



**AUCKLAND ICE HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION INC.**

**2021
ANNUAL REPORT**



Another busy Sunday morning at the Super League!



A hugely successful NZIHL season, with the launch of the Auckland Mako and record crowds our Auckland based games



Junior League players in action, as part of the 2021 regular season competition

Contents

2021 Board of Directors 4

President’s Report..... 5

Vice President Report..... 6

Director of Finance Report..... 7

AIHA General Manager Report 9

U9 and U12 League Report 10

Bantam League Report..... 11

Junior League Report 13

Adult Hockey League Report..... 14

Director of Player and Coach Development Report 16

Director of Officiating and Referee-in-Chief Report 18

Director of Administration Report 20

2021 Board of Directors

President:	Carl McIntyre
Vice President:	Timothy Butterfield
Director of Finance:	Karen Messenger
Director of U12 League:	Philip Keen
Director of Bantam League:	Spencer Noonan
Director of Junior League:	Jenn Jones
Director of Adult Hockey League:	Aaron Somerville
Director of Women's Ice Hockey:	Michelle Cox
Director of Player and Coach Development:	Cameron Stephen
Director of Officiating:	Paul Taillon
Director of Administration:	Wayne Curtis
Director of Marketing & Communication:	Michael Domigan
Secretary:	Mary Alice Simon

2020 Non-Executive Officers

General Manager:	A.J. Spiller
Head Coach:	Justin Daigle
Referee-in-Chief:	Paul Taillon
NZIHf Delegates:	Michael Domigan Wayne Curtis

President's Report

With another ice hockey season in Auckland suddenly halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we unfortunately found ourselves in a challenging position again for the 2021 season.

Auckland Ice Hockey Association and its members had to make incredible efforts to adapt to this “new normal” during 2021. I'd like to thank all our hard-working volunteers, because without their tireless efforts and commitment, we would not have an ice hockey club here in Auckland. I'd also like to thank our members, for their patience and willingness to work with us through these challenging times.

A special mention is due to our General Manager, A.J. Spiller, and Head Coach, Justin Daigle, whose diligence and hard work has allowed us to deliver an “as normal as possible” season to our members.

AIHA continues to grow as a club, as ice hockey becomes a more widely known sport, particularly in our Learn to Play and U12 programmes, and this is evidenced by our continually growing membership numbers in these age groups.

With the launch of a new NZIHL team in Auckland and increased advertising and marketing, we saw a substantial increase in spectator attendance at all NZIHL games this season – including sell-out games, a feat unseen for many, many years - and it was great to be able to share this awesome sport we all know and love with Auckland.

AIHA is in a financially stable position, despite the challenges of 2020 and 2021, and I would like to thank Karen Messenger for her endless efforts around making sure that we are in the best financial position possible – Karen is a major reason why this club has become financially stable, and why we have been able to survive during this global pandemic.

We are now looking forward to and beginning planning for the 2022 season, one that we hope will be without interruption, and one in which we can deliver a complete season to our members across all our leagues. We will get through this, and we will do so together, and come back stronger than ever in 2022.

Thank you for your support.

Carl McIntyre
President

Vice President Report

As we all know the 2021 Hockey seasons have been hindered by lockdowns and have resulted in the cancelation or postponement of many hockey events. This includes events across all leagues affecting our developing children, teams, young adults, elite, and senior members.

I wanted to take this opportunity to bring to our attention how important Hockey is to the Health and wellness of our community. The parents of our members can make testament to how regular hockey events help promote health and wellbeing for our developing players. I am sure that our adults' participants, like me, are missing and hunger for social and competitive hockey to get back on track in Auckland.

In the absence of such activity under quarantine, it is inevitable both financial and health issues will and have developed amongst some of our membership. The importance of planning for and executing regular and successful hockey events in this coming year is perhaps more important than ever.

In my second year serving as Vice President, I have tried to expand the active part of the VP role and as such have participated / volunteered across several AHIA initiatives and events. This includes additional coaching activity, event volunteering, and organizing / financing additional ice time when lockdowns have prohibited AIHA functions.

I have and will continue to provide thought and feedback from my involvement in various areas of the Auckland Ice Hockey community (e.g., LTP/Bantam coaching, a Parent, a Player in the AHL, and special events).

