



AUCKLAND ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION INC.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Contents

List of AIHA Officials	Page 3
President Report	Page 4
Vice President Report	Page 6
Director of Finance Report	Page 7
Director of Marketing & Communication's Report	Page 9
Director of Administration Report	Page 10
Learn to Play Report	Page 11
U12 League Report	Page 12
Bantam League Report	Page 15
Junior League Report	Page 17
Women's Representative Hockey Report	Page 18
Adult Hockey League Report	Page 19
Director of Player and Coaching Development Report	Page 20
Head Coach Report	Page 22
Referee-in-Chief Report	Page 23
NZ Representatives	Page 24

2019 Board of Directors

President:	Carl McIntyre
Vice President:	Paul Taillon
Secretary:	Mary Alice Simon
Director of Finance:	Karen Messenger
Director of Learn to Play:	Sheree Anderson
Director of U12 Super League:	Joao Machado
Director of Bantam League:	Jenn Jones
Director of Junior League:	Stephen Chamberlin
Director of Adult Hockey League:	Bill Bartlett
Women's Representative Hockey:	Rachel Park
Director of Player and Coaching Development:	Cam Stephen
Director of Officiating:	Paul Taillon
Director of Administration:	Wayne Curtis
Director of Marketing & Communication:	Michael Domigan

2019 Non-Executive Officers

Head Coach:	Vacant
Referee-in-Chief:	Paul Taillon
Health & Safety Officer:	Mark Bialik
NZIHf Delegates:	Carl McIntyre Wayne Curtis Michael Domigan AJ Spiller

President Report

2019 has been a year of great results across the board for AIHA. Our passionate members and volunteers have all contributed to a fantastic season of ice hockey, and it has been great to see AIHA's continued growth and development during this time.

AIHA would not be what it is without its countless coaches, volunteers, supporters and parents pitching in to help the club run – whether it's coaching, managing a team, running the scoreboard, officiating or any of the other behind the scenes activities that take place, we could not do it without you. Thank you for all your efforts once again this year, you are the lifeblood of the club!

We have seen fun, fair and exciting hockey across all our age groups. From our youngest players in our Super League to our oldest players in the AHL, I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the level of competition displayed this year. Well done to all who took part, and I look forward to another great season in 2020.

AIHA's participation at a representative level has once again delivered strong results across each of our age groups, as well as many of these players having been chosen to represent New Zealand in their respective National Team. Well done to these teams/players who have achieved the following results: U18 Representative Team – Gold. U15 Representative Team – Silver. U12 Tournament Team – Silver. NZWIHL – Silver. NZIHL – Silver & Bronze.

Our Club has continued to grow, with now over 700 members calling AIHA their ice hockey home. The diversity displayed throughout our Club never ceases to impress, showing just how much of a global sport ice hockey is. As of writing, our Club is made up of:

- 30 Total unique citizenships
- 44% of members born overseas
- 56% of members born in NZ
- Youngest player 4 years old
- Oldest player 66 years old
- 15% Women, 85% Men

This level of diversity helps make AIHA what it is today, and I look forward to the continued growth and development in this area, particularly for our female players and women leagues, in the years to come.

Our Learn to Play programme saw record growth this year, which prompted the addition of Monday nights, alongside our regular Wednesday and Thursday night programmes. A special thank you to all the parents, coaches and volunteers who put in countless hours week after week to help make this programme so successful and its growth so strong.

AIHA has continued its stable financial position from the 2018 year, thanks to success with funding and growth of our player base and Learn to Play programme. This growth has allowed us to employ AIHA's first ever General Manager, A.J. Spiller, who assists with the day to day running of the Club.

2019 saw the departure of long time AIHA Head Coach, Csaba Kercso-Magos. Csaba's contributions to the Club over his many years of service are immeasurable – thank you Csaba for all you have done for AIHA. Justin Daigle has stepped in to assist as the interim Head Coach, while we continue our search for a long-term Head Coach, with an aim to have someone in place for the 2020 season.

In closing, the future is looking very bright for the 2020 season and I look forward to seeing you all on the ice again soon.

Carl McIntyre
AIHA President

Vice President Report

This was my fourth year on the Board and my fourth year in the role of Vice President. As Vice-President, I convened monthly board meetings, MC'd the 2019 prize giving, and supported work to support fellow board members. The Association did not convene any disciplinary hearings, which is an indication of safe and sportsmanlike quality of play across our youth and adult leagues.

