



GUELPH MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

C11 - 100 CRIMEA ST. GUELPH, ON N1H 2Y6
519-824-5910 | INFO@GUELPHMINORHOCKEY.COM



2024-25 GMHA Board of Directors: Candidate Information

VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES

- [Jamie Baggio](#)

DIRECTOR OF REP - AAA CANDIDATES

- [David Belliveau](#)
- [Bryan Gillmore](#)

TREASURER CANDIDATES

- [Erin Appleby](#)

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE CANDIDATES

- [Carissa Coleman](#)
- [Kathleen McColm](#)
- [Robbin Lindsay](#)
- [Sarah Nicole Taylor](#)
- [Shannon Gerrits](#)
- [Shelley Mills](#)
- [Steve Van Dam](#)
- [Thomas Manes](#)
- [Christi O'Connell](#)
- [Mark Bradley](#)



VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES

Jamie Baggio

Why would you like to join the board?

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to continue my involvement with the GMHA board, particularly within the Vice President role. My goal is to drive positive change for the youth and members of our association across all age groups and divisions, emphasizing growth, development, opportunity, and fairness. With my current position as House League Director and experience as a parent of two children who have engaged in various levels of the GMHA over recent years, I bring a well-rounded perspective focused on prioritizing the welfare of our youth. This background has provided me with a deep understanding of the profound impact organized sports can have on children's holistic development, instilling vital values such as teamwork, discipline, and resilience. In my prospective role on the board, I intend to utilize my expertise and passion to cultivate an environment where all young athletes can thrive, fostering fair play, equitable opportunities, and inclusivity for players, coaches, and volunteers alike. I am committed to collaborating with fellow board members to implement strategic initiatives aimed at ensuring an inclusive, enjoyable, and memorable experience for every child within our organization. Furthermore, I am dedicated to addressing areas of concern with compassionate consideration, proactive discipline, and forward-thinking planning for the future of our association.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

My journey with GMHA began as a Convenor, a role I held for three years before transitioning to the position of House League Director for Guelph Minor Hockey, where I have served for the past three years. Throughout my tenure, I have functioned as a dependable advisor to numerous board members, coaches, and members, providing valuable feedback and insights across various committees, and undertaking responsibilities beyond my designated role. Within GMHA, I have spearheaded significant enhancements within the House League program, including initiatives for SD, Select, and HL divisions. Notably, this year, I established a new league within OMHA and Tri County in collaboration with Halton Hills, that supported a more constructive bridge for players into the Rep league. More importantly, this league provided players looking for a more competitive opportunity to play within a team for the entire season, unlike Select. Building strong alliances with neighboring associations has been a personal priority, fostering collaboration for the betterment of our members. Over the past two years, I have overseen highly successful Select tryouts and House League Championship Weekends, alongside dedicated volunteers. My commitment and efforts were honored with the receipt of the GMHA Ron and Frank Crabtree Executive of the Year award, recognizing outstanding dedication and achievement in Guelph Minor Hockey during the 2022-2023 season.

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?



GUELPH MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

C11 - 100 CRIMEA ST. GUELPH, ON N1H 2Y6
519-824-5910 | INFO@GUELPHMINORHOCKEY.COM



With executive leadership honed through my role as a business owner of an International Marketing and Web Development company, I bring a depth of experience characterized by strong leadership, agile problem-solving, and a results-oriented approach.

In addition to my corporate responsibilities, I have actively dedicated my time and expertise to supporting various sports organizations, both locally in Guelph and internationally, including serving on multiple boards within the Equestrian Community. Furthermore, my personal connection with the Epilepsy Foundation of Canada, driven by my youngest child's experiences, underscores my commitment to community involvement.

Moreover, I possess a diverse skill set encompassing fundraising and sponsorship, conflict resolution, process creation, project management, communication and marketing planning, policy development, and grant writing. These capabilities position me to make meaningful contributions to the board's objectives and initiatives.





DIRECTOR OF REP - AAA CANDIDATES

David Belliveau

Why would you like to join the board?

