



**AUCKLAND ICE HOCKEY  
ASSOCIATION INC.**

**2020  
ANNUAL REPORT**



Under 12 Super League in Action – The Future of Auckland Ice Hockey!



Auckland U18 Representative Team Win Gold Medal at 2020 National Tournament



Auckland Blue (1<sup>st</sup>) and Auckland White (4<sup>th</sup>) at U15 Representative National Tournament



Auckland Women's Representative Team Win Silver Medal at 2020 National Tournament

---

# Contents

AIHA Board of Directors	Page	4
President Report	Page	5
Vice President Report	Page	6
Director of Finance Report	Page	7 - 8
General Manager Report	Page	9
U12 League Report	Page	10 - 11
Bantam League Report	Page	12
Junior League Report	Page	13
Adult Hockey League Report	Page	14
Director of Player and Coach Development Report	Page	15 - 16
Director of Officiating and Referee in Chief Report	Page	17 - 18
Director of Administration Report	Page	19
Director of Marketing & Communication Report	Page	20
NZ Representatives	Page	21

---

## 2020 Board of Directors

President:	Carl McIntyre
Vice President:	Timothy Butterfield
Director of Finance:	Karen Messenger
Director of U12 League:	Joao Machado
Director of Bantam League:	Jenn Jones
Director of Junior League:	Stephen Chamberlin
Director of Adult Hockey League:	Aaron Somerville
Director of Women's Ice Hockey:	Vacant
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:	Carl McIntyre Wayne Curtis

## President Report

The 2019/2020 season has been a challenging one to say the least, with the effects of COVID-19 requiring changes to all levels of ice hockey in Auckland.

To that end, I would firstly like to thank all the hard work by our volunteers; without their tireless efforts and long hours, we would not have an ice hockey club here in Auckland.

I would also like to thank our paid staff, General Manager A.J. Spiller and Head Coach Justin Daigle, for their endless hours of effort, their support and energy during a very difficult season. It has been a very challenging year, with the club needing to adapt to the new normal we now find ourselves in.

AIHA continues to grow at all levels from Under 9s through to our Adult League, with our youngest member aged 4 years old and our oldest aged 67, as well as increasing female representation among our membership.

AIHA is in a financially stable position, even after the tough times we have gone through in 2020, thanks to sensible decisions made by our Board of Directors and the ability for us to adapt to the many changes this year has required of us.

We look forward to further growth in the coming years, with our focus on maintaining growing the game at youth levels. Large youth leagues result in a larger and healthier club long term.

Unfortunately, one of the casualties of COVID-19 was the cancellation of the NZIHF National Under 12 Tournament in Queenstown. Our hope is that this event will take place in 2021 as it is certainly a highlight of the year for all involved.

Congratulations is due to our Under 15 Representative players and staff as 2020 saw for the first time two Auckland teams compete in the National U15 Representative League. Both teams had a lot of fun and were very competitive, with Auckland White finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and Auckland Blue finishing 1<sup>st</sup>.

Success also followed for our Under 18 Representative team which claimed 1<sup>st</sup> place at the National Under 18 Representative League and our Auckland Women's representative team who claimed 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the NZWIHL.

One of my personal highlights this year was seeing the locally based NZIHL Showdown Series take place in Auckland. Due to the regular NZIHL season being cancelled, this new format saw the Botany Swarm play against the West Auckland Admirals in a 4-game series, and resulted in record breaking ticket sales and attendance. This series was an excellent opportunity for our elite players to enjoy competitive ice hockey, and a great way to boost the profile of ice hockey in Auckland, and we look forward to the continued growth of elite hockey here in Auckland.

Carl McIntyre  
President

## Vice President Report – Timothy Butterfield

As my first year serving as Vice President, I have looked to support AIHA initiatives that already exist and to provide thought and feedback from my involvement in other areas of the Auckland Ice Hockey community (e.g., LTP coaching, a Parent, a Player in the AHL, and a minor financial contribution).

The role has been a consultative role for the past 12 months. I envision this will change to a more hands on role over the next 12 months.

I see great opportunities to add value with special events and work closer with Carl / A.J. to understand more about the governance side of the role.

