



## 2024-25 Year in Review Board Highlights

As we look ahead to the **2025-26 season**, we wanted to pause and celebrate all of the great work that went into making this past season a success. While it's impossible to share every detail of what goes on behind the scenes, here's a recap of accomplishments:

### GENERAL

- ***Congratulations players!*** Association numbers are holding steady and we had **488 skaters** on the ice this year. This was our second highest number of skaters since 2017. Let's keep it going!
- ***Thank you volunteers!*** All said and done, more than **37,000 volunteer hours** were contributed to the organization by parents, coaches, tournament volunteers, committee members and Board members. Thank you for your dedication to the EPHA.
- **Post-season play:** We had **5 Regional** participants, **2 State** participants and our **Bantam C** team were the **District 6 champions** and we had a number of second place finishes.
- **(Upcoming) Registration changes:** We've been planning ahead in order to open registration on **July 1, 2025**. This will allow us to have a better gauge on team sizes, jersey needs and ice demand. Stay tuned for more details. **Hockey Development Committee:** Reactivated and evolved the Player Development Committee to the **Hockey Development Committee** and added a mission, purpose, and strategic goals. [Learn more](#).
- ***New election process:*** Proposed and voted in a **new election and position seating** process to reduce position churn and misalignment. Individuals now run for a specific position instead of an unknown role to better align skills and interests with available positions. View [Policies and Procedures](#).
- ***Girls Director:*** After a few years without a Girls Director, we **reactivated the Girls Director position** to support girls growth, new player onboarding, travel teams, co-ops and more.
- ***DEI Education:*** Created trainings for athletes at all levels to promote **sensitivity and inclusivity** within the association. Additional programming included the high school/travel and travel/Mite 8U mentorship programs.

## PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

- Supported coaches by implementing a standardized practice planning tool called **Coach Them** and added Mite/8U practice leads for better continuity.
- Refreshed the [EPHA Way](#), our playbook for coaches, players and parents.
- Partnered with Minnesota Hockey to host **checking/body contact clinics** for players transitioning from Pee wee to Bantams.
- Helped travel players improve their technical skills with **Power Skating** sessions with Mak Langei and hosted **Intro to Power Skating and Edge Control** for Mite/8U.
- Implemented **Intro to Goalie** sessions at Mite/8U to support our youngest goaltenders and hosted 10 **group goalie training** clinics. **Individual goalie lessons** were also provided through Stauber's Goalcrease and we provided **goalie consultations** for travel teams during practice.

## FUNDRAISING

- **Raised \$54k** in sponsorship funds not including non-monetary donations.
- Secured **36 sponsors** for all EPHA team jerseys.
- Added two new [pull tab](#) locations at **Boom Island** and **T.J. Hooligans**.
- Secured funds and plans for **dryland renovation**.
- Worked with Scheels to update **equipment for growth** programs.

## GROWTH EVENTS

- Launched the new **Girls Summer Skating Series** (GSS) to introduce girls of all ages to skating (and hockey). More than **86 skaters** of all ages joined the 4-series event and even got to meet some PWHL players. Plus, GSS brought **26 new skaters** to the EPHA this year! Learn about [GSS 2025](#).
- EPHA players **visited Prairie View Elementary** to show off their skills, hand out flyers and teach more than 250 students in 12 classrooms about hockey. **Three new skaters** joined our Girls Hockey Day and Try Hockey for Free programs following the events.
- Overall, we hosted almost **400 skaters** at our Girls Hockey Day (70+), Rookie Camp (80+), Termites (60+) and Try Hockey for Free events (180+). In support of those events, our Equipment Team worked their tails off behind the scenes to outfit **90+ players** for events and another **14 players** with rental equipment. Recent equipment sale events also helped raise over **\$2k** for new equipment.

## MITE/8U PROGRAMMING

- Introduced an early season **3v3 League** for all 8U players to replace shinny ice while promoting community and fun.
- Revamped the **8U evaluation process** to include one weekend of skills, five weeks of practices and one scrimmage before making final, informed team decisions.
- Introduced **Team Genius** at the 6U level which made the process of player evaluations significantly easier for coaches to execute, which also helped inform team leveling.
- **Eliminated tiering** of our M4 teams to create two balanced teams which made for more appropriate and competitive play with other associations.
- Improved the **Mite/8U scheduling** process and started a **game draw** in partnership with Minnetonka to improve game scheduling within D6.