I have been an active board member for 3 seasons. I'm currently serving in the role of AAA Director. I feel like we have made a lot of progress in the past 3 seasons putting in place safeguards, and structures for our tryout process. I'd like to continue to be a part of the board, and look forward to furthering our strategic goals, by finding innovative ways to support our coaches, and develop our players at all levels of the association.

With the addition of a new hockey ops position this season, I think this is just the beginning of something big.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

I have most recently served as a board member in the Role of AAA Director, I've also served as chair of the coach selection committee, and serve on the development committee as well as the scheduling committee.

I have also served as a Head Coach at the SD1, SD2, and U8 and U9 ADP in the past.

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

I have been a teacher since 2002, I have experience and understanding of human development, and have taught from Grade 2-Grade 8.

Recently I've served the role of Acting Vice - Principal at two schools in the Peel District School Board, in that role I was required to lead in a variety of leadership capacities from instructional leader, problem solver, community relations just to name a few. I'm comfortable taking on new challenges, and recognize the need to be flexible and collaborative.

I have also been an active Head Coach of the 2012's T2 Baseball team for the Guelph Royals.

I believe that for an organization to be at it's best you have to have a collection of different perspectives, and skill sets that compliment each other, and a willingness to seek common ground and work towards achieving realistic strategic priorities.

Bryan Gillmore



GUELPH MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

C11 - 100 CRIMEA ST. GUELPH, ON N1H 2Y6
519-824-5910 | INFO@GUELPHMINORHOCKEY.COM



Why would you like to join the board?

I am eager to continue serving on the board of Guelph Minor Hockey because of my deep-rooted love for Guelph and its community. Being a part of this organization allows me to contribute to the development and well-being of our youth, which is something I am truly passionate about.

I firmly believe in the importance of supporting minor sports, not only for the physical health and development of our children but also for the valuable life skills and lessons they gain through participation. Guelph Minor Hockey plays a crucial role in fostering these skills and providing a positive environment for our young athletes to thrive in.

Moreover, I am committed to ensuring that non-profit organizations like Guelph Minor Hockey are run transparently and efficiently. By serving on the board, I can actively contribute to maintaining the organization's integrity and health. Transparency is not just a buzzword for me; it's a guiding principle that I believe is essential for building trust within the community and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organization.

In summary, my desire to join the board stems from my love for Guelph, my dedication to supporting minor sports, and my passion for seeing non-profit organizations operate in a transparent and healthy manner. I am excited about the opportunity to continue making a positive impact within our community through my involvement with Guelph Minor Hockey.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

My involvement with Guelph Minor Hockey Association has been multifaceted and deeply personal. As a parent, I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the positive impact that GMHA has had on my son Dominic over the past seven years. Through his participation in GMHA programs, he has not only developed his hockey skills but has also grown as a person, learning valuable lessons about teamwork, sportsmanship, and perseverance.

In addition to my role as a parent, I have also served on the GMHA board for the past two years. My tenure on the board has further deepened my appreciation for GMHA's mission and the importance of fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for young athletes.

Overall, my involvement with GMHA has been both personal and professional, driven by a genuine passion for supporting youth sports and a commitment to the success and well-being of the organization. I am proud of the contributions I have made thus far and am eager to continue serving GMHA and its community in any capacity that I can.

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

My extensive experience both professionally and as a volunteer uniquely positions me to complement the role on the Board of Guelph Minor Hockey Association in several valuable ways.



GUELPH MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

C11 - 100 CRIMEA ST. GUELPH, ON N1H 2Y6
519-824-5910 | INFO@GUELPHMINORHOCKEY.COM



Professionally, as the founder of Onside Athletics, a successful non-profit organization, I gained firsthand experience in building and managing a grassroots initiative that grew exponentially over time. This experience equipped me with a deep understanding of organizational development, strategic planning, and effective leadership, all of which are essential for guiding GMHA through its own growth and challenges. Leading Onside Athletics to serve thousands of participants across numerous communities in Ontario and British Columbia honed my skills in program development, community engagement, and stakeholder management. I believe these skills will be invaluable in helping GMHA expand its reach and impact within the Guelph community and beyond.

