



Maine Inferno Girls Hockey 2019-2020 Annual Report

Maine Inferno Annual Meeting

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020, 6:30PM

Held Remote via Zoom meeting

2019-2020 Maine Inferno Board of Directors

Position	Name
President	Aaron Brideau
Vice President	Anna Cushman
Secretary	Stephanie Laprino
Treasurer	Tom Molloy
Registrar	Hannah Horecka
Scheduler	Nicole Talbot
Coaching Director	Bill Surran
Safe Sport Manager	Jessica Pearson

To our Inferno Families,

The second season of the Maine Inferno Girls Hockey association saw many firsts. Our program in collaboration with the University of Maine Women's Hockey Team established a free, 12 week girls specific learn to skate and learn to play program that was enthusiastically well attended and received. Our program became an affiliated member of MEAHA, allowing our first travel level teams to compete for a state championship.

The number of teams we put on the ice increase to five, with practices held in Brewer, Orono and Rockport to accommodate our players from all over the parts of Maine we serve. New this year was the off-ice dryland component directed by the University of Maine coaches and players a welcomed addition to our programs practices.

The Maine Inferno welcomed additional board members to begin the season. Jessica Pearson joined our board as the Safesport Manager, and Bill Surran came on as the Coaching Director.

Our ID sessions for next season were unexpectedly delayed by the outbreak of a global pandemic, halting our momentum for this season. We will attempt to complete the sessions once hockey operations resume. Our planning and preparations have not ended however, with proposed board member additions and bylaw updates being voted on at the annual meeting.

On behalf of the entire Maine Inferno board, we want to genuinely thank our coaches, volunteers, players and their families on their tireless efforts to make our program a success.

Sincerely

Myles A Brideau  
President  
Maine Inferno

## Maine Inferno

### Registrar's Annual Report

2019-20 Season - Hannah Horecka

#### 2019-20 Registrations

2019-20 Registrations	91	
Returning	29	32%
New Registrations	63	69%

#### 2019-20 Registrations by Birth Year

(2019-20 age bracket for reference)

Birth Year	2019-20
2001 (19U)	1
2002 (19U)	4
2003 (16U)	3

2004 (16U)	6
2005 (14U)	9
2006 (14U)	8
2007 (12U)	9
2008 (12U)	4
2009 (10U)	7
2010 (10U)	7
2011 (8U)	8
2012	5
2013	9
2014	6
2015	3
2016	3

### Team Registrations

Team	Registrations	Notes
19U-AA	14	(+1 Practice Only)

14U-AA	12	
14U-A	17	(4 Cross Rosters)
12U-A	19	(7 Cross Rosters)
8U	11	
LTS/LTP	32	(3 Umaine Registrations)

### Recruitment from LTS/LTP Mid-Season

LTS/LTP Transfers	
8U	1
12U-A	1
14U-A	1

### Year to Year Comparison

2018-20 Registrations	36
2019-20 Registrations	91
Change in Registrations	153%

### Registrations by Birth Year

(2019-20 age bracket for reference)

Birth Year	2018-19	2019-20	Change	
2001 (19U)	0	1	1	100%
2002 (19U)	0	4	4	400%
2003 (16U)	1	3	2	200%
2004 (16U)	5	6	1	20%
2005 (14U)	6	9	3	50%
2006 (14U)	6	8	2	33%
2007 (12U)	9	9	0	0%
2008 (12U)	1	4	3	300%
2009 (10U)	8	7	-1	-13%
2010 (10U)	0	7	7	700%
2011 (8U)	0	8	8	800%
2012	0	5	5	500%
2013	0	9	9	900%

2014	0	6	6	600%
2015	0	3	3	300%
2016	0	3	3	300%

## Retention

2018-19 Registrations	36	
Not Registered 2019-20	7	19%
Retention Rate	81%	

## Secretary Report

During the 2019-2020 season, Maine Inferno Board Members held monthly meetings to discuss current issues, plan fundraising events, as well as plan for the upcoming 2020-2021 season. We attempted to rotate monthly meetings between 3 locations of the organization; Orono/Bangor, Brewer, and Rockport. Ensuring fair and equal travel amongst the board members for the meetings as well as inclement weather was challenging.

There were times where the board members met prior to the Monday night Maine Inferno practice at PIA since we were all in attendance. This season we began to use Zoom video conferencing to reduce the amount of travel but remain connected in order to have the monthly meetings. This was successful in many ways but it primarily kept the safety of our board members in the forefront during the winter months.

