

Eric J. Lewanski  
10681 Golden Eagle Trail  
Woodbury MN 55129  
(651) 216-8858  
[Eric.j.lewanski@gmail.com](mailto:Eric.j.lewanski@gmail.com)

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Dear WAHC Nominating Committee,

I am declaring interest in serving on the WAHC Board as Goalie Director for the period of 4/30/2026 to 4/30/2028. I currently have three hockey players in the WAHC program: Irena Lewanski (8U), Adeline Lewanski (10U), and Grant Lewanski (PeeWee).

I started playing hockey at the age of six in Hastings, MN, and progressed through A Bantams and Junior Varsity at Hastings High School as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader before receiving a career-ending concussion. I have coached (head and assistant coaching roles) multiple teams (Termites through PeeWee) at WAHC, Reston Raiders Hockey Club (Reston, Virginia), and North Virginia Hockey Club (Alexandria, Virginia) since 2021. In the current season, I head-coached the 8U Royal Team and assistant-coached the 10U B2 Royal Team and PeeWee C Black Team. I am a Level 5 USA Hockey Coach and completed both the USA Hockey Bronze and Silver Goaltending Certification Courses. I am currently active with the MN Armed Forces Hockey Tournament and several Veterans Service Organizations, including previously serving as President of the Northstar Chapter of the Military Intelligence Corps Association.

I am interested in becoming a WAHC board member because I am passionate about hockey and coaching young athletes. Coaching and developing youth goaltenders requires special emphasis and attention for all youth hockey associations. Having observed WAHC teams without a goalie due to injuries and transfers in past seasons, I aim to prioritize, optimize, and incentivize the WAHC goaltender program. My coaching philosophy is anchored on three pillars critical to the game of youth hockey: 1) fostering a fun and competitive environment, 2) respect for the game, players, coaches, and officials, and 3) hockey skill and physical development.

I strive to provide a positive on- and off-ice experience for athletes and fellow coaches during practices, off-ice training, and games. Developing coaches is a critical component of a youth hockey association, and if elected to the board, I will prioritize developing a goalie coach for each team. The American Development Model (ADM) is a foundational framework that all youth hockey associations should follow to guide practice planning, coaching concepts, and athlete development. A youth hockey association should enable, mentor, and support coaches in developing age-appropriate practices and drills in accordance with ADM guidelines.

Kind Regards,  
Eric Lewanski