As it is inclusive of the VP role to help guide disciplinary committees, I am pleased to report that only two disciplinary incidents occurred this year which I believe are a statement on the well-mannered character of our players. Having only two incidents that required review within our league is fantastic and an indication of the standard of hockey promoted by AIHA.

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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. 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 2019

Our AHL, Junior and Bantam Leagues have continued to be invoiced through Clubhub. Learn to Play trainings and the Super League (for U9s & U12s) is on a pay as you go system which continues to work well.

We had increases in income from increased attendance at Botany Learn To Play and the School Holiday Program.

In 2019 we received funding from:

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • 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                      |

It was a big year for employment within AIHA. We went from having a part time Head Coach to employing AJ as General Manager and Csaba as a full time Head Coach, and later in the year Justin took on this role. They have enabled us to continue to improve activity throughout the club.

We saw increases in the cost of ice time due to a 5% increase on all ice fees from both Auckland rinks, AIHA offered a second Learn To Play training in Avondale and AIHA started offering school holiday programs.

Due to timing, the November 2018 prize giving and the October 2019 prize giving were included in the 2019 financial year.

We finished 2019 with a surplus of \$24,830.

### Review of 2020:

We have continued to use Clubhub for invoicing the AHL, Midget, Bantam and Rep fees. The Learn to Play and Super League sessions continued to see good attendance and they continue to use the pay as you go system. It's been a difficult year due to missed Learn To Play trainings and the re-scheduling of games. Having said this, we are delighted that we were able to complete the NZIHL Showdown Series and we are close to completing all our Leagues.

During the 2020 year we have received funding of \$62,980. The majority of this funding was Covid related.

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Trillian Trust            | Player Jerseys               |
| • Auckland Council – Howick | Ice Time                     |
| • Four Winds Foundation     | Ice Time                     |
| • NZIHF                     | Learn To Play Gear           |
| • NZIHF                     | Funding for Admirals & Swarm |
| • NZIHF                     | Regional Covid Support       |

- Aktive Community Resilience Fund
  - MSD Wages Subsidy
- Operational Costs - Covid  
Wages

Ice time remains our biggest primary expense and we had another price increase at the beginning of the year. Paradise helped us to re-schedule our bookings after the first lockdown. After the second lockdown, we had ice booked for our leagues but due to gathering restrictions of 10 people we were unable to run games. Thankfully, the funding from the Aktive Community Resilience Fund helped us through.

The accounts for 2020 are still being processed but we anticipate AIHA will have a surplus of approximately \$30,000 ... this estimation is based on AIHA collecting the remaining \$28,846 of player fees that are outstanding.

I do want to say thank you to our Board and all our members for helping make the 2020 season work. It has been an interesting time juggling ice availability and the necessary re-scheduling by all involved.

Karen Messenger  
Director of Finance

---

## AIHA General Manager Report

2020 presented significant obstacles for AIHA, along with many other sporting bodies in Auckland and New Zealand. Rather than let these challenges define us, we took the opportunity to diversify, strengthen and set ourselves and our members up for a bright and promising future.

Communication was identified as a key focus area for the 2020 season and was used effectively and efficiently. The pro-active communication lead by Director of Marketing & Communication, Michael Domigan, helped us navigate our way through the unique season. Our Learn to Play programme progressed substantially during the times it was fully operational. A Monday night Learn to Play session at Avondale that had 3 players attend when it was introduced in 2019, saw 45 players attend the same session early in Term 3. For the first time ever, Learn to Play at Botany reached 60 players in a single session, which happened twice in Term 3. This has given us confidence that our programming and approach to Learn to Play are all on a great path. It is also a credit to our Head Coach, Justin Daigle; champion volunteers, Wayne Curtis, Carl McIntyre, Karen Messenger, and the numerous other volunteer coaches and parents that help make Learn to Play a special experience for the kids and parents.

The U9/U12 Super League expanded this season to now feature four U9 teams and four U12 teams. Attendance at the Super League during operation was up approximately 10 players per session from last season. The format changed from having 3 games running at once, to having 4 games running at the same time. This format gives us the opportunity to have more kids active at once, and keeps all players engaged in the games. João Machado continues to provide an excellent gameday experience for everyone involved.

