams but will be more competitive in the future.

Also, Don has implemented a questionnaire for the section to look at all aspects of the section and find ways to be more relevant and in line with the youth section and HS Membership. Growth and opportunity will still be a strong focus moving into the Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

USA Hockey has prepared, presented, and completed our premier youth hockey event for National



Championships at 9 different locations. We crowned 27 different National Championship teams within 17 different divisions. We had 291 teams total participating across all the Divisions. Approximately 6,601 players took part in the 2023 National Championships. Currently, Youth Council is in the process of reviewing the 2023 USA Hockey Nationals procedures and working on a plan for improvements for the 2024 National Championships. Thank you to everyone involved who made this year's 2023 Chipotle-USA Hockey National Championships the best one to date. We are already meeting and preparing for the 2024 season and there is an updated change to the Nationals format. Each division will end on Sunday this upcoming season.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CAMPS

The National Office is preparing for the upcoming 2023 USA Hockey BioSteel Player Development Camps including but not limited to setting up the accommodators, catering, scheduling, apparel and more. Here are the dates for the 2023 Player Development Camps.

The Boys 17 Camp has taken on a new look. The name has been changed to the "Boys National 17 Festival" for this year and will be made up with a team from each of the twelve (12) districts.

Players from the Boys 17 Festival will be evaluated and chosen to attend the Hlinka Gretzky Cup Camp which will take place July 20-24, 2023 at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth, Michigan. Those chosen from the Hlinka Camp will play for the U.S. Under-18 Select Team during international competition, the Hlinka Gretzky Cup Tournament in August 1-6, 2023, in Czechia and Slovakia.

Players from the Boys 16 Camp will be evaluated and chosen to play for the Under-17 Select Team playing in an international competition, the Five Nations Tournament, which takes place in August 2023 in Czechia.

The Girls Player Development Camps announced the new location beginning with the upcoming 2023 camps. The camps will be held in Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Player Development Committee held its first meeting on October 17, 2022, via Zoom. The committee is chaired by Pacific Director, Kris Knauss. Committee members discussed the proposed new changes to the Boys National 17 Festival camp format. This proposal will return the format to a District Festival tournament format. Many details were laid out by Bob Mancini, Assistant Executive Director, Hockey Development. The committee also listened to a Pilot 8U half-season full ice waiver brought forward by George Atkinson, President Michigan Amateur Hockey Association. Following extensive discussion, the voting members convened and defeated the proposal.

The National Player Development Committee met December 16, 2022, via Zoom to discuss the potential changes leading to the modernization of the Boys National 17 Festival camp in Buffalo, NY. The



committee also reviewed legislative pilot proposals dealing with a potential Youth 13 Only National Championship that, if passed would begin in 2024. Additional pilot proposals discussed dealt with vertical movement within associations at the 15U, 16U and 18U Levels, and increased roster size at 18U. The last pilot proposal discussed would allow affiliate controlled junior leagues junior for players that reside in that affiliate. The committee also listened to a Pilot 8U half-season full ice waiver brought forward by George Atkinson, MAHA President. Following extensive discussion, the voting members convened and defeated the proposal.

The National Player Development Committee met January 12, 2023, at USAH Winter Meetings. The committee continued discussions for the potential changes to the Youth National 17 camp in Buffalo, NY. The changes would move the National 17 Camp to a District tournament format. Bob Mancini and Mark Tabrum updated the committee on the restructured format and district player allotment for the camp. Ken Martel gave an update on the playing standards of 8U Hockey and the registration success of 8U numbers from 2009-10 to 2022-23. The committee discussed some concerns with players who enter the category at a young age. The committee also reviewed legislative pilot proposals dealing with potential Youth 13O National Championships, Vertical movement within associations at the 15U,16U,18U Levels, and increased roster size at 18U. All 3 proposals were voted in at the subsequent Board of Governors Meeting held on January 15, 2023.

The National Player development Committee met February 16, 2023, via Zoom. The committee was presented with a National Goaltending Update from Steve Thompson. Steve spoke on the goals of the upcoming Affiliate, District and National Player Development Camps.

Also, Representing the Girls National Player Development Camps: Joe Eppolito (Girls Council Member) Don Gould (Girls Council Chair), Kristen Saegert (Manager, Female Development) and Mark Tabrum (Director, Youth Hockey) updated the committee on the upcoming move from St Cloud State University to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Each representative mentioned how well the camps were managed in St Cloud, however due to many changes, a change was necessary, and Miami has presented an outstanding environment to make the switch.

