

Tim McNamara

Subject: Squirt Director Position 2026 – 2027 Season

Dear Members of the Hastings Hockey Association and Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my interest in serving as the Squirt Director for Hastings Hockey Association. As someone who grew up in the Hastings community, played throughout the Hastings Hockey Association system, and has remained closely connected to hockey in our area, I am committed to supporting the development of our young athletes and strengthening the long-term health of our association.

Over the past five years, I have been heavily involved in the Hastings Hockey Association In-House program for boys and girls U8 and under. For the last 2 seasons, I have served as the In-House Commissioner for Hastings Hockey Association. This role has provided valuable perspective on early skill development, player engagement, and the importance of a structured, consistent philosophy at the youngest levels. In addition to serving as our In-House Commissioner, I also serve on the Hockey Development Committee, where I have actively contributed to improving our Squirt program. While we understood from the beginning that this plan would be a work in progress, I believe we have made steady and meaningful improvements over the last year and a half, and I see great importance in continuing to evolve the program with a mindset of continuous improvement.

I also have a personal stake in the strength of our Hastings Hockey Association development model. For the 2026–2027 season, my son will be a Squirt, and my daughter will be a U8 player. Having children in the program reinforces my commitment to ensuring that every player has a positive and enjoyable hockey experience. As a Hastings Hockey alumni, I have a vested interest in improving our culture, fostering continuity from the Boys and Girls High School programs through our youth levels, and helping our association return to a standard of excellence from top to bottom. I believe our Hastings Varsity teams should be in contention for the State Tournament every season. Achieving that begins with a strong culture and the hope that all players in the association aspire to become Hastings Raiders as they grow.

I believe the Squirt level is one of the most important stages in youth hockey. This is the age at which foundational skills are established, confidence grows, and a lasting love for the game often takes shape. It is also a critical age for setting the trajectory of a player's long-term development, which in turn affects the future strength of the Hastings Hockey Association as a whole. My approach focuses on providing the best possible environment for every player by emphasizing strong skill development, meaningful ice time, and an appropriate balance of fun and competitiveness.

If given the opportunity to serve as Squirt Director, I would continue to build on what has been implemented over the past two seasons. I would focus on identifying and supporting coaches who prioritize player growth and fundamental skill-building through organized, well-planned practices for

the entire Squirt level, including goaltenders. I am also a strong advocate for the continued development of our 3v3 Development League. The 3v3 Development League has proven to be an effective way to create high-tempo, competitive situations that increase puck touches, decision-making opportunities, and player engagement. It has also served as a valuable developmental supplement for Goalies. I would ensure that these sessions remain aligned with travel schedules so that all players can consistently prioritize 3v3, and participation in 3v3 would be mandatory for all Squirt players. Additionally, I would work to maintain smaller team roster sizes (number of players) for both travel and 3v3 teams. I believe smaller rosters at the Squirt level allow for more meaningful shifts for all players in each game, more puck touches in both practices/games, and more high-quality repetitions in practice.

My hockey journey, from playing throughout the Hastings Hockey Association, representing Hastings High School, to competing collegiately at the NCAA Division III level, has given me valuable perspective on what helps players succeed. Combining this with my experience coaching youth hockey, I have developed a strong understanding of how to support young athletes, build their confidence, and create a developmental structure that prepares them for long-term success.

I am excited about the opportunity to help lead the Squirt program in a way that benefits every player and strengthens the future of our association. I would appreciate your support and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tim McNamara