The Bantam & Junior Leagues have been both competitive and enjoyable this season. Many trainings and games had to be re-scheduled and several trainings were run under strict group gathering limits. These trainings have taught us a lot about the players enthusiasm for the game, with most of them filling up very quickly after pre-registrations were released. Thank you to league directors Jenn Jones and Stephen Chamberlin for all their hard work ensuring a successful season, along with Director of Player and Coach Development Cam Stephen and all the volunteer coaches and managers that help the Bantam & Junior leagues run smoothly.

The Adult Hockey League was another area of focus for AIHA. Inclusion of music at the games has provided a better atmosphere for players and bringing on a veteran of the Auckland hockey scene in Aaron Sommerville as Adult League Director, was instrumental in making some changes to improve the league as a whole. At the representative level, AIHA sent away two U15 teams to the National Tournament which was a great success with one of the two teams winning the tournament. The U18s also had a great campaign winning their tournament as well. Despite the shortened lead up to the tournaments, all teams did a fantastic job. The Women's Representative team is currently still playing their season. Thank you to all the coaches and managers involved with all these teams.

Finally, I would also like to thank AIHA Referee in Chief, Paul Taillon for all the work he does with organising the officials and officiating himself. Secretary Mary Alice Simon for her organisation of the Board meetings, and for being a standout manager with the U18 rep team. And Vice President Tim Butterfield for his assistance with Learn to Play, the Super League and always providing a helping hand.

Although 2020 was not an ideal year, I feel that we've made improvements to all our programs and look forward to continuing this improvement and growth of the sport into 2021.

AJ Spiller  
AIHA General Manager

## U9 and U12 League Report

The 2020 season started with four U9 and four U12 teams – each team able to carry 2-3 lines of three players, with the U12's also having a specialist goalie (who also rotated out so that other kids could have a go in goal) and 1-2 reserve goalies or players who were keen to give it a go. Teams were encouraged to use WhatsApp groups for regular communication in particular in regard to absence and game availability rosters. The regular AIHA text message and league director emails provided a good level of communication with the whole league.

### U9 – Super League

Four teams – Ironman, Supers, Green Lantern, and Incredibles – of 9 players grew to be on average 12 players at the start of the first lockdown and part-way through the season when we were able to resume play. For the 2021 season, I anticipate that AIHA will be able to run 6x U9 teams (9-10 players per team including goalie).

Coaches and managers:

- Ironman: Sean Abe and Shane Beetham (Coaches) / Garth Morton and Kendyl Earley (Managers)
- Supers: Nicholas Marsh and Alex Luggen (Coaches) / James Cunningham (Manager)
- Green Lanterns: Phillip Keen (Coach) / Lisa Keen (Manager)
- Incredibles: Cam Green (Coach) / Andrew Thorburn (Manager)

### U12 – Super League

The U12 League had four teams – Spiders, Panthers, Captains and Flash – with some new players stepping up from last year's U9 league teams. Despite a large number of players ageing out last season, the U12 league had a reliable and good number of players to run 4x teams through the season.

2020 Season Coaches and managers:

- Panthers: Peter Carscallen (Coach) / Shar Mcdowell (Manager)
- Spiders: Matt Blaby (Coach) / Ezlyn Lang (Manager)
- Flash: Yonko Nikolov (Coach) / Aaron Keith and Greg Morgan (Managers)
- Captains: Tim Butterfield (Coach) / Laura Brown (Manager)

### Goalie Rotation in U9 and U12 Leagues

For the U9 League, goalie rotation was mandatory, with everyone in the team taking a turn to step into goal. Some players have a strong preference to play in goal but they were required to play out at least 2x Sundays before stepping in goal again. Removing the competition (goal or scores are not recorded and therefore don't really matter) along with the new clip-on goalie gear has promoted the position with more kids than ever before giving it a go. The dreaded role was no longer feared, and the kids mostly really enjoyed having a go with most of the kids borrowing the gear for mid-week training and lining up to go in goal again on Sunday games.

