

My name is Amy Spence and I have been nominated for the U11 Travel director position. This upcoming season will be my family's 7th season with OMHA, with our last 2 years being in U11. I wanted to become more involved with the Association to support players and their families. I care about the development of youth and sport in our community. My vision would be to foster a positive, inclusive and development focused environment, ensuring that players and their families receive information they need through respectful communication. Sports help develop not just athleticism but also teamwork, discipline and leadership. I wanted to take on a director roll for a division that my son is not playing in, but that I have recent experience with as a parent. Being part of the board will give me further opportunity to give back to the sport and community that we love being a part of.

I have been a team manager for 5 years and a treasurer for 1 year, staying actively involved in a volunteer role each year that my son has played with OMHA. This has helped me understand the expectations and some of the requirements for families and teams within the Association. I have always ensured that the teams have information including schedules, changes to ice times, social events and fundraising as soon as it is available to me. As a manager I was always available to listen to feedback, both positive and constructive. I have assisted in facilitating conversations in a timely manner when issues have arisen, both within the team as well as with other teams. I have done this during tournaments and been commended on my role in facilitating these conversations. I have also been asked by other teams both locally and during away games to help teams resolve issues that have arisen. I maintained a strong relationship with all of the managers on other teams in the league each year I have been manager. I have previous experience being a board member in the non-profit sector.

Clear and consistent communication is important to me, it fosters trust and ensures a smooth experience for coaches, parents and players within OMHA. I will ensure that my communication is timely, transparent and informative whether it is regarding scheduling, team expectations, evaluations, updates from OMHA or feedback. My goal is for everyone involved to have a positive experience.

I approach situations with fairness and respect, focusing on creating a supportive environment for all parties involved. I will be available to hear any compliments, questions or concerns as the season unfolds. It is important to handle any conflicts that arise in a calm manner, creating an environment where everyone feels heard, the issues are addressed constructively and with the well-being of the players in mind.

I am an organized person and understand how scheduling can impact people's lives, whether it is one kid in sport or multiple. Getting information out to people in a timely manner is important to me and something that will happen throughout the season. Many families will be entering into U11 for the first year and that comes with trying out for travel hockey as an option that was not there for them in previous years. Sharing information about what the process is, when they can expect results or further information will help ensure families and players have a positive experience moving forward.

I value open dialogue and always seek the feedback of others. It takes a team of people to have a successful hockey season. Collaboration with coaches, referees, parents, players and other board members is what I believe will lead to a positive and successful hockey season.