The National Player Development Committee met April 20, 2023, via Zoom and spent most of the time receiving an update on the new format for our Boys National 17 Festival Camp. Mancini and Tabrum provided the details on Player selection at District Camps, Player allotment, At-Large process and the expectations and responsibilities of all staff at the camp. Also, Tabrum provided a viewing of the National Camp Uniforms for each district at the camp.

The Player Development Committee will meet in person at the USAH June Annual Meeting.



OFFICIATING EDUCATION

Staff:

After 28 years of dedicated service as our director of the Officiating Education Program, Matt Leaf has recently left USA Hockey to pursue other interests and challenges in the game of ice hockey. The Officiating and Hockey Development departments, in addition to USA Hockey thank him for three decades of hard work with both the Officiating Section and Playing Rules Committee. Upon learning about Matt's departure, the Officiating Department staff met with Mancini to discuss operations and staffing within the department moving forward. The decision has been made not to find a replacement for the director position. Instead, Matt's duties will be shared among current and added staff with a new structure. Scot Zelkin will be reassigned as the Director of Advanced Officiating Development and continue with leading the rebranded Advanced Officiating Program. BJ Ringrose will be reassigned as the Manager of Youth Officiating Development, and work closely with both the current Coordinator of Youth Officiating Development (Billy Hancock) and an additional coordinator set to be hired later this year. An additional position related directly to officiating education will also be hired (see below).

Registration:

USA Hockey's game official membership registrations have reached our second-highest total ever at just over 28,300 (surpassing 26,000 officials for the first time since the 2010-11 season). This marks a 15% growth in overall membership and 28% growth in Level 1 officials over the 2021-22 totals. To continue recruitment and growth, the Officiating Program continues to redevelop the Level 1 classroom seminar curriculum in a manner that more efficiently teaches new officials the fundamentals of officiating in a practical and engaging learning environment. This will include a Virtual (Zoom) Classroom Session that will be conducted by a core group of instructors managed by the national staff, and an In-Person Classroom Session coordinated locally by volunteer District and local staff which will include a classroom and on-ice session. Registration for the 2023-24 season will open on June 1, 2023, with classroom seminars starting in mid to late June. Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4 classroom seminars will all be Virtual Classroom Sessions this season as we continue to streamline registration, while enhancing the quality of our education.

Advanced Officiating Symposium:

The 2023 Advanced Officiating Symposium is set for Columbus, Ohio on July 28-30, 2023. This year's program will feature presentations and group-panel discussions by game officials working the National Hockey League, and IIHF and collegiate assignments. Additionally, some of USA Hockey's biggest influencers in the field of hockey development (volunteer and staff) will contribute their insight and support with how to improve competitive culture, environment, and officiating development in the hockey community.

Officiating Education Materials:

In addition to the hard-copy 2021-25 USA Hockey Playing Rules and Casebook that all member officials



receive, our officiating manuals (Basic, Intermediate and Advanced) and other resources continue to be available to all members at the Officials section of USAHockey.com. Furthermore, the USA Hockey Mobile Rulebook App (for Apple and Android) continues to be a valued resource with many positive online reviews.

Looking beyond our publications, our in-season education features including Clip-of-the-Week, Ask the Official, Rule-of-the-Day and Weekly Puck Drop newsletter will resume after September 1, 2023. New

Officiating Education Position:

The Officiating Program will add one new staff position within the Hockey Development department. The Manager of Officiating Education will work closely with the Manager of Education and Coaching Education staff to continue building consistent and valuable curriculum for officiating seminars and coaching clinics, online video modules and manuals. The search to fill this position will begin this summer (2023) with the hope to have the new hire ready by the start of the 2023-24 Season.

ADVANCED OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT

As the 2022-23 Junior Hockey Season draws to a close the Junior Officiating Development Program (JODP), soon to be re-branded as the Advanced Officiating Program had another successful year. 273 different officials were assigned to officiate hockey across the NA3HL, NAHL and USHL with coaching and development being the main goal for officials in the program. Coaching and development were done through camps, virtual and in-person meetings and game-specific feedback by one of the program's Officiating Coaches. Younger and less experienced officials were able to learn the craft of officiating by starting out in the NA3HL and advancing up to the NAHL while the more experienced and refined officials worked their way through the NAHL and into the USHL. The top group of officials in the program were able to not only work in the USHL but also received opportunities in Div. 1 NCAA and professional hockey in both the ECHL and AHL. When looking at the officiating assignments at the conclusion of all the major hockey in North America and in certain cases around the world, ODP Graduates were involved and on the ice. ODP Officials and graduates were all significant contributors to the 2023 IIHF World Juniors, U18 and World Championships along with the German DEL Final.