I would like to close by thanking my fellow board members for a very successful 2019 season.

Paul Taillon
Vice-President

We have continued to invoice the AHL, Midget, Bantam and Rep fees through Clubhub as we did in 2018. The Learn to Play and Super League sessions have continued to use the pay as you go system.

In 2019 we have expanded our Learn to Play training to three sessions per week, we expanded our Super League to include two U9 teams and we offered school holiday programs which encompassed both on and off ice performance training. These programs have been well attended and have received a lot of positive feedback.

We will be continuing to build on the success of these programs in the coming year.

Grants:

During the 2019 year we have been applying for grants ourselves to save the cost of outsourcing.

Whilst this has been quite a learning curve as there is a lot involved, it has also been successful as we have we have received funding from the following sources:

- NZ Community Trust Women's League Jerseys
- NZ Community Trust Ice Time
- Four Winds Ice Time for Admirals & Swarm
- Four Winds Ice Time
- Pub Charity Learn to Play Gear
- The Trust Community Foundation Ice Time

Expenses:

Ice time remains our biggest primary expense and in 2019 the cost is now up to \$148,000 per annum.

This is due to several factors, firstly there has been a 5% increase on all ice fees this year from both Auckland Ice rinks. AIHA as mentioned earlier has also added an additional Learn to Play training at Avondale and is now offering the school holiday programs.

I anticipate our cashflow over the summer months will be very similar to the 2018 numbers.

Going Forward:

* Completing 2019 financial accounts and audit

* Planning for 2020 season.

* Funding applications for 2020 season

Lastly, I want to say thank you to everyone on the Board for their support over the last year and we look forward to another successful year ahead.

Karen Messenger
Director of Finance

Director of Marketing & Communication Report

The 2019 season saw us continue to leverage the successful strategies used in previous years, with AIHA's commitment to long term planning and player growth helping to shape our marketing vision.

This year once again saw us focus on growing our Learn to Play programme, knowing that these players are the future of the Club. Using a combination of Facebook advertising and GrabOne promotions, we saw success that exceeded all expectations, with hundreds of players registering and attending their trial sessions, with a high retention rate leading to significant growth in these programmes.

Throughout the year, we ran marketing programmes to encourage both club members and the wider public to attend our representative team home games and NZIHL home games for both Swarm and Admirals. This once again proved to be very successful from a marketing perspective, with large numbers turning up to watch the games, allowing us to showcase the sport of ice hockey that most of the public have not seen before.

In summary, a very successful season from a marketing point of view, and something that can continue to be built on in the years to come.

Michael Domigan
Director of Marketing & Communication

Director of Administration

Funding Review 2019

Funding applications this year have been considerably less than last year but to date they total \$39,717 consisting of four successes, five unsuccessful applications and one that we are waiting an outcome on. Below is a list of those applications for 2019.

Wayne Curtis

Successful Applications:

	Charity	Funding	Outcome	Amount
31/5/2019	Four Winds	Admirals/Swarm Ice	Successful	\$8000
27/6/2019	Pub Charity	LTP Gear	Successful	\$13217
24/5/2019	Four Winds	Ice Time	Successful	\$10000
8/8/2019	TTCF	Ice Time	Successful	\$8500
29/10/2019	North & South Trust	U12 Jerseys	Awaiting	

Total \$39,717

Applications unsuccessful

	Charity	Funding	Outcome
7/2/2019	TTCF	Learn To Play Gear	Unsuccessful
12/2/2019	Trillion Trust	Ice Time	Unsuccessful
25/5/2019	Grass Roots	Ice Time	Unsuccessful
30/9/2019	Grassroots Trust	Ice Time Women	Unsuccessful
9/10/2018	Trillion Trust	AHL Jerseys	Unsuccessful

Wayne Curtis
Director of Administration

Learn to Play Report

Our Learn to Play Program is designed to provide a positive and fun experience both for newcomers to the sport, and for those who already have playing experience. The basis is on skill development, with an increasing focus on how we can keep these development drills as fun and engaging as possible for the kids.

There has been a lot of information that has come out recently from Sport New Zealand and various ice hockey nations on what a youth development program should look like. The emphasis at this age is highly focused on basic skill development. However, the increasing challenge with many sports is how to deliver this skill development so that the end user (child) gets the best experience possible. This will be a main focus at the LTP level moving forward.