The goalie rotation in U12 allowed 'specialist goalies' to play goal up to two game days in a row, having to then play out at least a whole game day. This gave other players the opportunity to step in goal, while also making sure that players don't specialise too early and continue to develop player skills; this provides an ideal development framework for players with long-term skills benefits. A larger number of kids had a go in goal.

### Junior Referees

The AIHA-run junior referees development programme run by Paul Taillon added a substantial point of difference for the Super League. Our AIHA junior referees have developed a lot this season again, managing both the U12 and U9 games extremely competently and maintaining the relationships from the older age groups with the younger U12 players in particular. Of particular note – Aidan Todd stepped up in to a 'senior role' with the junior referees, adding to his portfolio both refereeing and coaching U12 teams.

### U12 Nationals – Queenstown (cancelled)

We had an overwhelming level of interest in the Queenstown tournament from U9 League players – this is a very positive signal that we provided a safe, fun, and age-appropriate environment for the U9 players and families. We reached full complements of 2x U9 and 2xU12 teams for Queenstown. Unfortunately, the tournament was cancelled due to the Covid-19 global pandemic and uncertainties around an extended Alert Level 3 or 2 in the August – September period.

After four years with the board looking after the U12 age groups, in particular establishing the Super League (three seasons) and starting the U9 League (two seasons) – I stand down from the AIHA Board as U12 League Director having thoroughly enjoyed my term on the board. In particular, it has been a great joy and privilege to positively influence the Super League framework, governance and overall experience for the kids over this time.

I'm not 'leaving' AIHA, as the experience I had with the Super League will forever stay with me with all the fond memories, the laughs, late nights, questions and answers, and in particular the two Christchurch Tournament trips in 2018 and 2019.

Joao Machado  
U12 League Director

---

## Bantam League Report

This time last year we had finished our season, we were playing our Auckland cup series and we were about to attend our annual prize giving. Jump to start of the 2020 season and we were holding Zoom meetings to determine if our players would even see the inside of the ice rink.

I am very happy to be writing that because of a huge effort we overcame the obstacles that COVID-19 created and have through the awesome team within the AIHA Board revamped the game schedule. I have no idea how many countless hours were spent to keep our players on the ice. THANK YOU !!!

A massive thank you also to the league coaches and managers Hank Snell and Neil Reeves - Hornets, Jeremy Allen and Spencer Noonan - Panthers, Phillip Fourie and Stephanie Palmer - Pythons. They are on the ground Monday Game Nights and trainings. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated.

We are heading into the end of the season with two teams tied and the third team a game and two points behind. The next couple of weeks will be very exciting. It's great the competition is this close. Due to COVID-19 2.5 and the National Rep rounds I have not seen the bantam league teams in action or at a training. Last I time saw everyone most of the league was heading off to U15 nationals and having a blues vs white game. It was a club first and awesome to see. It is for this reason I have reached out to Spencer Noonan manager of the Panthers to add a few words as he is at the games , trainings and has travelled as a manager with the Reps . Thank you to everyone who has helped all you mums and dads, Good luck to the players aging up into juniors. This is really my last year as Bantam Director. It's been A blast.

With COVID interrupting the season, this presented challenges not just for AIHA but all sporting organisations. Justin and AJ's online hockey training helped to keep players engaged during lockdown and during those difficult stages where there was the uncertainty of returning to the ice. Due to size limits on gatherings, the cross ice trainings were a good option as it was more concentrated with nine kids and one coach. I can understand the frustration with the limited numbers if someone had missed out. The practices have seen a great comradery with us all training together and developing our skills. The Monday games have been phenomenal, with some very exciting, challenging and close games.

The selection of the teams, has been very good, they are well balanced and until last week this was really exemplified as all teams were all on equal pegging. The coaches and managers of the Pythons, Hornets and Panthers have really fostered great team spirit. This has also passed down to the players, however the support, advice and comradeship given to my son by older teammates has been really touching. Player development has not just been through coach and manager but players have also lead with this development offering instruction and advice to younger members . I feel humbled that the young adults in our team have really embraced this team spirit and their acceptance of teammates has been great with our team. Paramount to all of this is the development of the players, and I have enjoyed seeing those that have struggled to begin with really evolve into competent players.