Unbeknownst to us, the world would be turned upside down this spring and we quickly realized how important being able to Zoom with each other was. We continue to utilize technology to remain committed to our duties as board members as well as promote the Maine Inferno Girl's Hockey organization.

## Scheduler Report

Although Maine Inferno has been in operation for a few seasons as a startup, non-profit organization, the 2019-2020 season provided many "firsts" in the history of our newly founded group:

- § First official inaugural season with MEAHA, representing one of the few prior MEAHA standalone associations to officially join an alliance
- § First season to offer multiple levels of play between T2 and T4 girls hockey
- § First season to officially offer organization wide, weekly practices between three different rinks (The first Maine organization to do so with the distance between our home arenas)
- § Only all-female hockey organization in Maine!

For the 2019-20 season, we scheduled a total of 67 games, 6 tournaments, and participated in our first MEAHA state level tournament as an organization. Specifically:

- § Our 19U team played 14 games and participated in 3 tournaments, including the first Can-Am tournament where our Inferno ladies dominated the competition with an undefeated record for the weekend.

§ 14UAA team played in 18 games, 2 tournaments (Includes 1<sup>st</sup> place finish in the Fusion Cup), 1 weekend in VT (Resulting in a 4-1 record for the weekend), and the MEAHA 14U T2 Female State tournament (3<sup>rd</sup> place finish)

§ 14UA tam played 18 games and the Annual MHD tournament (Resulted in 3<sup>rd</sup>/Bronze finish)

§ 12A team played 17 games and represented Inferno with a strong performance in Dover, NH in addition to a 1<sup>st</sup> place/Gold finish at MHD.

Lastly, in addition to the increased travel footprint for our skaters, we proudly hosted teams from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont, along with multiple teams from NB, Canada.

#### Observations / Challenges:

##### 1. Lack of teams

§ Shortage of teams within the range Inferno families were feasibly able to travel to, was a challenge across all teams.

##### 2. Parity play

§ In addition to the shortage of teams, an awareness of teams considered a “good fit” places an additional level of stress on the scheduler. It is challenging to find these teams, and often times, we do not have a great picture of this when we start the season, often resulting in lack of parity play, particularly at the start of the season.

§ Wide ranges in skill within Inferno teams, making our teams difficult for more/less skilled teams to host our group(s).

§ Small team sizes contributed to the lack of parity within our Inferno teams this season.

##### 3. Cross Rostering

§ Cross rostering was a necessity this season to field the level of teams required for our organization. The level of cross rosters, at times, was excessive, and influenced the ability to schedule games.

Solutions:

§ Tournament Model with a set minimum number of local games.

§ Leverage more Co-Ed games, where it makes sense to ensure a healthy / appropriate number of games.

§ Leverage NB, Canada and VT contacts to create a “tournament” weekend with 4/5 away games. Recommend utilizing this option at the start of the season to create team cohesiveness.

§ Build teams based on a combination of age/skill/maturity vs. a strict birth. It is more critical to build teams based on skill first, then birth year. This will resolve parity and cross rostering issues we experienced this season.

## Treasurer Report

### Maine Inferno Annual Financial Report

May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020

Prepared by Tom Molloy

Bank Account (4/22/20)	\$5,968
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Total Revenue	\$53,377
Registrations	
ID session 2019/2020	\$1,360
Registration 19/20	\$24,815

	Tournament	\$1,350
	Subtotal	\$27,525
Uniforms		
	Grey Jersey	\$2,023
	Mite Jersey	\$640
	Socks	\$705
	White Jersey	\$320
	Subtotal	\$3,688
Fundraising		
	Sponsorship	\$8,480
	Event Fundraising	\$11,054
	Player Sponsorship	\$100
	Subtotal	\$19,634
Ice Time Swap (BYH, MCS)		\$2,530

Expenses		\$50,179
Overhead		
	Administrative	\$479
	Equipment	\$511
	Subtotal	\$990
Programs		
	Ice Fees	\$19,590

	UMaine Clinic	\$4,500
	MCS Scholarship	\$2,700
	Tournament	\$9,605
	<hr/> Subtotal	\$36,395
Referee Fee		\$4,011
Uniforms		
	Grey Jersey	\$2,226
	White Jersey	\$2,485
	Socks	\$1,709
	Name Bar	\$219
	Name Bar Sewing	\$480
	<hr/> Subtotal	\$7,120
Event Fundraising		\$1,663