Furthermore, my current role as an Organizational and Spiritual Life Specialist for Karis Disability Services - the largest Developmental Service organization in Canada - has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the operational complexities and governance requirements of large non-profit organizations. Working within a government and donor-supported framework has sharpened my ability to navigate regulatory environments, manage budgets, and foster meaningful collaborations—all of which are essential for the sustainable growth and success of GMHA.

As a volunteer, my involvement with various sports organizations such as Guelph Minor Lacrosse Association, Guelph Minor Baseball, and Guelph Gators has given me a deep appreciation for the unique challenges and opportunities that arise in youth sports. My service on the boards of other non-profit organizations, including Michael House and Youth Unlimited, has provided me with diverse perspectives and insights into effective governance and organizational best practices.

In summary, my combined professional expertise and volunteer experience qualifies me to contribute to GMHA in a meaningful and impactful way. I am excited about the opportunity to leverage my skills and insights to help GMHA continue its important work of empowering young athletes and fostering a vibrant and inclusive hockey community in Guelph.



TREASURER CANDIDATES

[Erin Appleby](#)

Why would you like to join the board?

Growing up in a small town, our activities were a big part of our family and my parents were always actively involved in each and every organization. As my own children have become involved in their activities I have always tried to give back. These organizations rely heavily on volunteers to make these programs accessible and I have always wanted to ensure I was active in ensuring their programs continued to run.

I firmly believe that sports bring significant value to a child's life and help shape them as a person. Of course, they love to win but as a parent I know there is so much more. Their sports teach them about teamwork, cooperation and respect along with many other life skills.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

Over the past 5 years I have held various roles within GMHA including team manager, trainer and board member.

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

I can bring a significant amount of experience from both prior positions on not-for-profit boards as well as a wealth of knowledge from a career in business. I am a certified accountant which allows me to provide a solid understanding of business and finances to support and ensure the organization continues to be financially viable with full transparency to all members.

Throughout my years in executive positions within the private sector I have a vast knowledge of building strategies and structuring an organization to execute effectively. Along with this, significant time spent managing teams while dealing with conflict resolution and team management are all key transferable skills that I can bring with me to the GMHA board to support the organization. As the environment around us continues to change, my experience in change management and transformation can also provide insight to GMHA to determine the best course of action.



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE CANDIDATES

Carissa Coleman

Why would you like to join the board?

My kids have been participating in GMHA for the past 7 years, and I've been grateful of the hard work and efforts of the board members that make hockey possible for my family. I feel like it's time to contribute myself to a program that we've benefited from.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

I've served as a trainer for the past 2 seasons. U10 AAA and U9 Gold.

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

I have several years of experience running my own business, which involves managing staff, dealing with customers/clients, problem solving, marketing, etc.

Kathleen McColm

Why would you like to join the board?

Our family has enjoyed being part of many sports organizations over the year and we recognize the importance of sport in providing children and youth with opportunities to be active and to have fun which increases their confidence and self-esteem. Hockey provides great opportunities for children and youth to practice their social skills, make new friends, learn how to be a team member and how to play fair. Studies have shown that sports such as hockey also play a big part in improving their mental health. I would like to join the board because I would like to help in providing children and youth with the best experience possible.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

I was Secretary on the board for 2 years from October 2021 to June 2023. During that time I was able to complete a lot of administrative tasks such as update employee contracts, implement performance reviews, update the by-laws and develop orientation for new board members.

This past season I was the parent liaison for my son's team. I organized the social events and had the lead for team sponsorship and fundraising.

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

I was a Director at large on the board of the Stanley Stick Hockey Association for 2 years. Prior to being a board member, I was the convenor of the Tyke group that implemented the half ice.



As part of the Stanley Stick Association I was active in developing a number of new policies and procedures including a risk assessment of operations related to the pandemic.

I was also the President, Treasurer and board member of the Garderie de l'arc-en-ciel. As president I improved the efficiency and output of the board by implementing a committee structure that included a work plan, a long-term strategic plan and regular monitoring and report back mechanisms. I was also able to increase collaboration with the creation and implementation of evaluation tools for the board meetings and the board's oversight role.