It should also be noted that the JODP continues to work closely with all leagues that are "above" Jr. Hockey such as the NHL, AHL, ECHL and all Div. 1 NCAA conferences. We have committed to the NHL to continue to use officials that they have identified as prospects in addition to traditional USA Hockey officials. This means that we have helped to register them and then assign and coach them in our various Junior leagues. Kendall Hanley, Manager of Officiating for the NAHL has been integral in the recruiting and development process for our younger officials, helping to strengthen the pool of officials we have to draw from. The PWHPA playoffs and PHF regular season and playoffs concluded in April. The partnership with USA Hockey's Officiating Program has resulted in our top female officials gaining valuable experience at an additional 80 high level Women's games this past season. Internationally, the USA Hockey Officiating Program continues to be a leader. The International Ice Hockey Federation



licensed 65 USA Hockey officials (35 Female & 30 Male) for international competitions for the 2022-23 season. Among this group the IIHF assigned 7 USA Hockey officials to the Women's World Championships in Brampton, Canada and 4 USA Hockey officials to the Men's World Championships in Tampere, Finland and Riga, Latvia. Additionally, the IIHF utilized 8 individuals as staff at various events with Keith Kaval, Mat Leaf, Jessica LeClerc, Stacey Livingston, Mellissa Szkola and Scot Zelkin serving as Officiating Coaches while BJ Ringrose and Tim Serratore served as Video Review Consultants and Officiating Coaches. Scot Zelkin is also a member of the IIHF Officiating Committee which helps set direction and policy for the IIHF's Officiating department and program.

YOUTH OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT

Hockey Week Across America, Meet the NHL Officials was hosted in February 2023. All American NHL teams participated in addition to six AHL teams. In total, we had over 60 grassroots officials who were able to partake in a quick meet and greet with the on-ice officials working each game. Each participant received two tickets to the game, one for themselves and one for a parent/guardian. Many teams went beyond to make their experience a once-in-a-life time night. This included taking the ice for a hot lap and standing by the on-ice officials' side for the National Anthem. Working an intermission youth shootout and being honored mid-game.

All the NHL teams have reached out committing to having more opportunities in future promotions, such as celebrating youth hockey and female in hockey celebrations.

The 2023 USA Hockey Youth, Girls and High School Nationals concluded with roughly 350 officials representing all USA Hockey Districts participating. This year marks the highest percentage of female officials working the Girls and High School events, and a complete list of officials who worked the various championship games were shared on the Officiating Program twitter channel this week (April 10):

- Youth: <https://twitter.com/USAHOfficiating/status/1645444863629094912?s=20>
- Girls: <https://twitter.com/USAHOfficiating/status/1645445173802049536?s=20>
- High School: <https://twitter.com/USAHOfficiating/status/1645445364013744129?s=20>

The officiating program will continue to host its summer development camp programs from June through July in 2023. This year's programs will include roughly 125 officials from across the country and include on-ice skill development, classroom instruction and game performance feedback. With the assistance of Brian Murphy, our Officiating Program of Merit will feature an instructor staff of active NHL Officials, and we expect management representatives from professional and collegiate leagues to attend for scouting opportunities.

13+ PLAYER DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The 13+ Pod started the season with a Tier 1 Conference in conjunction with the U17 5 Nations Tournament in Colorado Springs. Over 40 representatives of Tier 1 programs joined to discuss issues to



help promote the best interests of Tier 1 hockey across the country. As the season moved forward, the 13+ team worked with many different entities representing athletes 13 and older.

The 13+ Pod is looking forward to hosting the first Girls Tier Community Conversation to be held around Girls National Camps in Oxford, OH

12U PLAYER DEVELOPMENT TEAM

This season the 12U team has created and completed the piloting of a 'teaching skating' course that can be delivered to local programs or regionally at various Affiliate events. Our player development team is now set to deploy the course with plans to deliver it in each district. Player feedback (10- to 12-year-olds), has been extremely enthusiastic with the coaches subsequently reporting that the players continue to ask for the same content in their everyday training. USA Hockey's Level 5 Symposium also provided an opportunity for the 12U team to create and test, through the 6 breakout sessions, a shortened version of our physical literacy curriculum. The feedback has been very positive.