Accounts Receivable		\$285
Accounts Payable		\$240
ID Session 2020/2021		\$1,085

## Coaching Director Report

Coach Director Year End Review:

Positives:

We had great staffing throughout our season. We had 15 coaches between our 8U, 12U, 14A, 14AA and 19U teams. We would typically have 3-4 coaches on a bench for games. Our Monday Skills sessions at PIA were attended by 6-10 coaches each week. Also our Sunday afternoon Learn to Skate/Learn to Play program would typically have 4-6 coaches along with 2-4 older players in attendance.

I heard a lot of positive feedback from families I would speak with about our Monday Skills Sessions at PIA. It was felt we had a clear practice plan in place each week that was implemented extremely well that emphasized skills enhancement for each player.

Areas for Improvement:

After speaking with coaches I feel we need to try to get each team more team practice time. There was a consensus that there were not enough opportunities for each team to be given a half sheet of ice to work on systems concepts throughout the season.

## SafeSport Director Report

In my first year as SafeSport Director for Maine Inferno, I familiarized myself with USA Hockey's SafeSport policies. First, I took the SafeSport Training module myself and learned to navigate the USA Hockey websites and training modules to understand what was required for volunteers and coaches to meet the SafeSport certification requirements.

After completing that task myself, I thought it would be helpful to create an outline for other members of the Inferno organization to use as a guide to help them navigate through the process of becoming a SafeSport certified volunteer. I wrote up a "how-to" sheet for prospective volunteers on how to go about registering for a USA Hockey number, taking the online SafeSport certification class, applying for a background check, and then what to do when all of that is finalized. This sheet made it very simple and efficient for me to email the step-by-step process out to individuals looking to help out. I suggest the Board have hard copies of this volunteer guideline sheet available to hand out at the next Inferno kickoff event in 2020. This would help to streamline the confusing process of becoming an approved and certified volunteer for Maine Inferno.

At the beginning of the 2019/2020 season, I wrote up a locker room policy for Maine Inferno which highlighted the need for 2 locker room monitors in each locker room for every event. The policy also clearly stated the expectations of our players while in the locker room, such as a no cell-phone policy. These policies were stated and outlined to comply with USA Hockey's policies and to keep our players and coaches safe. This season coaches, team managers and locker room volunteers worked hard to uphold the locker room monitor policies.

Next season, I would like there to be more emphasis on coordinating and communicating the locker room volunteer coverage. I believe this is a team manager's role to coordinate. Perhaps there can be a shared document between team managers and volunteers cc'd to the SafeSport Director and head coaches to ensure that there is locker room coverage in place for every game and practice.

For the 2019-2020 hockey season, we had a total of 9 locker room volunteers. All volunteers completed the SafeSport online training program and had a successful background check. There were 22 coaches who submitted their SafeSport certificates and had cleared background checks. I am grateful for all the volunteers, coaches and members of the Inferno organization who worked hard to ensure that we complied with SafeSport and USA Hockey policies. Together, we did our job to keep hockey fun and safe for our players. I am looking forward to the 2020/2021 season. Go Inferno!

Jessica Pearson

SafeSport Director, Maine Inferno

## **Maine Inferno Year End Season Summaries**

LTP/8U Season Review:

It was a fantastic season for our Learn to Play group. We ran two 6 week sessions that took place on Sunday afternoons at UMaine Alford from 4:15-5:15. The first session we averaged 20-25 skaters each week and the second session we averaged 30 skaters each week with a high of 38 skaters at one point. Much to the excitement of our younger girls we had a lot of help from some of our older players as well as a few players from the UMaine Women's Team.

Our 8U team played 2 games in Casco against girls from within their 8u program and won both of the games. We also participated in the Midcoast Classic Tournament in Rockport for the 2nd year in a row. We played 6 incredibly strong games and finished with a 2-2-2 record which included a tie against the Team that went undefeated to win the tournament.