Lastly, with the various interruptions in the season I feel that the AIHA has done really well to reschedule sessions, and games in such difficult times, along with scheduling conflicts with other ice users. I would also like to thank both the coaches and managers for giving up their time and for passing their knowledge on to the players. I would also like to thank AJ and Justin, along with the other coaches who have trained the kids, I feel what makes AIHA successful is that there are so many that contribute in small ways to achieve great outcomes, not just results however but providing such an enjoyable and accommodating experience for all of our players. Spencer Noonan (Manager - Panthers)

Jen Jones  
Bantam League Director

## Junior League Report

### *The year of COVID-19*

This year the Junior League comprised of three teams as opposed to four last year. This had a twofold effect; each team would be able to maintain numbers each week and provide a better competition overall.

Instead of a draft, Justin and AJ did the team selections to try and get the overall skill levels as close as possible.

With the three-team format, game days were structured with one team each week playing two games – this way we didn't have the situation of each team having a bye week every third week.

The teams are, The Outlaws coached by Kevin Simon, The Ice Hogs coached by Cam Stephen and The Mighty Pucks coached by Andy Kaiser.

Just like everyone else we did not start until late June, and managed to get eight games each before Lockdown 2.0.

For the second half, the schedule provides for another four games each team of round robin, then two games each for playoffs and the Final.

At the time of writing there are still several games to go, so the outcome of the season and the recipients of the various awards has not been decided yet.

This year has been difficult to say the least, but we have had a season! The games are great to watch and the players are enjoying themselves.

AJ and Justin have done a brilliant job with organising and reorganising schedules and practices, doing their best to try and get as many on the ice as possible during level 2.5 and 2. This would not have been possible without their efforts and commitment to the players and hockey.

Many thanks to all who have participated and been a part of the 2020 season.

Stephen Chamberlin  
Junior League Director.

## Adult Hockey League Report

While working with the AHL, GM and Head coach, we decided to expand the A Division to include NZIHL and Junior players as their season was cancelled due to COVID-19. A shuffle was also needed in order to further develop younger talent coming up through the lower AHL Tiers as well as introducing the Junior's to the league they will play in if they fail to secure a roster spot at the NZIHL level. Not enough movement between Tiers in the past years has left some players playing outside of their talent level.

We've identified experience gaps and have introduced music at games to provide a pro hockey type atmosphere for both players and spectators alike. We also provide a 'free' beer (all teams first game) to help the team managers 'break the ice' with their new squads or new additions to their squads on their first games. This was very well received.

It's been a difficult season with COVID-19 restrictions on and then off again. The AHL has persevered and I'm happy to say we're still able to offer a FULL 20 game season with playoffs for the top 4 teams.

We have aimed and are on track to delivering the full "Hockey Package" to all AHL members.

Aaron Somerville  
Adult Hockey League Director

---

## Director of Player and Coach Development Report

Despite the Covid-19 interruptions, this season has included many opportunities for developing players and coaches.

### **Preseason Training:**

This season, we had a great turnout for both off ice and on ice preseason training. Off ice sessions took place at Glenfield Active Zone, starting with a rotation focusing on shooting and puck handling, followed by 3 on 3 ball hockey. On ice sessions included a balance of strength/fitness, skill practice and small area games.

### **Regular Trainings:**

Weekly trainings have been very successful this season, with strong turnout. Justin has put lots of work into planning the sessions, using feedback from players and coaches as well as observing and reflecting on each session. We have had a strong core of coaches involved at all age levels. We have been trying out many different ice layouts in order to maximize accommodate longer zone drills, power skating, and goalie focused stations. Training plans are shared out ahead of time, giving coaches a chance to prepare for the sessions.

### **Holiday Programs:**

This season's holiday programs have continued to be very successful. Justin and AJ have built a great model including skill development, fitness, and fun.

### **Accommodations during Covid-19 Alert Levels:**

Justin and AJ did an amazing job of offering skill development for players during the various alert levels. This ranged from modified training sessions on the ice to Zoom skills session during lockdown. This was certainly a key part of retaining player and coach engagement until the regular season could resume.