2019 Successes:

- Sunday Super League has grown along with 35 players travelling to Christchurch as part of 4 separate teams.
- Attendance average at both Botany and Avondale on the traditional Wednesday and Thursday nights are at 45 players.
- Grab One campaign and Free Trials are bringing in new players to the Learn to Play program. Some weeks saw up to 9 new players coming to the rink to have a go at Ice Hockey.
- The coaching capacity at Botany has increased immensely. Some of these coaches are current Junior players, which has been great to see them giving back to the sport.
- LTP has seen an increase in players aged 12 & under this year, in previous years there were many Bantam players attending LTP.
- A new system for tracking LTP gear has made it easier to know who all has hired AIHA gear.
- We received \$13,217 of funding to purchase new equipment for LTP participants.

2019 Challenges:

- The introduction of a Monday night LTP session hasn't been attended as well as the Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Average attendance since August has been 20 players for these Monday nights.
- With the introduction of the Super League at both the U12 and U9 ages, some of these young players don't attend LTP as regularly as previous.
- Ensuring as many of the newcomers to LTP as possible continue on to become ice hockey players for life.

Thank you to all the coaches and parents who have volunteered their time and efforts to helping LTP run smoothly as it has for the 2019 season.

AJ Spiller and Justin Daigle

U12/U9 Super League Report

In 2019, the AIHA Super League grew to 74-76 players overall, with 4x U12 teams and 2x U9 teams playing through the season. Each U12 team consisted of 12 – 15 players and goalie, with usual attendance on ice meaning teams were usually running 2-3 lines of 3v3. As reported to the AIHA Board meeting in September 2019, there were 122 LTP-enrolled players (as on September 2019) over and above the Super League registered players, which indicates that the league's aspirational growth for 2020 season is an achievable goal.

2019 Season Teams and final season standings:

First Place: U12 – Spiders (2nd place at the end of Regular Season with 59 points)

Second Place: U12 – Bats (1st place at the end of Regular Season with 69 points)

Third Place: U12 – Flash (3rd place at the end of the Regular Season with 31 points)

Fourth Place: U12 – Hulk (4th place at the end of the Regular Season with 27 points)

Play-off games were held as 1st vs 4th and 2nd vs 3rd placing in regular season standings. This saw the Bats play against the Hulk, and the Spiders against the Flash to determine which two teams would battle it out for the grand final. At the end of the first period, both games were tied, and the second period games were decided by 1 goal difference overall.

Grand Final: Spiders 6 x 2 Bats

Bronze Final: Flash 2 x 2 Hulk (tiebreaker giving win to the Flash for 3rd place)

The U9 teams played a 3-games series on Finals weekend, with Ironman team winning 2/3 of the games. There was no official win for the U9 league overall.

U12 Individual awards – 2019

Top Goal Scorer: Bernard Wang (U12 Spiders – 92 points)

Best Forward: Jack Brown (U12 Bats)

Top Goaltender: Mateo Machado (U12 Spiders – 83% saving average, 6.39 goals against avg)

Best Defender: Edison Mu (U12 Spiders)

Most Sportsmanlike: Etienne Cadieux (U12 Flash)

Most Improved: Otis Haysmith (U12 Spiders)

Note: there were no individual awards for the U9 league.

Managers' meeting – August 2019

A managers and coaches meeting was held after the Super League games on Sunday 25 August. There were a number of good suggestions brought up at the meeting of how we can improve both the Super League and Learn to Play. One of the suggestions included designated Super League team practices during Learn to Play sessions. This was not possible the remainder of the 2019 season, but something that will be considered moving into 2020 season.

The intention at the start of the 2019 season was for more of these meetings to take place. In 2020, these meetings should be scheduled at every quarter OR towards the end of each school term throughout the season. This will make sure that any frustrations are discussed and resolved in this forum, and that any ideas or positive changes that can benefit the league can be considered for implementation in the next school term.

Goalie development – U9 and U12 Super League:

We managed to encourage more kids to play in goal this season with seven U12 players go in goal and six U9 players playing in goal, seeing an increased take-up in the goalie position and the early-on specialisation of players in the goalie position.

U9 League: goalie rotation at U9 proved to be very successful requiring players to train and experience playing in goal. Most of the kids enjoyed the experience and asked to be rostered in goal again.

