



## Nanaimo Minor Hockey Association

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### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 2026

**TO:** NMHA Membership

**FROM:** NMHA NOMINATION COMMITTEE

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**SUBJECT:** Nomination Committee Report 2026

This year's nominating committee is pleased to be able to put forward a list of candidates as follows;  
*nominations will be accepted from the floor during the elections portion of the meeting.*

**President**

- Duane Spencer
- Amanjit Pandher(incumbent)

**Female Coordinator**

- Allison Schneider(incumbent)

**Risk Coordinator**

- Taylor Jenkins

**Sponsorship & Community Coordinator**

- Mary Pearson

## Nominee Platforms

### President

#### Nominee Amanjit Pandher

*What inspired you to put your name forward for a position on the NMHA Board?*

I am putting my name forward for President again because I care deeply about Nanaimo Minor Hockey. NMHA is powered by people who give their time because they believe in creating a positive hockey experience for kids. I have been proud to be part of that work, and I believe we have made meaningful progress over the past seasons while still having important work ahead of us.

Over the two years, the board has focused on building more consistent policies, clearer communication, and fairer decision-making across the association. Minor hockey will always involve difficult decisions, especially around tryouts, team formation, discipline, programming, and regional hockey. My goal has been to make those decisions as transparent, consistent, and fair as possible so families understand the process, even when the outcome may not be what they hoped for.

*What personal, professional, or volunteer experiences have prepared you to take on this role?*

My professional background has prepared me well for this role. I have spent many years in public-sector leadership, working with boards, staff, volunteers, families, community partners, and complex organizations. That experience has helped me understand the importance of governance, respectful communication, accountability, and long-term planning. My volunteer experience as the president of minor hockey has also shown me that strong associations are built by listening, making thoughtful decisions, supporting volunteers, and keeping the focus on the players.

*What aspects of minor hockey are most important to you, and how would you like to support or improve them through your work on the board?*

The parts of minor hockey that matter most to me are fairness, development, inclusion, safety, and fun. I want NMHA to continue creating an environment where recreational players enjoy the game, competitive players are challenged and supported, female players have strong development pathways, and every player has the opportunity to grow.

*How do you see yourself collaborating with other board members, staff, and volunteers to support NMHA's players and programs?*

I also believe strongly in collaboration. The President's role is not to make decisions alone. It is to help bring the board, staff, coaches, managers, volunteers, and families together around a shared direction. I value respectful discussion, clear expectations, and decisions that are made in the best interest of the association as a whole. Our staff and volunteers do an incredible amount of work, and part of my role is to support them, listen to them, and help ensure they have the structure needed to be successful.

*Is there a particular area of the association (e.g., player development, communications, fundraising, events, etc.) where you feel you can make a strong impact?*

If elected again, I would like to continue strengthening NMHA in several key areas: clearer policies, improved communication, player development, discipline, regional program planning, female hockey pathways, volunteer support, and a positive association culture. We made progress this year with improvements throughout the association, I would like to build on that momentum.

*Anything else you would like the NMHA membership to know about you before they vote?*

Before members vote, I want them to know that I take this role seriously. I will not promise that every decision will be easy or that everyone will always agree. What I can promise is that I will continue to

work hard, listen carefully, act with fairness, support our staff and volunteers, and keep the focus on what matters most: creating the best possible hockey experience for our players.

Thank you for considering my nomination for President.  
Amanjit Pandher

**President**  
**Nominee Duane Spencer**

Dear Nanaimo Minor Hockey Association Board and Members,

My name is Duane Spencer, and I am writing to formally nominate myself for the position of President of Nanaimo Minor Hockey Association (NMHA).

My motivation to step forward comes from a long-standing commitment to community sport in Nanaimo and a strong passion for youth development. I have spent 22 years running the Nanaimo Mixed Orthodox Softball League, along with 24 years of coaching experience in that organization. In addition, I have coached multiple years of baseball and soccer as well as 7 years of coaching experience within NMHA and 14 years as a hockey parent. These experiences have given me a deep appreciation for the role minor sports play in developing not only skills, but also confidence, teamwork, and character. I feel this is the right time to contribute at a leadership level.

My background combines leadership, organization, and hands-on coaching. Managing a long-running league has required strong communication, conflict resolution, scheduling, volunteer coordination, and financial oversight. Coaching has further strengthened my ability to mentor athletes and work collaboratively with parents and fellow coaches. I would bring a practical, solutions-focused approach to the role of President.

My key priorities for NMHA include strengthening player development at all levels, supporting and retaining coaches and officials, keep growing female hockey, improving communication across the association, promoting a culture of respect and sportsmanship, and exploring ways to make hockey more accessible and sustainable for families.

I believe my greatest impact would be in improving communication. This includes setting clear expectations for board members, coaches and parents before the season, ensuring concerns are addressed in a timely and respectful manner, and establishing an open-door approach with dedicated office hours to increase accessibility, transparency, and trust within the association.

I am committed to working collaboratively with fellow board members, staff, and volunteers. My leadership style is inclusive, respectful, and grounded in open communication and shared decision-making, always with the best interests of the players and the association in mind.