- Coach Bill Surran

## 10U/12U Season Review:

### 12U A Maine Inferno 2019/2020 Season in Review

**Coaching Staff:** Darryl Townsend, Aaron Brideau  
**Team Manager:** Heidi Townsend – Fill in Manager – John Carr  
**Fill in Coaching Staff:** Fred Lilly, Scott Oakes, Anna Cushman, Tom Molloy  
Hannah Horecka, Bo Hoppin

#### Team Makeup:

The 12U A team primary makeup was made up of 9-11 year olds (birth years 2008-2010). There were not enough players for most games, due cross rostering Co-ed & Inferno 14U A team, it was necessary to pull the true 2007 birth years down to play in our 12U league when there wasn't a conflict with the 14UA games.

2007 Birth years – 7 all rostered on 14UA team as primary team

2008 Birth years - 2 1 experienced, 1 new to hockey

2009 Birth years – 4 2 play co-ed

2010 Birth years – 5 3 play co-ed 1 was a first year goalie

#### **Season Stats – 10 Regular Season Game Record 6-2-2**

Our schedule was 3 all girls teams – Casco Orange & Black, Biddeford

Casco Black Record Lost 3-0 & 4-2 Tied 4-4

Casco Orange – Won 4-0 and tied 2-2

Biddeford – Won all games 9-0, 7-2, 6-1, 5-1, 5-0

We did hear of another girls team late in the season – Auburn Gladiators (hybrid team), we should look into playing them next season

#### **Tournaments: 2 – Played in 12U Division**

##### Bay State Tourney – Dover NH 4 games Record 0-3-1

- Team makeup: Goalie – 07 Birth year
  - Skaters: 2- 2007 – 12 year olds
    - 2-2008 1 was first year skater
    - 7 – 2009 3 were from another organization
    - 4 – 2010 – 9 year olds – first year squirts

##### MHD Tournament – Portland/Gorham – Record Won Gold Medal 5-0 undefeated

Played 12U Division (We had mostly 12 year olds for this tournament)

Teams: Biddeford, Casco Orange, Belmont (MA.)

- Team makeup - Goalie 07 birth year
  - 1 – 2006 Birth year (2<sup>nd</sup> year skater)
  - 7 – 2007 Birth Year
  - 2- 2008 Birth year
  - 3 – 2009 Birth year –
  - 2- 2010 Birth year

**Positive Notes:**

- 12U Bonding – Boston Pride Intermission Skate & UMaine Intermission Skate
- Although playing up to a 12U schedule, the first year girls did a fantastic job stepping up and learning on the fly.
- The girls that played co-ed had the most improvement.
  
- We had some of the best team practices as we prepared for the tournaments. Attendance was high for tournament practices (car pooling from MRC)
- We always had great parent support.
- Great sportsmanship

**Challenges:**

- Team practices at MRC sometimes had as few as 3 players.
- The 2009 girls that didn't play co-ed did not have as much improvement.
- There were too few games, and a long time in between games/getting together.
- Co-ed Conflicts – T4 Play in weekend and T4 States were same weekends at Tournaments
- MHD Tournament – Birth year 2007 played up to 4/5 full games in a day – as they played in the 14 U division as well. Some back to back. We could have played in the 10 Division if we had full commitment from Co-ed players
- Weather is a factor out of our control. Sometimes, we couldn't get to PIA for practices
- Wide skill levels

**Reflection:**

In my coaching philosophy, it is very important to work with your team during practices, this builds trust. Team practices are a must. Coaches need the opportunity to move station to station with their players vs. running one station for the entire organization to filter through.

The last couple of practices were very productive, the the 12U coaches were able to work with the 12U team exclusively.

Not getting together to play a game for a month is far too long. Keeping the team engaged during the season is a must.

-Coach Darryl Townsend

## 14UA Season Review

Coaching staff: HC-Hannah Horecka, HC-Tom Molloy, AC-Fred Lilly, AC-Scott Oakes.

Team Manager: John Carr

Fill in coaches; Anna Cushman, Darryl Townsend, Jerry McNeil, Doug Morrison

The 14UA team consisted of players from the 2008 to 2005 age range. Most of the girls skated with other teams including Inferno teams (12UA and 14UAA) and coed. There were four skaters in the bantam age level that are newer to hockey and only played for the Inferno 14A team. Around half of the roster was made up of 2007-year skaters including the goalie and this group played with the Inferno 12UA team when the schedule allowed.

The Regular season record was 8 wins, 10 losses.

Opponents included; Casco Black girls, Casco Orange girls, Biddeford 14U Coed hybrid, Biddeford 12U coed, Sam Blue 12U coed, Sam White 12 coed.

