

Chebucto Minor Hockey Association – Presidents 2024–25 Season Report

The 2024–25 season was an excellent year for Chebucto Minor Hockey Association (CMHA), highlighted by championship victories, developmental successes, community engagement, and strategic growth—though not without its ongoing challenges.

Major Team Achievements

- U11C Hurricanes: Captured Chebucto’s first-ever City Championship, finishing with a dominant 33-4-3 record and earning three banners, including the U11C A Division Championship.
- U15B White: Secured gold at the U15B BEACH tournament after a dramatic shootout victory over Bedford White.
- U15AA: Went undefeated to win the Sedmha Odyssey tournament and placed first in the CMHL regular season standings.

Leadership & Organizational Growth

- Paul Hunt Joins CMHA: The addition of Paul Hunt played a significant role in increasing revenue, enabling expanded programming and development efforts.
- Ice Allotment Challenges: CMHA continues to face persistent difficulties securing adequate ice time through HRM allocations, limiting practice and development opportunities across age groups.

Development & Coaching Initiatives

- Junior Coaches Leadership Program: U13 players mentored U7 participants, fostering leadership and community connection.
- U9 Evaluations and Competitive Tryouts: Structured evaluations using NSST timed drills and battle stations helped group players effectively. Looking to improve last years tryouts and specifically improve the process awareness.
 - Communication during the process was mentioned specifically as a major improvement over past years.
- Development Programs: A range of development offerings were delivered throughout the season to support skill progression.
- U7 Program has been particularly cited as one of the most outstanding in HRM. VP U7 Jay MacKenzie recognized specifically for his efforts by HNS.

Community Engagement & Fundraising

- 50/50 Raffle: Continued to raise money, the December raffle I believe was a new high mark which raised \$6,880, with proceeds supporting CMHA programs.
- Pro Hockey Life Sponsorship: Continued sponsorship provided players with discounts and complimentary skate sharpening. We expect this to continue into 2025-26 season.

Volunteer Support & Governance

- Volunteer Engagement: Despite strong contributions from many individuals, overall volunteer participation remains below the level needed to sustain and grow programs. Recruitment and retention of volunteers continue to be a key priority.
- AGM & Executive Elections: The Annual General Meeting was scheduled for May 29, 2025, including executive elections and a review of the year's achievements.
- Volunteer Awards: Nominations were invited for Coach, Manager, and Volunteer of the Year to recognize exceptional dedication.

Policy & Process Improvements

- Formal Complaint Resolution Process Introduced: In response to several in-season issues and complaints during the 2024–25 season, CMHA has instituted a more formalized complaint resolution process for the 2025–26 season. This framework is designed to improve the consistency, transparency, and efficiency in how concerns are addressed.
- Closed Tryouts Policy: Beginning in the 2025–26 season, all tryouts will be closed to spectators. Only individuals volunteering as part of the tryout process will be permitted to attend. Volunteer sign-ups will be posted in advance, and CMHA will provide a clear, well-documented, and detailed outline of the full tryout process to ensure fairness and clarity for all families involved.

Looking Ahead to 2025–26

- More Visible Online Ice Schedule: Improving access to ice times by publishing a clearer, more user-friendly schedule online for better transparency and planning.
- Expanded Development Opportunities: Working with Paul Hunt at the Lions Rink to offer increased off- and on-ice skill development sessions across all levels.
- Championship Fund Creation: Establishing a dedicated fund to support teams facing unexpected travel or competition expenses—particularly for last-minute tournament or provincial championship opportunities.
- Community Fundraising Outreach: Expanding engagement with local businesses and organizations to increase fundraising partnerships and community support.
- Proactive Ice Time Acquisition at the organizational level – identify approaches and opportunities to secure and allocate ice time to teams based on ice that becomes available in HRM.

In summary, the 2024–25 season reflected CMHA’s commitment to excellence, accountability, and continuous improvement. With a stronger foundation and a clear plan for growth, the 2025–26 season is poised to deliver even greater success for players, families, and the broader community.

Thank You Chebucto for the opportunity to function as the President for the 2024-25 Season.

All feedback, either positive or negative, that I’ve received over the last season I fully believe has come from a good place and is an opportunity to identify ways to make the CMHA experience better.

I am committed to continuing improvement for the 2025-2026 season and welcome any ideas no matter where they come from.

Bryan Esbaugh

CMHA President