U12 League: there was no enforced goalie rotation for U12, which saw 4x main goalies for each of the teams establish themselves in the goalie position from the start of the season. These goalies improved a lot throughout the season. Most of the goalies played out in practice and in some of the games as well, which was very positive for their well-rounded development. In total, seven U12 athletes played in goal. The main U12 goalies were:

- Manny Limpus (age 11 – ageing out of U12 league in the 2020 season; seeking dispensation to play in U12 next season as a player while moving up to Bantam as a goalie)
- Mateo Machado (age 10 – one more year eligible in U12 for the 2020 season)
- Owen Brown (age 9 – two more years eligible in U12 for the 2020 and 2021 seasons. Note: Owen was invited to train with U15 / Bantam League from August 2019 onwards due to his abilities as a player)
- Sam Jones (age 9 – two more years eligible in U12 for the 2020 and 2021 seasons).

Other U12 players to play in goal included:

- Moby Haysmith
- Carrick Laing
- Etienne Cadieux (ageing out of U12 for the 2020 season)

There will be a Summer League in November consisting of three Sunday rounds. The league will run the same as our current format, but the teams will be rearranged to provide some more excitement.

We will also look at expanding the Super League for 2020 to six U12 teams and four U9 teams. Issues involved with this will be finding more ice-time do so. We will also have to order four new sets of jerseys.

Christchurch NZIHF U12 Tournament

We took 4x teams to the U12 Nationals in Christchurch held on 5 and 6 October. The teams consisted of three full teams, along with seven girls to play on a girls-only only team (noting one girl from Queenstown joined the Auckland Bat-Girls team in Christchurch). The kids had incredibly fun time supported by parents, team managers, and coaching staff: AJ Spiller (Bats Coach / AIHA head coach in tournament), Joao Machado (Auckland League Director / Spiders Coach), Garyth Jones (Flash Coach), and Tim Butterfield (Hulk Coach).

A total of 12 teams from around New Zealand competed in the tournament, with ages ranging from 4-5 year olds to 11-12 year olds. Dispensation was granted to a few players, including one player from Auckland, Zadia Paulse, who stepped into goal for the Bat-Girls. Games were single period of 8 minutes (running clock), 4v4 cross-ice with 2x lines

per team. A total of 8 players and 1 goalie per team meant 2x lines of 4, with the line 1 being the stronger line and Line 2 younger / weaker line. This provided a fairly even platform for teams to compete in a safe manner, including the U9 players who joined the tournament.

Auckland placed 2nd (Hulk), 3rd (Spiders), 5th (Flash), and 11th (Bat-Girls) out of 12 teams. The coaching team considered the tour a very successful experience, giving us a good sense of where the Super League player development model is placing us in a wider context within New Zealand.

Dates:

Travel: to Christchurch on Friday October 4, Return on Monday October 7.

Tournament: October 5 & 6, with a morning and afternoon / early evening session each day.

Costs:

Tournament, Flights & Accommodation: \$249.00

Tournament & Accommodation only: \$155.00

Tournament only: \$120.00

Note: make additional budget allowance for food / expenses of \$25 per player.

Recommendations for 2020 Season:

As a general observation from the Christchurch tournament, the Auckland Cup Series (mixed U12 and U15 players), and the 2019 season in general, while it was good to experience 4v4 games from a tactical perspective in Christchurch, we strongly believe that the Super League's 3v3 cross-ice format (with the ice divided into 3x cross-ice games) is ideal for player skills development. This is consistent with supporting model from USA Hockey and the basis for the Super League development. We recommend retaining this model (3v3) for the 2020 season.

As at the time of writing this annual report, we were part-way through the U12 Summer League, which has 4x teams on the ice sharing just under half-ice equivalent space and running 2 lines of 4v4 games. In short, I have the following recommendations for 2020:

- Retain 3v3 cross-ice format, with the occasional 4v4 game for variation of play and a more rounded experience for the players
- Increase the U12 Super League teams to six teams
- Increase the U9 Super League teams to 4 teams, and actively invest in recruiting players from LTP into the U9 Super League
- Note this increase will pose greater pressure for ice time and referee resourcing!
- Provide team-based training at LTP (e.g. Monday night)
- Provide additional night in Botany ice rink – so that there are 2x LTP sessions in each rink every week
- Set dates and budget for the Christchurch Tournament early in the 2020 season and promote U9-specific games within the tournament
- Continue to invest in the junior referee program, as well as recruiting and supporting U18 players to coach U12 teams (both LTP, on Sunday games, and U12 Nationals).