### **Bantam/Junior League:**

This season's league games have been competitive while maintaining a fun atmosphere. The double-head format used to accommodate three teams has seemed to be very successful, with lots of positive feedback from players. Giving selected underage players a chance to play up in the junior league has worked well to support skill development.

### **Representative Level:**

This was a different representative season, with all regular season games cancelled due to Covid-19. In spite of this, Auckland sent two U15 teams to the national finals for the first time, and came away with a gold medal. The feedback from everyone at the tournament was very positive. The U18 team also won gold for the third year in a row. The Auckland U18 team also won the award for lowest penalty minutes for the second straight year. This is a great indication that we are heading in the right direction with developing our players and teams. Spectators at the tournament commented overwhelmingly on the level and style of hockey in the finals between Auckland and Dunedin.

### **Player Dispensation:**

This season's dispensation program was successful, giving several overage players an opportunity to play in the national finals, as well as filling a needed backup goalie position for the U18s. This will continue to be supported as a way to keep players involved in the game.

### **Goalie Development:**

Several steps have been taken in order to support goalie development. All players in the super league are given opportunities to try the goalie position, and the quick change goalie gear has made this much easier to do. There has also been an effort to include a dedicated goalie station in regular bantam/junior trainings, as well as a goalie focus in various stations. However, we still recognise the

shortage of goalies and the tendency to ‘forget’ about goalies when running drills and stations. We will continue to work to support existing goalies and look to attract new goalies.

**NZIHL Junior Development:**

Both the Admirals and Swarm have included U18 players as part of their junior development program (six per team). With the reduction of regular games and practices, this extra training undoubtedly contributed to the success of the U18 representative team at national finals. This will also help to ensure a succession of players moving from the U18 level into the NZIHL. All of the junior players will be getting some game experience in the cross-town rival series.

**National Development Camp:**

Later in October, Auckland will be hosting a National Development Camp, with players and coaches from all over New Zealand. Camps were held earlier in the season in Dunedin, and there is a great turnout of both coaches and players expected in Auckland. The theme of the camp is “it’s fun to compete with your mates!” This camp will continue to support the goal of developing coaches and players in all centres, and to try to achieve consistency and professionalism in all associations.

While this has been an extremely challenging season for AIHA, it has also been very rewarding. I am proud of the way AIHA has handled Covid-19, and thrilled with the amount of hockey we have been able to provide our members. It has been a pleasure being a member of this year’s board, and I look forward to tackling the challenges that lay ahead.

Cam Stephen  
Director of Player and Coach Development

---

## Director of Officiating and Referee-in-Chief Report

The AIHA officiating program had a successful year in 2020 despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to provide on-ice and off-ice officials for every AIHA game at all levels of play. However, due to the disrupted season we did not engage in the kind of recruitment and training we would have undertaken ordinarily.

### Numbers:

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

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

### Development:

- Training seminars: we did not run any officiating seminars this year due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Instead, I ran adhoc Zoom sessions with the new on-ice and off-ice officials.
- Development of younger officials: we have a cohort of young referees who play in the U19 league who are ready to work lines for U15 games. Unfortunately, the necessity of U15 and U19 league game scheduling has made that impossible. The goal will be to keep these young officials in the game and get them on for U15 lines in 2021 when we hope to return to U15 and U19 games at the same rink on Monday nights.
- SuperLeague continues to function as an important entryway for young, new officials. The cohort who worked these games this season included mostly returning officials and a few new ones. They have showed up on Sunday mornings with enthusiasm and have done a great job on the ice. They have developed a great deal of confidence and I look forward to them working higher-level games when they move into the U19 league as players.
- Supervision: in addition to recruitment and training, supervision—that is, the observing on-ice officials during games and providing formative feedback afterwards—stands as the third leg of developing and retaining officials. We did not undertake any supervision this season due to COVID-19 disruption. We hope to develop a supervision structure next season in 2021.

Moving forward in 2021, we need to renew recruitment efforts to grow the Association's officiating capacity.