The role continues to be primarily consultative, although active hands on participation/volunteering activities have increased despite lockdown.

While much of this past year's ambitions have been hindered by lockdown, I continue to see great opportunities to add value with special events and work with Carl / A.J. to understand more about the governance side of the role.

Timothy Butterfield
Vice-President

Director of Finance Report

In the Finance area, we start off looking backwards as the financial accounts provided are for our financial year ending 31st October 2020. These accounts were not available for viewing at the previous AGM due to account and audit timing.

The AGM is usually held 2-3 weeks after our financial year ends and these accounts were prepared by our accountants, went through an audit process, and were signed off earlier this year.

Review of 2020

We had an unusual year as we experienced Covid lockdowns delaying the start of the season and then again in August. In previous years, the Bantam & Junior season is finished in September and AHL finishes in October or early November. Fortunately, we were able to complete the 2020 season by extending the season into November.

This did mean that our Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable were higher than usual as the club had a lot of activity with the NZIHL Showdown Games and league games in October & November.

As the November activity is reflected in the 2021 financial year, this means that the total ice fees received and also the ice time are less than last year. This reflects the cancellation of so many Learn to Play and Super League sessions and the extension of the leagues into November.

In 2020 AIHA received \$76k of Grants, which were from:

Covid Wages Subsidy	\$26k
Aktiv Community Resilience – Covid	\$20k
NZ Ice Hockey Federation – Covid	\$15k
NZ Ice Hockey Federation – LTP	\$2k
Trillian Trust – Player Jerseys	\$2k
Howick Local Grants – LTP	\$3k
Four Winds – Ice Time	\$8k

In contrast, in 2019 we received \$51k of grants, of which \$25k was for ice time, \$24k was LTP Gear & equipment, and \$2k was for replacing the Women's Rep player jerseys.

The accounts also reflect the many cancellations. The NZIHL season was cancelled in 2020. Instead, there was a 4 game NZIHL Showdown series which was run by AIHA. NZIHF provided funding of \$10k to enable AIHA to take the risk of scheduling these events with the potential of no crowds.

Competitions for the U20s & U12s were cancelled. The Women Rep League was reduced from a summer series to two tournaments. The U15 & U18 Rep Leagues were reduced to one tournament.

During 2020 both AJ & Justin became full time employees. In addition, after the first Covid lockdown AIHA reviewed and increased the rates paid to game officials.

There were other savings as AIHA were doing the funding applications (in 2019 this was outsourced) and the 2020 prize giving was cancelled. The medals and caps given out in November have been reflected in the 2021 accounts.

In 2020 AIHA has written off \$2,767 of bad debts, half of which relates to unpaid 2019 season fees.

After a 2020 season that included lockdowns, gathering limits, delayed and extended seasons, AIHA finished the year with a net surplus of \$14,071 compared with a net surplus of \$24,830 in 2019.

Review of 2021

The significant change was the introduction of the esportsdesk player management system for invoicing the AHL, Junior, Bantam & Representative players. The NZIHF membership fees are now paid directly to NZIHF (previously we collected these funds on NZIHF's behalf) and the debtors owing funds to AIHA at year end has significantly reduced. While the new system has been an adjustment for all of us, it has been a worthwhile change.

The year was tracking very well until it came to an abrupt halt on 17th August. As this lockdown continues, it is likely that AIHA will have a financial loss this year.

In better news, this has been a successful year with receiving funding grants. In addition to the Covid funding received, AIHA has received a total of \$58k from the following organisations:

Four Winds Foundation	Ice Time
Pub Charity	Ice Time
NZ Community Trust	Salaries
The Trust Community Foundation	Salaries
Trillian Trust	Player Jerseys
Milestone Foundation	LTP Gear
NZIHF	LTP Gear

This will be my final report as Treasurer as I have decided to retire from this role. I would like to thank everyone for all the support I have received, and I look forward to seeing everyone back at the rink for more hockey soon.

Karen Messenger
Director of Finance

AIHA General Manager Report

The 2021 season again provided some challenges for AIHA, but we managed to accomplish a lot even with the season being cut short.

