

Hello SAHA Community,

My name is Bill Rhody, and I am writing to introduce myself, share insights into my background and hockey philosophy, and to ask for your vote for the board position of SAHA Boys Traveling Hockey Director.

I have been involved in hockey for as long as I can remember. From growing up in South St Paul, playing in the MN State High School tournament, to officiating on-ice at D1, D3, high school and youth hockey levels for over 30 years, coaching high school hockey at Harding for 20 years, leading St Paul Harding's youth association as board president for 10 years, working as an independent hockey evaluator for 20 years, to coaching in SAHA for the past 5 years (Squirts, PeeWees and Bantams), hockey is in my blood. I love everything about the game, the life lessons it offers and the friendships and community it's built throughout my life.

Over the years, I have gained a very good understanding for how youth hockey organizations are organized and operate. Of all of the fine communities in Minnesota, without a doubt, Stillwater rises above them all. SAHA has so much to be proud of. The vision and the training/development program Bill Kohn has created and led over the past 6 years is excellent. It is my hope to have the opportunity to help continue building on this success and the momentum that's been created.

Below is a summary of what I believe I can bring to SAHA to help continue building success on and off the ice for all SAHA members:

- **Relationships in the Hockey Community**
 - o With over 50 years of living, breathing and loving the game of hockey, I have been fortunate to develop connections and relationships with high level coaches and training partners that can help bring more volunteers and partners on board to develop and train our athletes.
- **Player Development**
 - o I believe in the importance of making playing hockey fun – keeping as many kids engaged and playing as we can – and helping to pass along the love of the game. All while creating programs, hiring coaches and putting the framework in place to help each athlete develop to their highest ability!
 - o Because I do not have any children or family playing in SAHA, I offer completely unbiased, fair and honest representation for all members. I will represent and advocate for the development of each and every SAHA athlete – at all ages and all levels of play.
- **Coaching Approach**
 - o Being involved with developing athletes and working in hockey for so long...I've seen and coached through a lot of changes over the decades. How we train. How we talk to kids. How we inspire them. The way we do this is so important. I am a firm believer in coaching the whole kid. Not only to develop their on-ice hockey

abilities, but just as importantly, to help develop the whole person. Respect. Sportsmanship. Teamwork. Work ethic. All of that matters.

- I do not believe in short benches or short shifting kids. Everyone deserves equal chances to develop. Mistakes happen. That's how we learn and get better. I believe success comes by working together, and working our hardest, as a team.
- SAHA has a deep pool of talented coaches. I'd like to help build upon that by creating consistent collaboration within our coaching group at all levels so we have a clear vision and coaching philosophy that is shared by all.
- It is also my hope the new Stillwater High School hockey coach will be open to a close alignment and partnership with the SAHA program, kids and coaches – this would not only help inspire our athletes but also guide them as they develop their abilities and skills.

I thank you for taking time to read this letter. If you have any questions or would like to talk in person, I welcome that. I prefer one-on-one conversations and will always be available to talk through any ideas, suggestions or concerns you have. Thank you for considering casting your vote for me at the April SAHA board meeting.

Sincerely,

Bill Rhody
651-341-0101
billrhody@hotmail.com