Year End Review, VP Risk

To our Chebucto Families,

As the current season ends, I’m very happy to say that I’ve gotten through my first year as VP of Risk. It has been a great learning experience and I definitely could not have done it without the support of the past VP Risk, Dorothy Mitchell , as well as the help, recommendations and guidance from the rest of the Chebucto hockey executive. Also I’d like to thank those at Hockey Nova Scotia who helped clarify rules, restrictions and gave great advice as to how to navigate the COVID protocols that were in place.

Most importantly I’d like to thank the players, teams, safety reps, managers, parents and coaches who were extremely supportive and understanding as to the various and changing restrictions that were in place over the 2021-2022 season. I very much appreciated the many, many conversations I had with parents, managers and coaches as to what we could and couldn’t do and was very happy to know that the Chebucto hockey community by and large is an understanding group.

I am very hopeful that next year there will be no similar types of restrictions and much more flexibility accorded to the other areas of Chebucto so that we can execute an even better overall hockey program.

Some of the key Items of Interest:

* **Spordle and Hockey Canada Registry (HCR)–** Successfully figured out processes and approaches related to the new tool. This very much simplified past workflows where much of the consolidation information was held in spreadsheets that required manual upkeep. As a result, for next year we will be able further streamline our coaching qualification approaches to hopefully ensure everyone achieves qualification on time and reduce our number of suspensions due to expired qualification even further.
* **Vaccination Status** – Thanks so much for supporting this effort during the beginning of the season. All records related to vaccination status have been deleted and Chebucto will no longer hold any sort of database of vaccination history related to this. The support from the membership in response to the protocols required by Hockey Nova Scotia and Provincial mandates was second to none.
* **Coaching Certifications –** For the most part we were able to successfully qualify our coaching staff this year without too many hiccups. While we didn’t achieve 100% non-suspension for identified team staff we did figure out a few key points related to the new HCR registry to streamline this for next year. Pursuant to that the guidance on the website was improved a lot over the year and will serve as the basis for a new coaching qualification package for next year as well as team manager guidance.
* **Injuries and Risk Incidents -**  Like any hockey season we did have some injuries this year, however protocols were followed and there will be some improvements made as to guidelines and the protocols to follow. Looking to next year this will be something specifically addressed and communicated directly to the membership in a very clear and stepwise manner (e.g. – why you can’t run from the stands to the ice as a parent if your player appears injured for example…).

As always, I appreciate the suggestions and advice received and would encourage anyone to continue to reach out. I am very much looking forward to the 2022-23 hockey season. Thanks again.

Bryan Esbaugh, VP Risk