Learn to Play:

Bringing new players into the sport is key for our continued success as an association. We launched a fourth LTP session at Botany on Saturdays in Terms 2 & 3 and this session will operate in all terms in 2022. Total LTP registration for 2021 was 178 players, up from 119 players in 2020. Thank you to Carl McIntyre and Wayne Curtis who's continued passion and hard work towards LTP does not go unnoticed, and to Head Coach, Justin Daigle for the great work he does with the kids. Also, to all the volunteer coaches that help at each session.

esportsdesk Launch:

esportsdesk was launched in 2021 as our new registration system and provided a lot of functionality to AIHA that wasn't available previously. Any player registering for a league was able to choose a direct debit payment plan, which was a welcoming feature for our members. Also, at the point of registration the NZIHF membership fee was separated providing more transparency to our members of where their money is going. Thank you to Karen Messenger and Michael Domigan for all of their work with the esportsdesk rollout.

Auckland Mako Launch:

Auckland Mako were the newest addition to the NZIHL in 2021 aimed at providing U23 aged players more of an opportunity to play in the NZIHL at a younger age. The team itself was made up of players from all around New Zealand. The entire process was well worth the amount of work that went into it, and a special thanks to Wayne Curtis (Manager), Michael Domigan (Jersey design, Website, Social Media), Andreas Kaiser (Head Coach) and Valerie Chan (Team Physio) for all of their contributions.

AIHA Online Store Launch:

AIHA launched an online store in 2021 where for the first time, all NZIHL and AIHA merchandise are available for purchase in one spot. The online store is also the main avenue for ticket purchase for NZIHL games. It is a great setup and provides a lot of value to our customers. Again, a big thank you to Michael Domigan for all his work building the store.

NZIHL Focus:

The NZIHL was a large focus for AIHA in 2021 and it was pleasing to see a few sold-out crowds throughout the season. A massive thank you to all the volunteers who ensure the events run smoothly, and also to the coaches, managers and marketing managers who put in a lot of time and effort for their respective teams.

Thank you to all AIHA board members, league directors, coaches, managers and officials for all the tireless work put in to make the 2021 season successful, albeit shortened.

A special thank you to Karen Messenger for who work in ensuring AIHA is in a financially stable position through the challenges that 2020 and 2021 presented. Karen's contribution to AIHA, and all the work she has put in over her time with AIHA has and will undoubtedly set us up for success in the future.

A.J. Spiller
AIHA General Manager

U9 and U12 League Report

The Super League had yet again a great season, all be it, cut short by COVID.

Like the 2020 season, the Super League had four Under 9 and Under 12 teams respectively. The U12's had 10 / 11 players per team which allowed for consistently 2 / 3 lines per week. The U9's had 10 players per team but due to frequent absences each week there were team changes that needed to be done to ensure teams were balanced, along with ensuring team(s) had more than one line on the day.

The 2021 season saw some Health and Safety rule adaptations. The first being the Under 12 goalies must play in goalie specific chest protector to ensure adequate protection. The second adaptation was the inclusion of the banning of slapshots from players. This was to ensure the protection of the coaches and players due to the rink set up.

Another adaptation to the 2021 season saw the introduction of the 3 second beep to single to the players the end of the shift was near. This saw, especially in the U12's, new tactics coming in to play when the players shifts were almost over. For example, ensuring the puck was left in the position for the next line to maintain possession of.

A huge thank you to Centre Ice for sponsoring the player of the day certificates. The certificates were a new addition this year that were given alongside the player of the day trophies. They were well received by the players and parents.

From an organisational point, the purchasing of new jersey to accommodate the smaller U9's and the larger U12's was appreciated in the operational side. Looking at purchasing one size up from the largest jersey's size we currently have for the U12's would be beneficial.

Due to COVID the National Tournament that was to be hosted in Dunedin was cancelled. This was disappointing as it was the second year in a row for it to be cancelled. However, those players still in the Super League next year who have gone to one in the past are still looking forward to the next one.

Thank you, is a simple sentiment but one not taking lightly. To all the coaches and managers, thank for the encouragement, the tying up of laces, the quick goalie changes, the communications sent, the time that no one else saw and your adaptability on the day was a huge reason why the Super League was such a success. I humbly on behalf of myself and players thank you for your participation and involvement and your valued contribution towards the Super League.

