

**VFIHA Annual General Meeting Director's Report**  
**Tuesday, June 17th, 6.45pm**  
**Room 203, Killarney Community Centre**

<b>Position</b>	Director of Rep
<b>Incumbent</b>	Michael Lang
<b>Key Activities and Achievements</b>	
<p>The Vancouver Angels fielded 4 Rep Teams for the 2024/2025 Season. Each team successfully competed in various tournaments. Season highlights were many .</p> <p>The U18 Players identified Wickfest in Calgary as a major highlight and performed strongly in playoffs, even defeating a tough Richmond team. A significant developmental aspect for this age group was fostering player independence. Coach Owen encouraged players to communicate directly with him and each other, providing support through individual meetings to discuss goals, challenges, and needs, thereby empowering them with self-reliance and advocacy skills.</p> <p>For U15 A1, players had several season highlights, including a silver medal at the Kamloops Tournament (featuring a family skate at Sun Peaks) and a historic win against the Richmond Ravens. The team also celebrated an undefeated gold medal at the Banff Tournament, capped by a family skate on Lake Louise. Beyond these, their playoff resilience brought them close to Provincials. For the coach, the ultimate highlight was witnessing the team's growth, as these special athletes and leaders transformed the culture, built a winning environment, and kept the fun alive.</p> <p>U15 A2 experienced exceptional growth this season, largely thanks to Mitch Fyffe and Victor Kraatz, whose professional coaching significantly elevated their practices and enhanced the coaching staff's skills. The coaches' positive influence/dedication(Coach Andrew, Robin, Todd, Vivian), combined with the players' great attitudes and commitment, and ultimately transformed the team from mid-tier to regular season champions.</p> <p>The U13A1 team achieved many highlights, with several players successfully transitioning from recreational to competitive rep hockey, showcasing remarkable hard work and dedication. Their on-ice highlight was undoubtedly their performance at Wickfest, where they made an incredible comeback in the finals to tie the game, force overtime, and ultimately secure a silver medal.</p> <p>Other Achievements: Congratulations to the 5 current and former Angel players who made the AAA Comets! Additionally, 4 U13A1 players and 3 U15A1/A2 players successfully joined the new PCAHA AA program, which saw the U13AA program transition back to a zone team format.</p>	
<b>Learnings, and Recommendations</b>	

- **Enhanced Skill Development:** Our rep program successfully integrated a diverse group of top skill developers from the West Coast, including Karen Koss, Victor Kraatz, Mitch Fyffe, Slap Shot Alley, Lucas Robinson, Samuel Gotowiec, and Empower Hockey. Every rep team easily surpassed previous years' target of 16 skill development sessions
- **Strategic Development Timings:** Regular development times on the weekend during popular game times were often missed. Weekday and non-game time development sessions were highly effective as they avoided conflicts with tournaments and more frequent rep games. While 6 AM practices weren't always popular, their importance for rep teams was almost universally understood.
- **Continued Professional Development:** We continued to leverage Pro-D Days and holidays for extra development opportunities with Mitch Fyffe, Victor Kraatz, and Karen Koss, which was widely appreciated.
- **New Hockey Operations Advisor:** The recent hiring of a Hockey Operations Advisor for the Angels is expected to significantly impact the 2025-2026 rep program, particularly in player development and coaching professional development. All coaches expressed enthusiasm about working with Mel and Kim on the 2025-2026 Rep Coach Mentoring and Development plan.
- **Returning Coaches:** We're thrilled to welcome back Lucas Robinson (U13A1), John Koldenhof (U15A1), and Sam Gotowiec (U15A1) as rep coaches.
- **Independent Tryout Evaluators:** We're currently engaging Empower Hockey to serve as independent evaluators for the 2025-2026 Rep Tryouts.
- **Personalized Feedback:** Families expressed a desire for more personalized feedback from Rep evaluators and coaches if not successful on making the team. This is an area we will focus on improving.
- **Shared Ice Opportunities:** This year saw more opportunities for shared ice and development with other rep teams, including U11 C1. This resulted in both financial savings and additional development opportunities when extra ice was limited.
- **Successful Dryland Partnership:** The shared dryland facility with Vancouver Minor Hockey was very well received by both players and coaches. We hope to expand this successful partnership, as the facility can comfortably accommodate two teams at once.
- **Tournament Travel:** Our rep teams enjoyed extensive travel to tournaments in various locations, including Victoria, Surrey, Coquitlam, Abbotsford, Banff, Kamloops, and Calgary.
- **Rep Committee** - Formation of a parent led Rep Committee has taken place with a plan to meet up this summer. Those interested can reach out to myself to get involved.
- **Coaching Vacancy:** AC opportunities are available and the U18A1 Head Coaching Position remains vacant. We are actively advertising for coaches on social media.
- **Tryout Registration:** Current registration numbers for tryouts exceed the minimum requirements for U13 and U18. We anticipate U15 numbers will grow as there is still time for registrations. All efforts will be made to put forward an A1 team. We also have engaged in conversations with Burnaby about opportunities to combine.
- **Safety Reminders:** Throughout the season, cell phone use was occasionally an issue, and the "two-deep" rule required further explanation and understanding on some teams. We appreciate all efforts made to ensure these safety protocols were followed. Next year plans
- **Rep Budgets:** Ryan fan worked with rep teams and myself to create an improved template for

team budgets that will be used going forward. In addition to the template, a Budget 101 document containing best practice and important dates for creating a budget has been prepared for next year.

This year was filled with highlights and successes, all made possible by the incredible collective effort of our Angel players, coaches, team volunteers, and families. The board's commitment to providing a safe and fun environment, through countless hours of work, helps contribute to the foundation for teams' to be successful. Their dedication to excellence, demonstrated by the strategic decision to bring in Hockey Operations Advisors, underscores their investment in the skill development of every player and coach. Thank you everyone.