Joao Machado
U12/U9 League Director

Bantam League Report

BANTAMS 2019 saw the return of a fourth team back into the competition.

Monday night GAMEDAY was back for everyone in bantam League with players aging up, skilling up, and new signs. An influx of Rookies allowed rosters to swell so we could say goodbye to the 2018 three team comp. We weren't quite three lines strong per team but we were close. As usual players joined part way through the season for varying reasons such as landing in New Zealand, graduating from LTP or moving to Auckland. It is great to have these players add to our roster numbers and strengthen our teams.

Each season we draft our teams with deliberate consideration to ensure:

1. Coaches are teamed with their own children
2. Rosters are evenly matched for equal competition which means evenly placing rep players and rookies across the rosters. Some accommodations are made for ride sharing, etc., but we aim to equalise teams on skill right from the beginning of the season. Then it's up to the squad to see how well they gel, work together to get the best out of the season.

There are a couple of things I think had an impact to this season. Firstly, there were a handful of players given the opportunity to play up to help with JNR numbers. This gave these players an advantage of two games every Monday night. Playing in a faster, more skilful and challenging competition, these players developed quickly and had more time and space with the puck in their own league.

Secondly from the start of the season to the playoffs many the rookies this year (whether they were new to the league or new to Ice hockey) took advantage of the trainings available to all bantams. This was a total of four and a half hours across the two rinks spaced over Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. Where these opportunities were taken, the bunch improved on every skill and were assets on the rosters of their teams. All of the rookies saw their personal game and skill set advance. Credit here goes to these players and the coaches helping at these trainings.

My season recap would not be complete without mentioning the players who have been a constant in this league some of these players has competed in seven seasons with the rest not far behind. We won't see this going forward thanks to the increasing popularity of our sport and the good numbers in u9s and u12s we have coming through. These players have been the core of the bantams and have grown not only in size but also skill and athleticism each week and year with our program. It has been my pleasure to see this as Bantam League director. A few of them have now gone off shore in pursuit of the hockey dream which undoubtedly caused a little Havoc come finals, but we wish them all the very best and look forward to seeing them on ice again soon.

Going into Finals the Panthers, Pythons, and Hornets were mere points apart. The first round playoffs were equally close, and no one could rule out Jeff's Seawolves as we had seen him coach his team from fourth to first 2018.

It ended with the Seawolves placed 4th behind Panthers 3rd, Pythons 2nd and Hornets with gold. Hornets also entered finals as the regular season leader. It was a combined team effort and a big win for a squad that also had one of the Bantams top point scorers, clubs top Defence player and top goaltender. Sadly the Pythons coach Mikey was too unwell to attend finals but we are pleased that he has recovered fully. His and Max's absence did have an impact to the team, but credit to Jason & Shane who were able to step in on the day.

Huge thanks to all our coaches Hank, Doug, Mikey, Jason, Jeremy, Ali, Jeff, and Managers, Kent, Janet, Ruth and everyone else who helped make the season a success for the kids. Special thanks to Michael Domigan, the biggest Bantam goalie ever but always on call when needed to fill a net.

Bantam League Shiniest stars this season are

Rookie of the year	ETHAN BROWN
Most Improved	INDIE KEDDEL STONE
Most Sportsmanlike	ZADIA PAULSE
Top point Scorers	JOSH STEEN , IVAN DALMATAU
Best Forward	IVAN DALMATAU
Best Defence	NASH JONES
Top Goaltender	TARQUIN ANDERSON

Thank you to all our players and parents for the 2019 season.

Jen Jones
Bantam League Director

Junior League Report

This year we were able to again have a four team league; once again we conducted a draft at the beginning of the season to endeavour to have as close a competition as possible. But numbers were always tight, and if we did not have a number of U15's playing up for a second game each Monday night we would not have been able to sustain all four teams.

There were also four players from Hungary playing on three of the teams for two and a half months, they helped to lift numbers and increase the intensity. For the most part this was successful. One team did struggle initially, but was more competitive towards the tail end of the season.

One issue this year was goalies, with a number of injuries and people away, it seemed like we required a backup from the Adult league almost every week.

The winning team this year was the Outlaws, backing up their victory from last year. Another draft was conducted to select the top players for two teams to compete against each other for the Csaba Cup three game series at the end of the season. The first two games were won by Hades securing the Cup; however Poseidon came back and won the final game to deny the sweep.