Philip Keen
U12 League Director

Bantam League Report

Certainly, for those amongst us this has really seemed like a recurring nightmare, yet another lockdown and at time of writing this report Auckland has been in a 70-day lockdown at level 4 or 3, this has proved a challenging time for all of us. With a wide array of sporting events being cancelled and other community activities being rescheduled or cancelled.

As usual our organization would not be able to run without the selfless help and assistance from our Auckland Hockey community, yet again a big thank you to the Bantam league coaches and managers:

- Hornets - Hank Snell (Coach) and Stephanie (Manager).
- Panthers - Timothy Butterfield (Coach), Matt Blaby (Manager)
- Pythons - Jeremy Allen (Coach), Neil Reeves (Manager) and Spencer Noonan (Manager).

They have been ice side at game nights and training, imparting their knowledge and the progression of our players skills have been really appreciated. A big thank you to all of those, too numerous to individually name, that have trained and developed our players, of course with the guidance and leadership of A.J Spiller and Justin Daigle at the helm it provides the complete package.

So, at the top end of the table, it's going to be a tight end of season if we get back on the ice. Hornets and Pythons separated by one point, and the Pythons have a game in hand. The Panthers have overcome struggles in the first half of the season, and are now more competitive, initially there was a feeling of unevenness in the league. I feel it best that we concentrate on the overall player development as opposed to the points that are reflected in the standings.

And to reiterate what I had said last year, one of the greatest things that I witnessed as manager of the Panthers was the continued support of younger team members by the older players and the development of players throughout the year. This was highlighted to me by parents, coaches and players, who were very supportive of the ice hockey community at the Bantam league.

U15 Representative Dunedin/Ōtepoti

Again, it was great to see Auckland had the depth to send both teams down as we had done previously in 2020.

There were exciting games, especially the two Auckland teams facing off against one another. The first round from July the 9th to the 13th, ended up with both Auckland Blue, White and Southland topping the competition with first, second and third respectively. Also highlighting this that there was only a point separating each that really shows the development nationally of ice hockey in NZ.

Thanks again to Jeremy Allen and Geoff Boehme for coaching the teams. Justin Daigle for managing our under 15s in Dunedin and also A.J. Spiller for coordinating all the travel and team rosters for the tournament.

Unfortunately, because of Covid restrictions we could not attend the 2nd part of the tournament that was meant to be the first weekend of the October school holidays and led to the cancelation of all remaining games.

Dunedin highlighted the importance of both coaching and player development, with a national tournament and with many of those that I had surveyed really thought that this provided a turning point for our own 3 team tournament with the lifting of skill set for both and a greater joy and understanding of the game of hockey for both players and coaches alike.

Thank you also to all of those that supplied requested feedback, this has been incorporated into my report. It has been great to meet so many of you parents, players and trainers and a privilege to be involved in a small part in their hockey journey.

I look forward to 2022 in the hope that we reach vaccination targets to get back on the ice.

Spencer Noonan
Bantam League Director

Junior League Report

Having shut the door on 2020 and all that entailed, we were excited to be heading into the 2021 season.

As in the start of every season, we had farewelled our seniors that aged out, we had players aging up from the Bantam League, as well as a sprinkling of talented dispensated athletes. Add to that the majority of the pool of players with a season or two under their belts ready to step into the leadership roles, we still did not have quite enough numbers to get the coveted four teams up and running.

The powers that be, Head Coach Justin Daigle and General Manager A.J. Spiller put their heads together and drafted up on paper an even split of players and talent across the board to make up the three teams for 2021, with coaches running the show as follows:

- Outlaws - Andy Kaiser
- The Mighty Pucks - Jeff Boehme
- Ice Hogs - Kevin Simon

The season started with a hiss and a roar with the usual Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday training and the Monday night game slot. There was hockey galore and not a skate cobweb in sight. With the three team format, it meant we had a rotation that saw a team have two games on a Monday which could go good or bad, it was always a surprise on the night. That middle of the pack bunch who had moved into the leadership roles were often doubling on training and game time due to their spots on teams in Swarm Admirals and the new launch, the Auckland Mako. They were in good stead to have a great season, and for some it would be their last in this age group.

