

President's Report

2024-25 Annual General Meeting • May 26, 2025

The BWA continued to experience continued growth in the 2024-25 season, through all of our programs – youth house league, competitive, and adult women's league.

- After expanded the Adult Women's League into 2 division in the 2023-24 season, shifting the Tier 1 level to Monday nights for the 2024-2025 season saw a doubling from 4 teams to 8 teams in this division, resulting in an all time high of 12 teams and 202 players for the league.
- A total of 19 youth competitive teams were rostered for the 2024-2025 season – up from 17 in the previous season, and only one team shy of the record of 20 teams in the 2018-19 season.
- Our youth house league program saw 301 players rostered to 21 teams – up from 295 players in the 2023-24 season (which is impressive, given that our competitive program increased by 34 players, which would normally result in a decrease in house league players)
- Record combined participation in our Sharkfest and Family Day Winter Classic tournaments, resulting in the highest net profit seen from these events – for the second season in a row.
- Another exciting sold-out year of the First Shift program, even after doubling capacity from 30 to 60 after adding a second session.

In addition to all of these items, our Barrie Jr. Sharks once again had a record setting year – building on the success of the previous 2023-24 season. The 2024-2025 Jr. Sharks his year's U22-AA team finished with a team record 31 wins and repeated their 7th place finish for the second season in a row. After winning their first-round playoff series, the Jr. Sharks played in the Bronze Medal Final at the U22 Elite League Championship Weekend for the second year in a row, this time bringing home the bronze medal.

In addition to all of the exciting ways we improved our on-ice programs this year, the BWA Board of Directors continued to modernize and improve the BWA's Policies and Procedures, including:

- updating our refund procedures
- defining a standard process for disciplinary hearings and related investigations
- formalizing competitive coach compensation structures after a multi-year pilot project
- clarifying and improving tryout and selection processes after significant updates in the 2023-24 season.

Looking forward to the 2024-2025 season, the Board of directors plans to develop longer term strategic plans to chart the future course for the association. Continues growth means the BWA is an important point where we need to carefully consider whether it's possible to meet the growing needs of our members as a primarily volunteer-based organization. Every year the workload required on our Board members seems to be increasing significantly, as we strive (and in some cases struggle) to meet the ever-expanding expectations of our members, and I don't believe the current path of the organization will be permanently sustainable. In the 2025-2026 season, in addition to supporting continued player growth, it will be important for the Board to carefully consider whether other approaches are necessary to manage the work of the association – including possible structures which would allow for sharing the work with other volunteers or professional management.