**Credit/fee structure:** the AIHA Board of Directors raised fees for on-ice and off-ice officials.

	<b>2019 Rates</b>	<b>Playoffs</b>	<b>% Increase</b>	<b>2020 Regular Season</b>	<b>2020 Playoffs</b>
<b>Bantam/Junior (U15/U19) Games</b>					
Referee	30	45	10%	33.00	49.50
Linesman	18	27	18%	21.25	31.875
Scorebench	16	24	19%	19.00	28.50

	<b>2019 Rates</b>	<b>Playoffs</b>	<b>% Increase</b>	<b>2020 Regular Season</b>	<b>2020 Playoffs</b>
<b>AHL Games</b>					
Referee	32	48	11%	35.50	53.25
Linesman	19	28.5	18%	22.50	33.75
Scorebench	16	24	19%	19.00	28.50

In arriving at the percentage increase, the Board took into account (a) that the existing rates had not been looked at in a while, (b) the fees for scorebench and lines were pretty low, (c) and the overall impact on cost of reimbursing on-ice and off-ice officials.

Turning to officiating experience and penalties assessed, we had one match penalty and one major + game misconduct penalty assessed in the Adult Hockey League. However, all other penalties included minors and a small number of misconduct penalties. We had no abuse of the official penalties in either the youth leagues or adult leagues this year. On balance, the tenor of play was broadly positive as were relations players and referees.

Before closing, I would like to thank all of the officials but especially Matt Clarke for his assistance with scheduling. The addition of A.J. Spiller as General Manager and his taking on the task of organizing the monthly payments to officials greatly reduced the Referee-in-Chief's workload.

With the unique challenges we faced this season, I am satisfied with our officiating numbers and performance this year. However, looking forward to 2021, we must continue to increase our numbers of officials and our development systems to support them.

Paul Taillon  
Director of Officiating and Referee-In-Chief

## Director of Administration Report

Opportunities to apply for funding this year were limited due to the COVID-19 crisis, however three applications were successful. They were:

- Howick Local Board - \$4000.00 Ice Time
- Fourwinds Foundation \$9,692.00 Ice Time
- Aktive \$23,741.00 Assistance for COVID-19 disruptions

Wayne Curtis  
Director of Administration

## Director of Marketing & Communication Report

The 2020 ice hockey season has been a challenging one for all involved – and we knew from the moment COVID-19 appeared on our shores that communication would be the key to managing our members questions and expectations, and figuring out how to navigate a difficult season.

Our communication strategy to manage the effects of COVID-19 was to keep our members informed at all times, even when we were unsure about what a 2020 season would look like, as well as provide updates to schedules and league formats as soon as possible, so players could prepare themselves accordingly. Based on feedback to date, this communication was well received, with positive feedback from our members and an excellent member retention rate.

Despite the challenges we faced this year, we were still able to grow our Learn to Play programme using our social media advertising strategy, inviting players/parents along to try the programme out for free, which has once again proven to be a cost-effective and very successful recruitment strategy.

Due to the 2020 NZIHL season being cancelled, AIHA hosted a local version known as the NZIHL Showdown Series between the Botany Swarm and West Auckland Admirals. Using social media, radio and other avenues, we were able to achieve record breaking ticket sales and attendance for each of these four games, with an excellent return on advertising spend.

Michael Domigan  
Director of Marketing & Communication

## **New Zealand Representatives**

### **NZ U20 National Men's Team**

- Finley Forbes
- Alex Kim
- Flynn Hayward Jones
- Jacob McIntyre
- Lochlan Butler
- Antony Logan
- Max Vesper

### **NZ U18 National Men's Team**

- Barr Bialik
- Caleb Chamberlin
- Flynn Hayward Jones
- Sebastien Ong
- Leon Quigley
- Luke Simon
- Ben Taylor

### **NZ Ice Fernz**

- Alex Hyde
- Ashley Richmond
- Hannah Shields
- Helen Murray
- Jana Kivell
- Jasmine-Horner Pascoe
- Lochlyn Hyde
- Rachael Neville-Lamb
- Terryn Bruce
- Sophie Harold

### **NZ U18 National Women's Team**

- Jamie Kaiser
- Kate Vernal
- Katya Blong

### **NZ Ice Blacks**

- Rick Parry
- Nick Craig
- Oliver Hay
- Gareth McLeish
- Taylor Rooney
- Ondrej Kozak
- Dale Harrop
- Alex Polozov