

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

Position	Risk & Safety
Incumbent	Karen Rai
Key Activities and Achievements	
<p>I definitely felt more confident in my second year as the Director of Risk and Safety. I learned a lot from the previous season and was able to implement changes where I felt changes were needed, and set up better communication tools. My goal was to make important information accessible to all, and to provide support to those members who required it throughout the season. It has been a rewarding experience to see all of the hard work that goes on behind the scenes for our association to run smoothly - both at the team level and the board level.</p> <p>This season I worked with board members and individual teams to support our players and team officials. We worked hard to address situations that arose throughout the season.</p> <p>CERTIFICATIONS:</p> <p>Concussion Awareness: The Concussion Awareness Tool (CATT) has been mandatory for ALL team officials. This season we had 30 new certifications.</p> <p>The Hockey Canada Safety Program: This season we had 28 new certifications for Team Safety people.</p> <p>Respect in Sport: (For Activity Leaders) This season we had 82 team officials complete the RIS Activity Leaders certifications.</p> <p>Criminal Record Checks: This past season we had 122 volunteers complete their Criminal Record Checks.</p> <p>Respect in Sport: (For Parents) Along with BC Hockey's Sportsmanship in the Stands, we are now adding RIS for Parents as a mandatory requirement for all families. I have received over 100 RIS for Parents certificates from families. Players will not be permitted to step on the ice until one member of the family has completed and submitted the RIS for Parents. I hope that this will help protect our players and team officials moving forward.</p>	

VFIHA Website - Risk & Safety Tab

This year, I worked on creating a section on our website for all volunteers and HCSPs. In this section you can find information on the following:

- Team Officials Credentials
- Rostering for Teams
- Respect in Sport - Parent
- Risk and Safety for Parents and Players
- Hockey Canada Safety Program
- VFIHA Safety Manual (All Safeties should refer to this document)
- ThinkFirst Smart Hockey
- ePact (which we will now remove)
- Injury Management
- Expectations at Tournaments
- Dressing Room Policy

I encourage all members to peruse through the Risk & Safety section to become familiar with the important information documented here. It is important information for all players and parents.

Discipline Policy, Complaint Resolution Policy, and Disciplinary Resolution Policy and Appeal Policy

Due to numerous unsportsmanlike behaviour incidents from members of our association, the board decided to update the "Discipline Policy" to include a new section on Unsportsmanlike Behaviour and Discipline Involving a VFIHA Response and a section on Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Use. We also updated the "Complaint Resolution Policy", which included a section on a Disciplinary Committee, and the "Dispute Resolution Policy and Appeal Policy". The updated documents will be uploaded to the VFIHA website this summer.

HSCP TeamSnap Chat

This season we set up a TeamSnap chat for all team HCSPs. This was an excellent way to communicate important information to the HCSPs, and for HCSPs to ask questions and assist each other. We will definitely continue this for the years to come.

A special thank you to all of the volunteer team officials (over 200 volunteers!) who stepped up and contributed to our teams' and association's success! Without the hard work and commitment of our volunteers, we would not be able to run such a successful organization. Thank you!

Future Plans

Team Meeting Agenda

A detailed Team Meeting agenda has been finalized, and will be uploaded to the VFIHA website under the “Managers” tab this summer. We are hoping the Director of Coaching, Director of Managers, and the Director of Risk and Safety can work closely with the Team Coaches, Managers, and the HCSPs to ensure that all of the important expectations are communicated to the teams effectively. We hope this will prevent issues throughout the season.

ePact

After much thought and consideration, the VFIHA board decided to end our contract with ePact to record and manage Players’ Medical Information. For the 2025/2026 Season, families will be required to complete the Hockey Canada Medical Form, a part of the registration process. The medical forms will be uploaded to TeamSnap for Team Managers and HCSPs to access. Players will not be permitted to step on the ice until the Hockey Canada Medical Form has been submitted as a part of the registration and accessible for the Team Manager and Team HCSPs.

Overall, I hope we can work toward consistently protecting our players and team officials - both employed and volunteers. Our goal is to mitigate risk and ensure safety of all VFIHA members!