The remaining players were drafted into two Tier 2 teams, Zeus and Ares, to compete in a three game competition. This was very competitive with the teams sharing the first two games, with the final game resulting in a draw in regular time; eventually Zeus taking the win in overtime. Potentially this series may be extended to five games for next year, as it was very well received and could benefit from the extra games.

Award Winners:

Top Points Scorer:	Luc Taillon
Best Forward:	Caleb Chamberlin
Best Defense:	Flynn Hayward-Jones
Best Goal Tender:	Barr Bialik
Most Improved:	William Liu
Most Sportsman like:	Jamie Kaiser

Stephen Chamberlin
Junior League Director

Women's Representative Hockey

The 2018-2019 NZWIHL season proved more challenging than the previous year. The three team competition continued to be unbalanced. Southern appeared stronger with the addition of two North American imports who led the way in points and Canterbury tailed behind with the loss of several key players. Auckland continues to have strong leadership and contains several players that execute above the league standard. Auckland ended the season with a second place finish, a record of 7-0-1-4 and +18 goal differential.

The girls had adequate on-ice preparation, which included regular team practices, skills sessions, and a seven game super-series against local teams. Fitness was also a key focus area with weekly cross-fit sessions building up to regular season.

Overall, the season was another of success with great camaraderie amongst the players, coaching and management staff.

The biggest challenge for our squad continues to be cost of a 12 game season and ensuring we ice a full team. We found it difficult to fill the 17 travelling players spots for various reasons on two out-of-town rounds. Our squad had 20 consistent members with the addition of two rookies to the sport.

As the head coach and Director of Women's Hockey, I continue to recognise a need to recruit younger and less experienced female players to build the foundation of the representative team. We recently hosted another female only "Have-a-Go" day to introduce women to the sport and had 60+ women and children partake.

We implemented the on-ice and off-ice testing as noted as needed at this time last year and will continue to monitor and compare scores as a measure of the success of this program. The squad needs to continue to improve on these results.

We thank the AIHA for their continued support to the program. You have secured funding for ice time and jerseys and continue to support our on-ice development through the 6 pre-season adult skills sessions currently running out of Botany arena.

Going into the 2019/2020 season we have a squad size of 27 who are expected to regularly play and/or practice with the team.

The following areas continue to be considered and need improvement in the upcoming year:

- Facilitation of Scat 3 testing for the entire squad prior to the start of the season.
- Identification of a medical professional in each region to attend to injuries and travel to hospital where necessary.
- Funding; Many girls have lost interest in the sport purely because of the cost to play.

Rachel Park
Women's Representative Hockey Director

Adult Hockey League Report

Firstly thank you, to everyone in the Adult Hockey community for the opportunity to be involved.

When asked to help out in 2019 as Director for Senior Hockey I did not know what I was in for and happily agreed to “help” where I could so the season started by discovering the responsibilities of the role and systems for communicating with the AIHA Board and players.

New systems: 2019 has provided opportunities to trial and implement new systems. We made some mistakes and had some successes.

Officials: there was a shortage of officials in 2018 so when the request went out in 2019 from the Head Official for more volunteers we had a good group of adult players go through the officials course and join the roster.

New player applications: we set up a processing system including player grading with experienced coach/players Justin Daigle, Csaba and Karl Peni then locating a team for the player in the most appropriate Team and Division based on the players skill level.

Playoffs: All Divisions A, B and C went to a 3 of 3 game series. Games were tight and it would be great to market the playoff series in 2020 to increase spectator numbers for some exciting adult hockey games.

Adult Skills Sessions: Justin Daigle, Rachel Park, and AJ Spiller as coaches started training sessions in November which are a great success and hope to continue in 2020.

2020 Team Player Grading/Selection: The AIHA board recently proposed to the AHL community plans to continue to create a fairer more transparent league. AJ and Justin will continue to develop plans for player enjoyment of the game and players team preference. They will provide clear communication from the AIHA board with a team player selection process. This will allow for expansion in AHL, each player will be given the option to stay with their existing team or be placed into a player draft pool.

Player Satisfaction Level: from player feedback during 2019 the satisfaction level from players this season has been very high.

Director position for 2020: I emailed all Team Managers with an invitation to volunteer for the role of Director.