Credit is due to the new players from Learn to Play, Bantam League and the newly added dispensation crew, who after the first couple of skate outs found their form and their place in their new look teams. The start of the season is not always a true indication of where all the teams will end up, as in any season and sport there is the dreaded injuries, the players we lose to head off shore and the coaches getting their new squads working together as a finely tuned unit, and playoffs can turn the competition on its head. Unfortunately, we were never able to see how that was going to unfold when we were made to park up our skates mid-August.

At that point Ice Hogs and The Mighty Pucks had 11 games apiece and it was close battle for these two with not a lot in it; the Ice Hogs were just one win in front. The Outlaws sadly had fallen prey to injuries and lost numbers and were trailing quite a bit. A huge thank you to Leon Quigley who drafted over part way through the season to bring numbers up and add his talent to the line-up. It is a huge ask for any athlete to leave a team they had gelled with, he did it graciously.

We were always hoping we could return to the ice and finish the regular games and playoffs. It is with sadness that I sum up our season. For those players who didn't get to glory in their strength, size and talent to finish their final season and for the players who were just finding their feet and didn't get the opportunity to show us their best.

A huge thanks to coaches, managers and all the parental family support that enables us to have this league. Congrats to all the players as we close out 2021. We are hoping with all our hearts we will be back on ice soon with you showing us just how fantastic you are.

Jenn Jones
Junior League Director

Adult Hockey League Report

The AHL has continued to work with individuals and teams to ensure players are playing in a division suited to their skill level, which has resulted in a number of players changing divisions. This has created better parity within each division and a better playing experience for all our participants.

With the NZIHL back, action adjustments were made to the number of teams in the A division to reflect the limited number of A division talent across all age groups. This has allowed Junior aged players to play with more experienced players that are at their skill levels to create development opportunities and more competition across the A division.

The B and C division continue to steam along as the parity and competition has been well vetted over the past seasons, minimal changes there were required.

We continued with the full “Hockey Package” from last season with the in-house music for all AHL games across all divisions. This has received great feedback as an enhanced hockey experience for players and fans alike. We’ll look to continue this in the seasons to come.

COVID has again impacted the entire hockey community which stopped competition towards the end of the season. This continues to frustrate and provide challenges for players, fans and the hockey management teams. The AHL has every intention of completing a season, COVID restrictions permitting.

Aaron Somerville
Adult Hockey League Director

Women's Ice Hockey

Women's hockey in 2021 was focused on three main areas; development of current players, mentoring of LTP girls and the NZWIHL.

Development of Current Players

We held three open practices during the season, open to ages 2009 and older. All registered female players - regardless of skill level or years of playing, were invited to attend. Turnout was not as high as hoped for, however feedback from attending players was positive and do we hope to hold more in the 2022 season and attract more players to attend. Several ideas around cost effectiveness have been discussed and will re-approach options closer to the season starting.

Mentoring of LTP

Current NZWIHL players were encouraged to attend LTP classes, in a coach/mentor capacity. This was to provide the beginner girls with a visual representation of what was possible for women in the AIHA community. The NZWIHL players that were able to assist with LTP found that it was not only rewarding for the younger beginner girls but also enabled themselves to enjoy giving back to the sport. This is also an initiative that I would like to continue and grow for future seasons.

NZWIHL

The NZWIHL has only been able to complete one round of the league so far this season. The hope is that the rescheduled finals planned in early December will be able to take place. However, with the current COVID lockdown levels and the cancellation of the NZIHL the round has yet to be officially confirmed. The Auckland Steel progressed well in the first round and are currently in third place on the tables.

Michelle Cox

Women's Ice Hockey Portfolio

Director of Player and Coach Development Report

Despite the many challenges AIHA faced this season, there were many successes and positives. Here are some highlights:

Preseason Training:

Preseason training had a strong turnout across a range of age groups, particularly the U18 age group. This included both Sunday on ice trainings at Botany and Avondale and Saturday off ice trainings at Glenfield Active Zone. The on ice trainings included skating, shooting, and small area games. Off ice training focused on shooting and puck handling. Goalie specific skills were also included in both on and off ice training sessions. A special thanks to Justin and AJ for their planning, as well as Darren and Michal for helping coordinate off ice sessions.

Holiday Programs:

Holiday programs were very successful again in the first part of the season, with a strong turnout and good feedback from players. Sessions included on ice skills with a focus on skating, dryland training, and circuit fitness work at a local gym. Thanks to Justin and AJ for running this.