Throughout my career as a public servant working with the non-profit sector, I have worked closely with non-profit boards to support them in their governance role. I have also been part of numerous review teams that did comprehensive reviews of agencies operations that included a review of the board of director's oversight role. I believe that my experience in working with a large variety of non-profit boards has provided me with a number of skills that would benefit the Guelph Minor Hockey Association.

Robbin Lindsay

Why would you like to join the board?

I have two boys currently enrolled in the GMHA program. I have three boys who have played at various levels throughout their hockey careers, including house league, rep A and BB. Maintaining a fair and balanced approach to moving the programs forward is not easy, and I believe I could be a reliable advocate for the association and the kids. My wife is a teacher, and I have worked part-time as an occasional teacher. I coached the U11BB team this past season and have previously been an assistant trainer/coach. I would enjoy being a part of the solution to maintain an effective, influential association that provides the best quality learning and competitive environment for kids of all skill levels.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

My 17-year-old son has played in the U16 and U18 House League for the last three seasons. My 11-year-old son has played ADP, U10A, and U11BB in the previous three seasons. During this tenure, I have been a part-time assistant coach/trainer for the U10A team, and last season, I was Head Coach of the U11BB team. I am enrolled and accepted the role of head coach of the U12BB team for the upcoming season. My son has a strong potential to make the U12A team this season. I will know definitively the result of that tryout tomorrow night. I am applying to the board, and if my son is ultimately cut from the U12A team, I will pull my application for the board.

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?



I have attained Senior Management and National-level Sales Leadership roles throughout my business career for two multi-billion dollar companies. For the last two years, I have been the principal owner of an Independent Sales Agency, R. Lindsay Sales Solutions Inc. I would provide additional leadership and people skills to the association.

I played University Football at Guelph and College Rugby at Humber. I also played Club Rugby until my early '30s for Waterloo, and I continue to play Men's League Basketball and pick-up hockey. I am a jock by nature, and my love of sports knows no bounds. I want to be an advocate for all kids to have a great experience during their childhood years playing hockey in the GMHA to motivate them to participate in hockey and organized sports well into adulthood.

Sarah Nicole Taylor

Why would you like to join the board?

I would like to join the board in order to play a more active role in GMHA as a board member. Along with having three children (9,7,5) registered with GMHA, I also grew up in Guelph playing hockey, and recognize the importance of youth sports for our children and the community. I enjoy collaborating with colleagues to solve problems and ensuring projects are a success.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

When my children (x3) started playing hockey with GMHA, I began volunteering/assisting on the ice and have put together a couple of practice plans for the SD 1 level. For the 2023-24 season, I volunteered as Team Manager for the U10 AA team.

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

My work experience includes roles in management and front line service for the provincial government. I have been a member of several committees and round table discussions, I had regularly conducted performance evaluations and stakeholder audits. I also have experience drafting business cases for different interoffice initiatives.

I believe my qualifications would be an asset to GMHA and would be happy to offer my time wherever needed.

Shannon Gerryts

Why would you like to join the board?

To help GMHA become a leading association in hockey training and development and a forward thinking association that supports players and parents to reach their highest dreams.



If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

I have been a team trainer for the ADP program.

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

I have been a professional coach and am actively involved with my kids' sports. I also played sport in Guelph for the soccer club and gymnastics along with figure skating.

Shelley Mills

Why would you like to join the board?

As a parent that has had multiple children go through the GMHA system over the last 15 years, (House League, Select and Rep), I would like to take the experience and knowledge we have gained to help provide the best hockey experience possible for every family that is a part of our organization. My children have approached the end of their minor hockey experience but I would like to be able to provide an unbiased voice to help further the growth of GMHA.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

Involvement with GMHA has been:

- 2 seasons as a Trainer with House League teams and multiple seasons helping manage teams
- Have helped House League Convenor with over multiple seasons with evaluation, registration, team planning, jersey facilitation and Championship weekend.

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

I have 20+ years working with people in customer service and management roles. For almost 20 years I worked as manager in a nutritional retail setting. With this I had to work with people of all different ages and backgrounds and be able to build trust and rapport with clients. As a manager I also needed to be able to adapt to different situations, whether it be problem solving with clients, coordinating/planning events or ways to improve the business.

