

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

Position	Director, Player Development
Incumbent	Dan Fontaine
Key Activities and Achievements	
<p>This was my first year serving as Director of Player Development. It took some time to understand some of the history of our development programming and to begin to make some adjustments and trial new ideas. This season we strived to provide additional skill development sessions as frequently as possible to all teams U9 and up and tried to provide a bit more ice time with our volunteer coaches at the U7 level.</p> <p>There were some adjustments to the skill coaches we worked with this year, with the following providers involved in our programming throughout the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empower Hockey• Mitch Fyffe• Lucas Robinson• Victor Kraatz• Karen Kos• UBC Women's Hockey• Goalie Development Providers: Brad Sherwin, Sam Gotowiec, Reese Hiddleston, and Jordan Dobres <p>We added team development opportunities on Pro-D Days and Statutory holidays this season. I understand that these sessions can be challenging for some families to attend; however, they provide a great opportunity to get additional ice time at city rinks, and skill coaches generally have the ability to work on these days and times. We also added the VMHA training center as a dryland training option available to teams, if they were interested.</p> <p>Development programming for our U11/U13 age groups incorporated weekday morning power skating before school on a trial basis. Many of our U11 players and some of our U13 players attended these regularly, demonstrating the viability of this option to enhance our skill development programming. We also introduced earlier weekend practices starting at 6:00am for our U11 tiered teams in recognition of the need to find additional ice time where we can.</p> <p>We offered several spring skills clinics this year with ice we were able to secure. I wanted to do more, but we were limited in what ice we could get. We will also have a limited summer offering in July and early August.</p> <p>I appreciate those who took the time to provide feedback either in-person or via the year end survey that was distributed. I'm generally pleased with the adjustments made this year, but there's lots of room for improvement and I am thinking about what we can do better next year.</p>	
Future Plans	

I have put forward my intent to return to the same role next season for a two-year term. My priority over that term will be to work with the Board of Directors to continue to expand and evolve our player development programming along with the continued growth of the association. My three areas of focus over that period will include:

- trying to increase the number and frequency of sessions with our paid skill development and power skating coaches,
- working with the Director of Coaching on volunteer coach development to enhance player development, and
- working with the Director of Ice related to team practice needs.

Our main constraint as a growing association is ice availability. This issue affects all areas of hockey operations, including scheduling games, practices, and development. The location and time of available ice may not be ideal, but it is the reality of the situation in Vancouver. Membership should expect continued changes to schedules including days/times/locations of practices and development, similar and additional skill coaches engaged to work with our teams, and the addition of dryland training as part of the player development package for some teams.

I'm always open to any feedback on the programming, either in-person or by email, so please reach out if you want to discuss anything.