NMHA has been an important part of my family's life, and I care deeply about its future. I would be honored to serve as President and help support the continued growth and success of the association.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Duane Spencer

## **Female Coordinator**

**Nominee: Allison Schneider**

### **What inspired you to put your name forward for a position on the NMHA Board?**

I want to be a voice for female hockey players and help to provide a fair, inclusive and fun experience for all NMHA players. I have years of experience playing, coaching, and parenting female hockey that I can bring to the board in hopes to improve the female hockey programs under VIAHA.

### **What personal, professional, or volunteer experiences have prepared you to take on this role?**

A degree in Recreation Management, and experience as the City of Nanaimo arena recreation coordinator. I have 33 years of hockey experience, coaching experience at all levels U6 up to U18 A, 4 years on the NMHA board (two as U9 Director and two as Female Director) and being on the board as a director and as a vice president for the Nanaimo Islanders Female Hockey Association.

### **What aspects of minor hockey are most important to you, and how would you like to support or improve them through your work on the board?**

Hockey needs to be a place for everyone. We need to have teams and levels for all abilities of players to participate. I am currently on an island wide committee to help bring all the minor hockey organizations together on a development plan for all players. We are hoping to collaborate and create new opportunities for female players starting the 26/27 season. As a board member it is extremely important to me that the females have equal ice times and development opportunities.

### **How do you see yourself collaborating with other board members, staff, and volunteers to support NMHA's players and programs?**

I hope to create sub committees involving volunteers from all the female teams so we can have a collaborative plan on how we can create a positive culture for our female program.

I also would like to create a mentorship program where we can have the older girl helping with younger team practices, development sessions, and off ice player events. This will help create a positive and supportive environment for all our players.

Sincerely,

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## **Risk Coordinator**

### **Nominee Taylor Jenkins**

I'm proud to put my name forward for the Safety & Risk Management position with NMHA. With experience as a coach, referee, and former U11 Rec Director—along with my ongoing role as equipment manager—I bring a well-rounded, hands-on understanding of our game and the responsibility we have to keep it safe, organized, and positive for every player.

These experiences have given me a well-rounded understanding of the game from all sides, and more importantly, a strong appreciation for the role safety, structure, and clear communication play in creating a positive environment for players and families.

If elected, my focus will be to:

- Ensure safety protocols are clear, current, and consistently followed
- Support coaches, referees, and team staff with the tools and guidance they need
- Proactively identify and reduce risks across all levels of play
- Foster a culture of safety, respect, and accountability within NMHA

I care deeply about this association and the experience it provides for our players. I'd be proud to serve in this role and help ensure NMHA continues to be a safe, well-run, and positive place for everyone involved.

Sincerely,

Taylor Jenkins  
Equipment Manager  
NMHA

## **Sponsorship & Community Coordinator**

**Nominee: Mary Pearson**

I'm excited to put my name forward for the Sponsorship & Community Coordinator position with Nanaimo Minor Hockey. I am currently serving on the board as the Recreation Coordinator, and over the past year I've gained a strong understanding of NMHA's work, values, and needs. Through that experience, I've realized that this role is a better fit for my skills and where I can be the most effective.

### **Why I'm interested in this role**

My decision to apply comes from wanting to best serve the association. While I've enjoyed being the Recreation Coordinator, I know my strengths are better suited to sponsorship, communications, and community engagement. This position allows me to contribute in an area I'm very comfortable with, while also opening the Recreation Coordinator role to someone new who can bring their own voice and perspective to the board.

### **Experience that prepares me for this position**

I bring a mix of professional, business, and volunteer experience that fits well with this role. I currently work in Communications for the City of Nanaimo, where I focus on clear messaging, public engagement, and building strong connections with the community.

I am also the sole owner of a successful small business, which has given me hands-on experience with sponsorships, partnerships, and relationship building. I understand how important it is for sponsors to feel recognized, informed, and connected to the organizations they support.

Over the past year on the NMHA board, I've learned a lot about how the association operates. I also have a background in legislation, which has been helpful when working with bylaws and policies. This year, I used that experience to help rewrite the Spring Sticks and Recreational Tournament Team policies, making sure they were clearer and easier to follow for members.

### **How I work with others**

I enjoy working as part of a team and believe collaboration is key to a strong association. Over many years, both before and during my time on the board, I've worked closely with NMHA board members, staff, and volunteers in different ways. I value open communication, mutual respect, and being reliable. In this role, I would continue to work closely with everyone involved to support NMHA players, programs, and sponsors.

### **Where I can make the strongest impact**

Communications and community connection are where I can make the biggest difference. Over the past year, in addition to my Recreation Coordinator role, I also helped with social media and general community communications. As Sponsorship & Community Coordinator, I would be able to focus more intentionally on these areas, strengthening sponsor relationships, improving communication and increasing NMHA's visibility in the community.

Moving into a role that closely aligns with my professional experience allows me to be a stronger asset to the board, while creating space for new leadership at the table.

Thank you for considering my application. I'm proud to be involved with Nanaimo Minor Hockey and would be happy to continue serving the association in a role where I can best support its players, families, sponsors, and community.