



CENTRAL YORK GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



**Annual General Meeting
2024 - 2025 Executive Reports**

Tuesday, September 9th, 2025

Central York Girls Hockey Association
14845 Yonge St, Unit #6 - Suite 130, Aurora, Ontario L4G 6H8
Tel: (905)-727-0269 Fax: (905)-727-0457
website: [www. cygha.com](http://www.cygha.com)
email: info@cygha.com



CYGHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (as of Sep 1, 2025)

President	Mark Dubeau
Vice President, Representative	Chris Buckley
Vice President, House League	Rob Carusi
Vice President, Senior Women	Lisa Lamka
Treasurer	Vacant
Secretary	Vacant
Directors at Large	Asley Hogue (1) Sarah Tracey (2) Jennifer Klein (3) Ashley Harrison (4) Johnny Zeppieri (5) Mike McArdle (6)



BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again, our volunteers worked hard to meet our mission of providing the best possible experience for all members across all divisions. From our introductory Cubs program, our strong House League and DS programs, our senior Women's divisions, our competitive/Rep teams right up to our Panthers High Performance teams and our incredible Junior program.

The execution of our programming in every division showed why we are one of the top associations in the province. Our member surveys consistently report a high satisfaction level with our programs and our coaches. This is a glowing indication of the commitment of our volunteers and their dedication to supporting our mission.

There were many program highlights this season. I'll leave it to the directors to provide detailed updates in their reports, but I wanted to highlight some key areas and credit the volunteers for all their hard work.

- In August 2024, we completed another Panthers Summer Camp. The camp continued to provide two weeks of programming. Keith Higgins spearheaded the effort, and the camp was a resounding success. We also just finished the 2025 camp under the leadership of Sarah Tracey. Once again, our Panther leaders made sure every camper had a great experience.
- The Junior Panther Spirit Day was incredible. We filled the stands for the Junior game and many young Panthers got to meet all of our Junior players.
- The Panthers continued to support the Toronto Sceptres. The PWHL has created a buzz that we have never seen before. The speed, skill and physicality of the female game are now being showcased at the professional level and, as we can see from the record attendance numbers, the fan support has been outstanding!
- Our high-performance programs flourished. Every graduating Junior Panther player has accepted a spot with a university team in Canada or the United States.
- One of the highlights of the Junior season was an Exhibition game vs. the Chinese National Women's Team.
- We continued investing in our coaches and trainers by maintaining 100% reimbursement for training fees. Many coaches and trainers took advantage of this program.
- **Our Representative, House League, DS and Womens' programs continue to thrive, proving once again that we are of the best female hockey associations in the province. I'll let our director reports tell you all about it.**



- Development programs - Thanks to Steve Dempsey and Sarah Tracey for coordinating another successful season of development programs for our coaches, players and goalies.
- Our tournaments: Panther Pride, Silver Stick and Queen of the House were once again the best ever. Thanks to Ashley, Patty, Paula and the rest of the committee volunteers for all their time and commitment in making this happen.

I'm sure I am forgetting a few other highlights, but all of this could not have been done without the leadership of our board members and all our dedicated volunteers. Most importantly though, none of this would be possible without the hard work of our Administrator and Registrar Sarah Bradley.

Looking forward to 2025-2026, there are already many positive signs that point to the best season ever!

We will continue to develop our programs, events, policies and processes to ensure we continue to retain our status as one of the best associations in the province.

There will be an increased focus on Risk Management and Health and Safety. I'm personally spearheading this committee along with appointed Director at Large, Jennifer Klein. Our efforts will provide more guidance and support to our trainers and ultimately result in a safer, more enjoyable experience for our members.

We will continue to promote our community-first philosophy. We are just starting to see how this is paying dividends on and off the ice. Every Panther takes part in endeavours that benefit our local communities; and this all starts with the Panther Spirit that has been fostered by the Junior Panthers team. Our Panther players are amazing examples of character, resilience, and determination.

Finally, we are always looking for more volunteers. The new board for 2025-2026 will have a renewed focus on developing and expanding our committee structures to ensure we can accomplish more and provide an even better experience for everyone. There is a role for everyone that's able to donate some of their time and make a difference for our young athletes.

Mark Dubeau, President



VICE-PRESIDENT, HOUSE LEAGUE REPORT

There were a total of 307 youth players registered in House League this past season compared to 393 for the 2023-2024 season. The breakdown by division was as follows:

House League 2023-2024	House League 2024-2025
Cubs (U7) - 51 players	Cubs (U7) - 37 players
U9 - 66 players	U9 - 64 players
U11 – 70 players	U11 – 80 players
U13 – 64 players	U13 – 57 players
U15 – 78 players	U15 – 51 players
U18 – 64 players	U18 – 82 players

There was an overall decrease in the number of House League player registrations from the 2023-2024 season. We were able to rebound at the U18 division from the previous year after another rep team was added. U15 dropped significantly with a lot of the players from the previous year moving up to U18. Cubs/U7 saw a decrease and we are continuing to work on initiatives at this age to encourage girls to start playing hockey.

This season had its own challenges but overall was successful in developing players, building a sense of community and of course having fun.

