

## **CGHA CANDIDATE APPLICATION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**POSITION:** Peewee Director

**TERM COMMITMENT FOR THIS POSITION:**

2-year term commitment

(May 2026 through April 2028 General Membership Meeting)

**NAME:** Chris Vierling

**What hockey experience do you possess that would be considered beneficial for this role?** I have been involved in youth hockey as a player, parent, helper, assistant coach, and head coach. I understand how important the Peewee level is. It is the transition stage where hockey becomes more structured and competitive, and what happens here carries into Bantams.

I have taken the time to read through the CGHA handbook and understand the responsibilities of this role, especially around tryouts, coach selection, and player development. I believe in running a fair and consistent process that families can trust.

**What other experience, accomplishments, or skill sets do you possess that would be considered beneficial for this role?** Professionally, I lead a sales team. My role requires accountability, structure, performance evaluation, strong communication, and handling difficult conversations. Those skills translate directly to this position.

I am also a firefighter and paramedic with Cottage Grove. I have completed officer and leadership training and was elected Chairman of the Round Table for the department. I manage low frequency, high profile scenes and make critical decisions on behalf of patients and the community. That experience has taught me to stay calm under pressure, think clearly, and lead with composure.

I believe in process over emotion, fairness over favoritism, and making decisions based on what is best for the level as a whole.

**Why have you decided to apply for this position?** I decided to apply because I believe the Peewee level is one of the most important years in youth hockey.

This is where players begin to understand systems, competition, and accountability. It is also where habits are formed that carry into Bantams and beyond.

I want to help ensure that this level is structured, fair, development focused, and aligned across teams. My goal is to serve the entire level and make decisions that are consistent and transparent.

**If you had to list your priorities in order, please list in order 1- 3 and why you feel these are priorities within CGHA:**

1) Fair and transparent tryouts

Trust in the process starts here. Clear evaluation criteria and consistent communication reduce conflict and build confidence in placements.

2) Coach alignment and accountability

Coaches shape the experience for players. Expectations around communication, development, and conduct should be clear and consistent.

3) Player development

Winning is important, but development is more important. Pee wee should prepare players for the next level while maintaining a positive and competitive culture.

**Do you know where to find the Hockey Handbook and have you taken time to become familiar with the job duties as outlined for the Registrar/Secretary position?** Yes. I have reviewed the CGHA handbook and understand the responsibilities tied to the Pee wee Director role.

**There are many volunteer hours required of Board members to ensure the program is operating successfully. Please see the following pages to see an overview of the job, with a projected timeline and hours needed. Are you prepared to volunteer countless hours of your time for the duration of this commitment as defined above?** Yes. I understand the time commitment and am prepared to dedicate the time needed to do the job the right way. I will be retiring from the fire department in January, which will free up significant time. Public safety is not something you do for the money. It reflects my commitment to service and to this community.

**Please provide any additional comments for members' consideration of your candidacy:** If elected, I will bring structure, fairness, and consistency to this role. I am not interested in politics

or favoritism. I am interested in building a strong Peewee level that families trust and players benefit from long term.

Leadership means being accessible, communicating clearly, and making decisions that are grounded in policy and what is best for the program as a whole. Not what is easiest in the moment.

I will be steady, transparent, and accountable. My focus will always be on development, culture, and preparing our players for the next level the right way.