



Oakville Rangers Hockey Club 2024 Annual Meeting Executive Report – Rep, AA-B/BB

The game of hockey at the minor sports level in SW Ontario continues to challenge communities to come up with new ways to stimulate membership numbers and provide on ice programming that appeals to all age groups and skill levels. At the same time, the ORHC and its representative committees believes strongly in player development and coaching selection to be keys to any successful season.

From our younger Pathway age groups (U7-U9) all the way through to our highly competitive U18 teams, the ORHC works closely with the OHF, the OMHA and other neighbouring hockey associations to plan out successful seasons for 40 plus AA-BB rep teams. This success can be measured by on ice achievements, player graduation, player development and local philanthropy. It can also be measured by teams making it through Tri County play downs to claim spots in the OMHA finals. This continues to trend nicely for many of the AA-BB teams and we saw this group represent strongly again last season.

As one of the most robust not for profit sports organizations in North America, we have to thank our amazing on ice/off ice volunteers and office staff for this status. Without the tireless effort of all these individuals giving up their precious time, the Oakville Rangers wouldn't be recognized by its peers as the Gold Standard of Minor Hockey. With that being said, there is still a lot of work that is required to continue to build and stabilize the membership and we continue to reach far and wide to encourage new volunteers to take integral roles with our association. Coaching and young person mentors, tournament volunteers and Gift of Giving stewards are vital to the future of Oakville hockey.

The upcoming 2024/25 season will be highly competitive for all AA-BB teams based on the on-going focus of coaching selection, player skill development, and organizational support. It's also important to note that as the world evolves and more education is placed on diversity and inclusion, the ORHC still maintains a high degree of on-ice success while still making the game of hockey enjoyable for its members.

On-going changes and challenges facing the association include non-sanctioned outlaw leagues for younger players, player movement and migration in the region, costs associated with playing representative hockey as well and costs and time commitments for coaching certification. With all of the challenges associated with minor hockey, the passion and the fundamentals remain strong as Canada's favourite sport. The ORHC will continue to provide its rep players high level coaching, skill development and highly competitive environments to maximize growth and potential..

Thank you, ORHC for allowing me to act as one of your hockey executives for the last few years. As many of you know, I stepped down from my position as VP Rep AA-BB earlier this year to pursue my business interests with a number of start up companies I oversee. I have immensely enjoyed being a Ranger for the last 18 years and appreciate all of the wonderful friendships I have forged being part of the organization in some capacity. I love the sport of hockey which has been a pillar of strength in the Gorman household and will continue to be for many years to come.

Proud to be a Ranger,
Paul G.