Goalie Development:

Sunday morning trainings this season included a new goalies-only session before the start of the main session. Turnout was consistent with a core of 5-6 goalies. This provided an excellent opportunity for goalies to focus on movement, edge control, net awareness, and positioning. This was a great new initiative that will have great benefits for attracting new goalies as well as strengthening goalie fundamentals for our existing beginner and advanced players. Thanks to Justin for spending the time to prepare and plan high level drills for goalies. We are also excited about the possibility of having Matt Canaday involved in the goalie program in the future.

U12, U15, U18 Rep Program:

Numbers for the representative program continued to grow, allowing for a second U15 again this year. It would be great to see this growth continue forward with the possible addition of a second U18 team next year. The mid-season tournaments in Dunedin saw very competitive performances from all age groups.

Additional Pathways for U21 Players:

In order to increase retention as players move out of the junior/U18 age group, several opportunities and pathways were added this year for U21 players.

- Last year's junior players were encouraged to join in the AHL - providing opportunities to play regular games while also adding to the level of play in the AHL.
- The new Mako development team joined the NZIHL, giving U21 players from all regions in New Zealand the chance to play against other NZIHL teams. The roster of players changed from game to game, but included a core of senior veteran players, providing an opportunity for mentorship. The Mako season, while cut short, was definitely a huge success. Thanks to Wayne for all of his hard work with the team.
- The introduction of a U21 Rep league allowed the opportunity for these players to train and play with their age group against other centres.
- The NZIHL junior development program saw a strong core of U21 and U18 players train with either the Admirals or Swarm, with the opportunity to play in some games. This not only provided a high level of training for our U21 players, but increased each team's depth and ensuring the NZIHL teams continue to develop their future players.

Triple Star Weekend:

The Triple Star Weekend, held earlier in the season, was a combination of national level U18, U20, and Ice Blacks players and coaches at one development camp. For the first time, coaches from each of the NZIHL teams were also in attendance. There was a strong focus on upskilling coaches and continuing to model the benefits of incorporating larger numbers of players on ice in the same sessions. Having current

Ice Black players take part in the camp also enabled modelling and mentorship at the highest level for our future All Black players. A highlight of the camp was the Team White vs Team Black game, with each team made up of a mix of Ice Blacks and U18/U20 players. There was a strong representation from Auckland at this camp, which was great to see. Thanks to NZIHF for having the vision to create this amazing experience for players and coaches.

Looking forward to next season, there are many opportunities to build and grow the strength of our players and coaches. Here are some possible next steps:

- Continue to build the depth of coaches in our association by recruiting and 'shoulder tapping'
- Offer a series of coaching clinics in 2022 to increase coach confidence and establish a base level certification for all coaches
- Explore options for implementing a coaching progression framework to build our coaching capacity
- Continue to use regular feedback and skill testing to guide on ice focus, using this to implement a season plan
- Push for video coverage at all representative tournaments to be made available to all teams and coaches as an invaluable teaching and assessment tool
- Continue to build a framework of tactics, concepts, and systems to build hockey IQ among all players at the appropriate age/level
- Promote fitness and strength training as an important part of sport development

Cameron Stephen
Director of Player and Coach Development

Director of Officiating and Referee-in-Chief Report

The AIHA officiating program contended with another COVID-19 pandemic-disrupted season in 2021. As in 2020, the Association provided on-ice and off-ice officials for all games at adult and youth levels.

However, the shortened season also interrupted officials' development.

Numbers and capacity: AIHA's officiating capacity remained adequate despite only very slight growth in terms of numbers. All told, AIHA fielded thirty-nine on-ice officials (thirty-six in 2020) and fifteen off-ice in 2021 (fifteen in 2020) (officials who officiated at least one game during the 2020 season):

- On-ice officials:
 - Adult: **22** (including two new officials) (**23** in 2020)
 - Youth (under nineteen years of age, including four new officials): **15** (**11** in 2020)
 - Backup officials: **2** (Justin Daigle, A. J. Spiller)
- Off-ice officials: **15** (including two four volunteers)

The above figures represent an increase in overall on-ice official numbers but the growth occurred among youth officials, masking a slight decrease in adult numbers. On the one hand, this is good news as youth officials suggest positive longterm growth in officiating. On the other hand, these figures indicate the ongoing need to recruit and retain adult officials every season. The same applies to off-ice officials. The fact that we struggled toward the middle of the season to provide on-ice and off-ice officials confirms this need (the fact that most of the gaps occurred on Monday nights—nights where the third adult league game often started at 9:30pm—suggests the need to rethink scheduling three games on those nights).