Support: I would like to thank all those whose support has made 2019 a fantastic group success. Thanks to my wife who has advised on many occasions and thanks to friends in the Adult Hockey community for feedback and advice.

Resignation: I have submitted my resignation in October as Director and wish the next Adult Hockey League Director all the best for 2020.

CTI- My hope is that the AHL will “Continue to Improve” for the season in 2020.

Bill Bartlett
AHL Director

Director of Player and Coaching Development Report

As the 2019 ice hockey season draws to a close, now is a good time to reflect on what was a busy and eventful year. Of particular note was our farewell to Csaba as Head Coach part way through the season. While this was a significant change, Justin Daigle did an amazing job stepping in as acting Head Coach. AJ Spiller was also instrumental in ensuring an effective and successful transition. Through this transition, several systems were put in place to ensure detailed practice plans were shared out to all coaches before trainings, including the specific focus, teaching points and each coach's responsibility. This change provided an opportunity for our dedicated volunteer coaches to become more engaged in the planning and delivery of weekly trainings. Here is an outline of some key areas of focus from this season:

Opportunities to Train Outside of Weekly Practices:

- Weekly pre-season training started in February, including an off-ice component at Glenfield Active Zone with a focus on shooting and puck-handling. This was a great opportunity for players wanting to train before the regular season started, and will continue next year.
- School holiday camps - in particular the spring school break camp was a huge success. This camp included a fitness component with players training at the People's Gym, and this model will continue next year.
- Six-week off-season training currently under way, with an off-ice strength/fitness component.

Improved Player Fitness:

- Implementing strength and conditioning for all ages.
- Aligning with concept of Learn to Train - teaching players proper technique and utilising resources such as local gyms, trainers, fitness coaches.
- Fitness/strength training to be embedded in pre-season, off-season, holiday camps, development camps, and representative leagues.
- Goal of creating consistency in fitness progression right through to U20s, to maximise competitiveness in international play.

Increased Focus On Player Safety:

- This includes the implementation of a checking progression for all ages, leading to teaching proper body checking techniques to players well before they are checking age.
- Emphasis on players being aware and safe on the ice, both when delivering and receiving contact.
- Bringing physical play in line with USA Hockey and International Ice Hockey Federation rules.

Player Discipline/Respect:

- Player discipline, behaviour, and respect - both on and off the ice - was a key focus, particularly for our representative teams. We will continue to set high standards for respect, sportsmanship, and team play, and lead by example.
- The aim is for these standards to develop consistency across all levels, at all centres, right through to our national teams.

Opportunities For Developing Coaches:

- IIHF and NZIHF coaching course in October saw an excellent turnout, with great feedback from coaches - we will continue to offer these next season, to continue to add to and strengthen our coaching capacity.
- The Nate Leslie National Development Camp held here in October was a huge learning opportunity, both for players and coaches. There were over 30 coaches from across New Zealand. This was a real opportunity to develop consistency in our coaching values, with the end goal of raising the level of hockey across all of New Zealand.

While there were many successes to be proud of this year, there remain several areas that need more attention. Here are some goals for improvement for next year:

Goalie Development:

- We need to do more to address goalie development, including running goalie specialty clinics, developing goalie coaches, planning specifically for goalies in practice plans, and acquiring equipment for younger goalies.

Player Skill Development Planning:

- We need to set out a clear, detailed plan for player skill development.
- This will be used to create a roadmap for next season.
- We will use player data, along with coach's feedback and input.

Communicating with Parents and Coaches:

- Communication with both parents and coaches regarding the season development plan, goals, and updates.
- This process would allow for coach's feedback and input during the season.

It has been a pleasure being a member of this year's board, and I look forward to another great season of ice hockey.

Cam Stephen
Player and Coaching Development Director

Head Coach Report

The 2019 season saw Csaba depart midway through the season, we would first like to thank him for all the hard-work he put in, laying a foundation we're excited to build upon.

The main focus of all of our trainings this season has been about skill development. Station based practices that work on skills, game situations and small area games have worked very well. They allow for a better work to rest ration for the players, so they aren't standing in line for the majority of the training. They're also instrumental in ensuring we're using ice-time most efficiently as possible.

Learn to Play at both Avondale and Botany have averaged approximately 45 skaters per session. There has been a great influx of new coaches at both rinks, with some Junior players coming along to help assist. This is something we would love to see continue, the younger kids at Learn to Play really enjoy having them on the ice.