Record against girls teams 4 W and 6 L.

Record against coed teams 4 W and 4 L.

Tournament: MHD in Portland, record 2 and 4, Bronze medal. The roster was opened up for this tournament, including any 14U skaters.

Challenges or thoughts:

Games seemed front loaded during the season leaving long stretches where the team never got together.

Too many conflicts!

Because players never practiced as a team (only got together on game day), team bonding was a challenge.

Wide range of skill level.

## 14UAA Season Review

### 14U-AA Season

**Coaching Staff:** Jerry McNeil, Tom Molloy, Kim Meagher, Dave Cowley, Doug Morrison

**Team Manager:** Nicole Talbot

Our 14U-AA team was mainly a true 13/14 aged group except for our goalie, Emma Morrison, she was 12. We received a special waiver for her since we did not have a goalie at this age group.

We started the season with couple home games against the NE Wildcats and away games against our state competitors, Casco Bay and the Gladiators. We did not come out with any wins but the girls quickly realized the competition we would be up against for the season and that we can play at this level.....some convincing was needed though! We played in 2 tournaments, of which we won the gold at the Fusion Cup in Marlborough, MA for the Tier II division, we were very proud of our girls for doing such a great job. The second tournament was at Casco Bay and although we did not win the tournament, we did play well and the girls enjoyed the experience.

Overall, we had an up and down season like so many teams do but I believe it was a good season and there were many positives to take away from this season. Wins and losses only tell part of the story and I believe most of the team bonded very well and enjoyed the experience. I was proud to help coach the team with the great cast of co-head coaches we had and will remember this season as a success. The girls certainly realized the level of competition that is out there for girls' hockey and they are only better players for playing against these teams.

-Coach Jerry McNeil

## **16/19U Season In Review**

**Coaching Staff:** Anna Cushman, Jeff Morin, Jake Mathieu and George Bishop

**Team Manager:** None

### **Team Makeup:**

The 16/19Us were comprised of 14-19 year olds (birth years 2005-2001). Several girls also played for their high school boys Ice Hockey teams and many played in competitive high school fall sports, which overlapped the first month of the hockey season. We had 14 full-time players (including two full-time goalies) and 1 part-time cross-rostered player. Most of the players on the team had played hockey for multiple seasons previously, primarily on co-ed teams with a supplement of MEAHA girls Tier 4 hockey. Only three players had significant experience with competitive girls' hockey prior to the season start.

### **Team Season:**

Inferno 16/19U started the season with hopes of playing against Casco Bay for the State title and declared National-bound at the start of the season. In order to qualify, the team needed to play 14 sanctioned Tier 2 USA Hockey games and each player needed to play in a minimum of 10 of those games. By mid-November, it was clear that the team would have trouble acquiring the minimum number of games to qualify for States. Moreover, even if the number of games was achieved, the full roster would not be qualified, as conflicts made it difficult for players to attend league games. We made the decision to forego competing for the State tournament. While not qualifying for States was disappointing, it enabled the team to be creative with rostering to ensure adequate players on the bench for every game and tournament - in particular, without the specific USA Hockey age restrictions for National-bound teams, we could play with younger players to deepen the bench.

Our first game of the season was at the end of October, and we finished the season with 9 non-league and 2 league games in Maine. Those games were complimented with two 19U Tier 2 Girls hockey tournaments and a Canadian 19U jamboree, which brought our game count to 22 for season. Our CanAm Jamboree weekend in St John, New Brunswick in February ended up being the end of our season - our final set of games was scheduled for March 15, but due to schedule conflicts and the COVID-19 situation, those games were never played - but the CanAm Jam was a great end to a season of firsts:

- The first 19U team formed by Inferno
- The first time this group of high-school aged Maine hockey players met and played together on the same team
- The first time to play on an all-girls hockey team for a full season for 2 players
- The first season of competitive girls hockey for 9 players
- The first Inferno team to post a win at the Cranberry Classic Tournament in Cape Cod, MA
- The first Inferno team to sweep the CanAm Jamboree with three definitive wins on the road in New Brunswick.

The overwhelming feedback regarding the season was that it was surprising how competitive the play was, and there was some disappointment with not having a deeper bench. However, overall, the girls jelled as a team - they were positive, supportive and showed tremendous leadership through the loses and the wins. They showed their maturity, determination and good sportsmanship time and time again - they were a joy to coach. —Coach Anna Cushman