SAHOF ANNUAL REPORT

RULE CHANGES

SFHL

- **Annual Applications** due June 20th

- **Team Composition:** Each organization will be required to designate one coach (preferably but not necessarily the Hockey Director) to complete ALL age division modules, so they are eligible to fill in for any late notice coach absences during the season.

- **Jerseys:** Should the SFHL deem the jerseys to not be definitively dark or light, the league reserves the right to require the organization to provide an additional or alternate set of jerseys.

- **Jersey Number 0/00:** A team may have only one player on its roster with the number 0 or 00.

- **Fine for Failure to Play:** Any SFHL team that does not show up to play in a scheduled league game, without prior approval by the league, will have their association assessed a \$1,000.00 fine **per occurrence**. If the fine is not paid in its entirety within 30 days or 7 days prior to the SAHOF State Championships, whichever comes first, the specific team will not be eligible for the SAHOF State Championships. Should the team fail to qualify for the SAHOF State Championships or already be ineligible for the SAHOF State Championships, then the fine shall be increased to \$2,500 per occurrence. The fined association will not be allowed to participate in the SFHL at any level the following year until the fine is paid.



- **RESCHEDULE MINIMUM NOTICE:** Any reschedule request that is NOT communicated to the SFHL Commissioner before 8:00am on the Saturday prior (minimum 7 days advance notice) to the weekend's games being rescheduled will result in the team requesting the reschedule being responsible for paying the officials for the rescheduled game(s) and the rink for the ice rental for the game(s) regardless of whether the game(s) is/are played or not. Additionally, any reschedule request (for any reason including but not limited to illness) received less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled game time will only be granted if agreed to by the opposition. The opposition is under no obligation to agree to the reschedule and the SFHL will not step in to force a team to reschedule. Should the opposition decline the request to reschedule, then the game shall be played as scheduled. Should the team requesting the reschedule not participate in the game, the game shall be ruled a forfeit in favor of the non-forfeiting team, and the ice costs and referee costs will become the responsibility of the forfeiting team. The non-forfeiting team will be permitted to use the ice for practice. The forfeiting team's organization will also be subject to the sanctions noted in Section A Rule 12 above. A reschedule request MUST be received by the commissioner of the SFHL via EMAIL communication only and the time stamp on the email will serve as the official time of notification. Phone calls or text messages will NOT be accepted as official notification methods.

- **Suspensions:** NOTE: Suspensions resulting from Fighting (USA Hockey Rule 615) incurred during an SFHL game MUST be served during SFHL games. If the offending player's team's immediately next game is a non-SFHL game, the player must serve the suspension in that immediately next USA Hockey sanctioned game PLUS the immediately next SFHL game

- **Emergency Goalie:** An Emergency Goalie is a goaltender that can play a limited number of games as a substitute only in the instance that a team's rostered goalie(s) is/are not available to play. For the purposes of this rule only, 'A-Orange', 'A-Black' and 'AWhite' are all considered to be 'A'. The following stipulations apply:

a) The Emergency Goaltender MUST be from the same age classification or younger as the team seeking the emergency goalie.

b) A goaltender from the same age classification MUST be from the same level (e.g. 'A' or 'AA') or below as the team he/she will be the Emergency Goalie for OR can be from a lower age classification at one higher skill level 'A' or 'AA' (e.g. a 14U AA goalie can be an Emergency Goalie for a 16UA team but cannot for a 14UA team).

c) 'AAA' / Tier I / Full season Alliance goalies cannot be an Emergency Goalie in the SFHL.

d) The Emergency Goalie MUST be from the same organization as the team he/she will be the Emergency Goalie for. If an Emergency Goalie is not available from within the same organization, an Emergency Goalie may be recruited from another organization and currently playing in the SFHL provided the team has prior authorization from the coach or hockey director of the other organization to ask one of their goalies and proper authorization from the coach or hockey director to borrow one of their goalies should they agree to play. If the emergency goaltender is recruited from outside the SFHL, then the commissioner of the SFHL must approve this Emergency Goalie based on the level he/she is



currently playing. In addition, the opponent in the game must also agree to allow an Emergency Goalie from another organization or from outside the SFHL to play in the game with the knowledge that if they agree to it, the game will count in the standings. Approval from the opposing coach is NOT required if the Emergency Goalie is from the same organization.