For the last 3 years I have switched to a management role in the furniture industry. In this role I have had to build on my conflict resolution skills and understanding the changing environment in an entirely new industry. As well, I have the responsibility of planning, coordinating and decorating for special events. Additionally, I serve as a member of our work Health and Safety committee.

Both roles required being able to work with a high level of confidentiality and learn and adapt to new situations.

Outside of GMHA, I have also held manager/assistant manager roles with teams in the Guelph Regals lacrosse association.



Steve Van Dam

Why would you like to join the board?

To try and make GMHA the best it can be. I want to give back to the game that has brought my family so much joy. Looking at the director at large position and or maybe the rep director depending on the situation.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

Board Member, Coach, Trainer, Manager

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

I own my own business.

Thomas Manes

Why would you like to join the board?

As a passionate advocate for the sport of hockey and a dedicated member of our community, I am eager to contribute my time, skills, and energy to furthering the mission and objectives of the board.

I believe I bring to the table a diverse set of skills and experiences that I believe would be valuable assets to the board. I have sat on various community boards, and have been the Chair of the Guelph Chamber of Commerce as well as Chair of Guelph Partnership for Innovation. I am excited about the prospect of collaborating with like-minded individuals who share my passion for hockey and my dedication to making a positive impact in our community. I am eager to learn from others, contribute my insights and ideas, and work together to achieve the board's shared goals and objectives.

I am genuinely enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve on the board and to play a part in shaping the future of hockey in our community. I am confident that my passion, skills, and commitment make me a strong candidate for this position, and I am eager to bring my energy and enthusiasm to the board.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

I was an assistant (goalie coach) many years ago early 2000s), but in recent years, my involvement has been limited to skate lacer/uber driver/team cheer leader.



What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

As mentioned earlier, I served 6 years on the board for the Guelph Chamber of Commerce, and acted as the Chair. I served 8 years on the Guelph Partnership for Innovation and served on the executive committee as well as the Chair. I sat on the Downtown Board of Guelph for 3 years. I served on the Guelph Business Enterprise Centre Board for 8 years, including 3 years on the executive and a term as its Chair. I am currently a volunteer on the United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin.

I am a practicing lawyer in Guelph and have been for 25 years. Over those years, I have advised numerous non-profit organizations and boards - including local sports organizations.

Christi O'Connell

Why would you like to join the board?

My son has been playing hockey with GMHA for more than 10 years. My husband has coached for many years. I have been a manager for a few years. I appreciate all the work it takes to run a successful hockey program. I think everyone in the association should volunteer at some point and in some capacity. It takes a village and I would really like to be a part of that village. I believe I have a great skill set to offer as a Board member and a lot of passion for the sport, for the association and for the kids. I want to help ensure inclusivity and equity for all.

If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

Mother of a player/Cheerleader, Coaches Wife, Manager

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

I have worked in sales for 28 years. I am a people person. I have taken many courses over the years: EDI, Effective Communication, Crucial Conversations, Emotional Intelligence, Dealing with difficult people. I am a great listener and communicator. I am organized and all about timely follow up.

Mark Bradley

Why would you like to join the board?

I would like to volunteer as a GMHA member because. I've been a parent who has been involved in my children playing in this organization. I would like to give back my time to help gmha in any way I can.



GUELPH MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

C11 - 100 CRIMEA ST. GUELPH, ON N1H 2Y6
519-824-5910 | INFO@GUELPHMINORHOCKEY.COM



If any, what has been your involvement with GMHA?

In the past I helped out with one of my son's teams.

By doing so. I received certificates in

Hockey trainers certification

Htcp level 1 Oct 4/21- August 31/24

Rowan's law Jan 2/22

Respect in sport Jan 2/22

Gender identity and expression course Jan 2/22

Planning a safe return to hockey

Jan 2/22

What qualification/experience outside of GMHA do you have that would compliment a role on the Board?

I have volunteered as a spring/summer head coach in the past. I understand the game of hockey. I have had 2 kids in GMHA for the past 8 yrs.