Development:

- Training seminar: we ran an on-ice training session on 13 March at Paradise, Botany. The session included four hours in classroom and one hour on-ice. Twenty-six officials attended, ten of which were youths.
- I also ran a number of adhoc Zoom training sessions for new on-ice and off-ice officials who could not attend the 13 March session.
- Development of younger officials:
 - Nine of the younger officials in the U19 age category began officiating U15 games on Monday nights as linesmen. One of those officials also refereed U15 games. The return to scheduling U15 games followed by U19 games on Monday nights has opened this opportunity for these officials, who also play in the U19 league.
 - Two officials—Aidan Todd and Marlene Wimmer—officiated at the national U15 tournament in July.
 - SuperLeague continues to function as the basic entryway for new youth officials.
- Supervision: I supervised eight AIHA officials in 2021 (which involves observing the official during game, completing feedback form, and debriefing with the official after the game). The next step in developing a supervision program involves recruiting other AIHA officials to supervise and to recruit someone other than the Referee-in-Chief to coordinate that program.

Game incidents and major penalties:

In 2021, AIHA officials assessed five major + game misconduct penalties, one for cross-checking with reckless endangerment, one for abuse of the official, and three for unsportsmanlike conduct involving the shouting of obscenities. This figure represents a significant increase in the assessment of major penalties over the 2020 season. The abuse of the official penalty, assessed in the adult league, suggests the need to more vigorously enforce the AIHA's code of conduct in regard to respect for the officials. Abuse of the official stands as the single biggest factor depressing recruitment and retention of officials. The fact that the three major + game penalties for obscene language occurred in an U19 game is especially worrying and suggests the need for proactive steps to build positive sporting culture in the AIHA youth leagues.

NZIHf:

In my role as AIHA RiC I also coordinated the rostering of off-ice officials for Auckland NZIHL games. I also conducted two Zoom training sessions for on-ice officials in the Wellington Ice Hockey Association.

In closing, I would like to thank all AIHA officials but especially Matt Clarke for his work as Scheduler. Thanks also to A.J. Spiller as General Manager for his organizing the monthly payments to officials.

Paul Taillon**Director of Officiating and Referee-In-Chief**

Director of Administration Report

AIHA received six successful funding applications during 2021 listed below totaling \$77,000.

Four Winds Foundation	Junior Ice Time	\$19,600.00
Milestone Foundation	LTP Gear	\$5,500.00
NZCT	Salary Head Coach	\$10,000.00
Pub Charity	Ice Time Fees	\$20,000.00
Trillion Trust	Playing Uniforms	\$8,520.00
TTCF	Salary General Manager	\$10,000.00
NZIHf	2 for 1 LTP gear	\$3,400.00

There are currently two applications under review but due to the situation with Covid lockdown there are delays in the decision making.

Wayne Curtis
Director of Administration

Director of Marketing & Communication Report

The 2021 season saw a renewed investment into our advertising and marketing plans and budgets, with the goal of growing attendance at NZIHL games, growing awareness of ice hockey and most importantly, increasing the size of our Learn to Play programme. Without a continually growing Learn to Play programme, we won't see growth throughout all of our leagues.

I'm pleased to report that we achieved all these objectives, and a personal highlight was the sell-out NZIHL games and otherwise record attendance numbers.

We also invested heavily in increasing the production quality of our NZIHL game broadcasts and a special thank you is due to the local NZIHL production team for their support and flexibility as we trialled new things this season.

A thank you is also due to the NZIHF for their financial support in our advertising and promotion of Auckland Mako NZIHL games – through additional budget and resources, we were able to showcase the sport of ice hockey to thousands of new people this year and have created many new fans of this great sport we all know and love.

The launch of a new registration tool for 2021 simplified the ways in which we can communicate with our members – something that was again critical to managing expectation and communicating clearly when changes were needed to the season schedule due to interruptions from COVID-19.

Michael Domigan
Director of Marketing & Communication