e) A team may only use an emergency goalie for a maximum of 4 SFHL League games (the SFHL reserves the right to make an exception to this rule due to extenuating circumstances such as injury).

f) A specific goalie may only act as an Emergency Goalie for a maximum of 4 SFHL League games.

g) The Emergency Goalie will not be added to the USAH roster of the team that requires the Emergency Goalie. SFHL Rules & Regulations 2023-24

h) In all instances, SFHL MUST Be notified by the ADD A PLAYER deadline of the Thursday at 9PM prior to the games. SFHL may make exceptions to this deadline under certain circumstances, including but not limited to injury.

i) The Emergency Goalie must be a currently registered member of USA Hockey, must currently reside in the state of Florida AND must be currently playing on a team or in a program registered with USA Hockey in the state of Florida. A goalie who is rostered on a team outside the state of Florida whose level cannot be objectively determined, is ineligible to be an EMERGENCY GOALIE.

j) If a team is requesting an Emergency Goalie because one goalie on the roster is serving a suspension, the request shall be denied. The team will be required to dress a player as a goalie.

Playing Up

- Only 3 8U players per organization are permitted to play up to 10U. All players must have played for that Member Organization the previous season.

- 10U players are only permitted to move up provided they play 12U AA. All players must have played for that Member Organization the previous season.

8U Statewide Jamborees

- 6 to 7 events scheduled per team

- Major and Minor divisions

- At minimum 4 local and 2 out of area events

- new committee meeting to work on format and schedule for 2023-24 season (Mimi Sellian, Chair)

ADM Growth & Grants

- Community First Igloo, Jacksonville, FL – Grow the Game initiative
- **DEI** - SAHOF working in conjunction with Anthony Duclair and his foundation. Pete Worrell attended DEI and Leadership Task Force – Nashville, TN
- Grant for Referee mentorship

Officials

- SAHOF Referee Summit
- Referee Mentorship during SAHOF Player Development



- Statewide initiative to recruit more officials continues.
- Working on incentive program to retain experienced officials.
- Working with RIC and group of most experienced officials to provide training and development for new officials (monthly Zoom Meetings)

Safe Sport and Discipline

- SAHOF with 97% completion rate for all coaches 2022/23 season.
- The SAHOF Executive Committee appointed Jim Haverstrom as our SafeSport Co-Coordinator.
- SAHOF implemented the position of Disciplinary Coordinator. The Disciplinary Coordinator works with SFHL Executive Committee, Disciplinary Chairs and Disciplinary Committee to coordinate video review, match penalty hearings and communicates all findings and decisions.
- Creation of Anti-Bullying Policy

High School

- East and West Coast leagues continue to run separately but our HS Committee comprised of representatives from both Lightning and Panther Conference collaborate on all major and minor decisions.
- SAHOF High School committee is still actively looking to expand High School hockey in Orlando, Fort Myers and Jacksonville. Spring programs underway.
- Lightning and Panthers Conference both continue to field Pure and Composite divisions.

Player Development

- SAHOF conducted Boys Player Development Camp scheduled for April 28-30th 2023 at Hertz Arena – Estero, FL for 2006-2009.
- Steve Lynch and Cindy Friedman acting Directors.
- Some changes made to camp: invite system was initiated, 84 players max per level (12F, 6D, 3G)
- Camp sold out in 7 days
- SAHOF allocation per age level to Southeast District Camp
 - 2006 – 2G, 14F, 5D
 - 2007 – 2G, 14F, 5D
 - 2008 – 2G, 13F, 6D
- SAHOF advancement to National Camp
 - 2006 – 1G, 2F, 2D (5 of 13)
 - 2007 – 1G, 2F, 1D (4 of 11)
 - 2008 – 1G, 3F, 3D (7 of 14)
- Continue to use Team Genius handheld evaluation tool which has been a great success

Florida Alliance

- Boys 18U North advanced to Nationals
- Girls 19U and 16U Tier I advanced to Nationals



- Florida Alliance entered into a service agreement with TPH for South 14U, 15U, 16U and 18U teams (23-24)
- Florida Alliance boys participating in T1EHL (TPH) (23-24)
- Statewide Boys teams 12U, 13U, 14U, 16U and 18U (Independent schedule)
- 2011-2014 Tournament Teams – Tryouts in August
- 4 Girls Full Season Tier I – 19U, 16U, 14U and 12U.
2 Full Season Tier II 19U and 14U (23-24).
3 12U and 10U DEV 12U T1 & TII and 10U TI