A big thanks to all the coaches who come along to assist for Learn to Play, Bantam/Junior trainings, Super League games and all other club level games. The support and knowledge from having a large coaching base is currently a strength for AIHA.

The NZIHF Development Camp that was held in Auckland was a great success. It educated us on how we can improve our trainings moving forward, but also that we are currently on the right path for successful player development.

There was also a coaching clinic hosted for Auckland based coaches that was led by Andy Kaisser and the NZIHF. There were 20 coaches who attended ranging from beginner coaches, to more experienced. The dialogue throughout the course was very positive with everyone wanting to learn from each other. We will aim to host more of these in the near future.

2019 Results:

Women's National League: Silver

U12 Club Tournament: Silver & Bronze

U15 National League: Silver

U18 National League: Gold

Men's National League: Admirals = Silver, Swarm = Bronze

AJ Spiller and Justin Daigle

Referee-in-Chief Report

This was my second year as AIHA Referee-in-Chief, a role I held in addition to my elected board position as Vice President.

My objectives in 2019 followed on from my 2018 priorities, which was the recruitment and development on on-ice and off-ice officials. But whereas in 2018 I focused on recruiting players from the Bantam and Junior leagues to officiate Super League U12 games, this year I worked to recruit adult players to officiate youth league and Adult Hockey League games. To accomplish that goal, I reached out to AHL team managers, asking them to pass the word. And with the help of Michael Domigan, Director Marketing & Communication, I made effective use of the Association's online registration platform to identify members interested in officiating or scorebenching.

The results were very pleasing: we had nine new adults and five new youths in stripes. In total, AIHA had twenty-six adult referees and 11 youth referees regularly officiating games in 2019. The combined total of thirty-seven referees overall (the largest of any regional association in New Zealand) represents a significant increase in the numbers of active officials over 2017, when the Association had fewer than a dozen active referees.

I ran two training sessions for on-ice officials, both at Paradise Avondale, held on 14 March and 27 April, aimed at adult and returning referees, included both classroom and on-ice instruction, and together drew over thirty attendees.

I also recruited a new cohort of off-ice officials and with Keita Suzuki and Braden O'Laughlin's help ran a scorebench training session, which drew 13 attendees. As a result, AIHA had a pool of nineteen scorebenchers to draw upon, an significant increase over six scorebenchers as of the end of the 2018 season.

I look forward to running multiple training seminars for on-ice and off-ice officials in 2020 as well as expanding our capacity for supervising officials, too.

As to operations in 2019, I would like to acknowledge Matt Clarke, who handled on-ice and off-ice officials scheduling; Doug Thompson, who helped with organizing monthly credits; and Keita Suzuki, for his cheerful assistance and sharing of scorebench knowledge.

I would also like to comment on the relations between referees and players and both adult and youth levels in 2019, which were broadly positive. We had no abuse of the official penalties in our youth leagues this year and a small number of such penalties in our adult leagues. As to the latter, I wish to continue to foster understanding and respect of officials among our adult members and good consistency and communication skills among our officials. As to our youth players, I would like to draw attention to the Bantam and Junior representative teams, which accrued the fewest penalty minutes in their respective leagues while finishing second and first, respectively. I think those results speak to the great collaboration among coaches and referees in the AIHA and are proof that we are doing something right in terms of teaching our young players to play the game competitively but also intelligently and safely.

With these positive results, I look forward to continued improvement in AIHA officiating in 2020.

Paul Taillon
Referee-In-Chief

New Zealand Representatives

NZ U18 Men's

Alexander Regan
Christian Regan
Finley Forbes
Flynn Hayward Jones
Lochlan Butler
Max Vesper

NZ Ice Fernz

Grace Harrison
Terryn Bruce
Helen Murray
Jaimeson Jones
Ashley Richmond
Rachael Neville-Lamb
Harriet Fuller
Reagyn Shattock
Lochlyn Hyde
Hannah Shields
Jemma Read
Jasmine Horner-Pascoe

NZ U18 Womens

Kate Vernal
Jamie Kaiser
Emily Carr
Tuhi-Mareikura Hopa-Thomson

NZ Ice Blacks

Rick Parry
Blake Jackson
Dale Harrop
Stephen Mawson
Nicholas Henderson
Andrew Hay
Aleksander Polozov
Robin Vortanov
Frazer Ellis
Jordan Challis
Nicholas Craig