- We had six outstanding convenors—one for each division—who did an excellent job running their programs and ensuring a successful season.
- Purchased new goalie equipment for the U11 Division.
- We introduced an interlock with the Georgina Golden Hawks for the U9 to U15 divisions. This was a change from the previous season, when U15 did not participate in an interlock.
- A robust skills development program continued to provide more opportunities for house league players to be on the ice.
- Hosted The Queen of the House tournament. The CYGHA continued to provide administrative support for the tournament and 4 centres hosted a division for the year end tournament.



Developmental Stream (DS)

The CYGHA offered the Developmental Stream for House League players in U11-U18 to supplement the house league program and provide further development opportunities for players. Unfortunately, the OWHHA did not sanction running DS in the U9 division this season. The four teams had a great season, with lots of practice time, participating in eight games and three tournaments. Thank you to all the bench staff who volunteered to make this program a success. The association purchased new DS jerseys for U18.

Thank you to all volunteers in the House League program who made this season a success.

Rob Carusi, VP House League



VICE-PRESIDENT, REP REPORT

A total of 293 players on 17 teams represented the CYGHA for the 2023-2024 season.

- U22 AA
- U18 AA, A(x2), BB, B
- U15 AA, A, BB, B
- U13 AA, A, BB
- U11 AA, A, BB
- U9 A

The CYGHA was well represented in league playoffs with 11 of the 16 eligible teams finishing in the top four during regular season league play, qualifying them to play for the overall league championship. This included our U15AA team who was the regular season champion in their loop. Of the 16 possible provincial championship spots available to CYGHA teams, 11 of our teams qualified.

Over the last 4 seasons our overall association rep ranking has improved from 17th in the province to 4th at the end of the 2024-2025 season.

Rep teams once again participated in numerous community events throughout the season including street festivals, fairs, and parades, giving back to the community and representing the Panthers very well.

All of our graduating Jr. players received a university commitment. This marks the fourth consecutive year with 100% of our players committing to a university.

There were very few discipline issues involving rep teams, players, and staff during the 2024-2025 season.

Spring tryouts for the 2025-2026 season saw more than 425 players try out for a rep spot. This marks the third consecutive year with more than 400 players at tryouts. A fourth U13 team was added late in the tryout process.

Adding a second U9 rep team remains a priority, as it would significantly benefit the overall program. However, registration numbers at this age group are still not sufficient to support an additional team.

Changes to the tryout selection process were introduced in the spring to provide additional oversight and ensure the selection process is as transparent as possible.



VICE-PRESIDENT, WOMENS' REPORT

League Overview

- Divisions: Open (6 teams) & Over 35 (6 teams)
- Players: 180 skaters, 15 goalies
- Season: 19 game nights + year-end party at arena

New in 2024–25: Chill Shiny

- Learn-to-play for women
- 14 participants, 20 ice times
- Coaches: Natasha Tassone & Heather Morning
- Final session: full game format

Year-of-Season Survey Highlights (~50 responses)

- Return Rate: Majority plan to return; some moving or switching divisions
Satisfaction: Most rated 4–5/5; praised organization, communication, inclusivity
- Strengths: Welcoming atmosphere, strong communication, successful banquet, refs & fair play
- Areas to Improve:
 - Team Balance – stacked teams, uneven play
 - consider draft, skill surveys, rebalancing
 - Division Fit – Open sometimes too competitive; Over 35 concerns about younger/aggressive players
 - suggestions for Over 40/45
 - Scheduling – avoid March Break finals, reduce long breaks, explore tournaments/extra ice

Representative comments:

- “I was nervous but welcomed with open arms.”
- “The banquet at the rink was the best ever.”
- “Teams need better balance; consider a draft.”

VP Women's League Observations

- Expansion: Waitlists for 2025–26 (Open: 12, Over 35: 25)
- Limitations: Ice availability, goalie depth
- Team Balancing: 78% returning; only 9% willing to switch teams
- Division Structure: Demand remains high, age changes alone won't solve issues
- Scheduling: For 2025–26, the final game will be held March 8—one week before March Break—to avoid conflicts.



Looking Ahead

- Keep: organization, inclusivity, socials
- Focus on: team balance, division structure, scheduling
- Continue to build on momentum with Chill Shiny and strong league demand

TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Panther Pride House League Report

Total Teams: 52 - 31 CYGHA and 21 External - 1 team from the USA

Cubs - 2

U 8/9 - 4

U 11 - 10

U13 - 10

U15 - 7

U18 - 11

SENIOR - 8

The tournament made a smaller profit than expected due to Taylor Swift concert impacting hotel availability and pricing that weekend.

Patty Albert – Tournament Director

Silver Stick Report

The 2025 Tournament was the largest Silver Stick tournament we've ever hosted.

- 76 teams competed – 40 x U15 , 28 x U11 , 8 x U9
- 6 US teams – from Colorado, Michigan and Ohio
- 168 Games, 4 Venues, 10 Ice Pads
- Thank you to the tournament organizers, volunteers, officials, and timekeepers for their countless hours of dedication.
- Overall ~\$65,000 profit for CYGHA development programs

Paula Dubeau, Tournament Director