

AGM Report: Super Series

2023 was another successful tournament year for HLA. The OLA approved the tournament to host U9-U22 aged teams again this season and all 6 divisions sold out for the tournament resulting in HLA hosting 48 teams over the July long weekend. Games were played out of two double pad facilities, Chedoke & Morgan Firestone, with the pads running from 8am to 9pm daily.

Again this year we had the goal of running a profitable event for the association. The tournament fee increased this year to off-set increased costs for floor time and officials. We were also able to get more creative with operating expenses while still delivering a great experience for participants and officials. Hosting a tournament on a long weekend requires us to offer a great experience for official, to ensure that we are well staffed for this event.

IPads were used again this season with few growing pains as we were a pilot center last year. We were able to collect and use the association IPads and had computers set up at both arenas to allow for efficient management of team rosters. This year the OLA slightly reduced the amount of physical paperwork needing to be submitted, but our hope is that this requirement for physical backups will be removed in 2024. We have also put forward the suggestion that team rosters are not loaded as early in the season by the OLA as many manual changes were needed to game sheets

The City of Hamilton did not operate a snack bar at Morgan Firestone this year which allowed HLA to run and profit from our own snack bar. These were largely operated by students working to get hours for school. HLA was also able to work directly with local hotels to set up hotel blocks and rebates which resulted in over \$1000 in rebates for the association. One hotel has already been secured for Super Series 2024 & we are looking at securing the rest before registration starts for 2024 tournaments.

We welcomed 3 vendors to Chedoke – Rykii (team swag), JSP Photography and Fine Designs (T-Shirt vendor) . Rykii and JSP donated items/gift certificates to our raffle and Fine Designs gave us a % kickback. The raffle did not cost anything and did not generate a lot of income but what it did do was offset some of the food expense and gave kids an opportunity to get their volunteer hours. As this was our first year having vendors, we will look at implementing a kickback % from all of our vendors next year and forego the raffle.

As with any tournament we did experience some challenges this year. Although the number of on floor issues were minimal compared to previous years, we did have several challenges with fans in the stands. Most of the issues were with U9-U13 team fans and largely located at Chedoke arena, although the issues traveled to Morgan when the U9 semi finals were moved to this facility. Issues seemed to be limited to a small number of teams, several from the same association, and we will be working with the OLA to address these issues as the bookings for 2024 tournaments open. For 2024, we need to ensure that we are properly staffed with volunteers that are capable of addressing unrulily fans and ensuing their removal from the facilities. We can also work to send strong and clear communications to teams in advance for the tournament that inappropriate behaviour with come with swift and strong consequences for total teams, not just the individual who causes the issues.

As with prior years, success of this tournament is largely the result of the volunteers who stepped up to help plan, set up, and run the tournament. This event would not have been a success without the help of almost 20 volunteers who gave anywhere from 4-20 hours of their time on the long weekend- THANK

YOU! As we look ahead to 2024, it is critical that we recruit new volunteers to help with this event as many current volunteers have players who will be aging out of minor in the next 2 years. We could look at requiring teams to provide 2-3 volunteers in exchange for the reduced tournament fee we have historically provided. Currently all Bengals teams pay a reduced rate to attend Super Series and I would suggest that for 2024, this is offered only to team who provide volunteers.