

To the LCAHA Board and Members,

My name is Randy Gossage, and I am issuing this letter of intent to request your consideration for the Coach in Chief position. I have two daughters who both play at the 12U level, and presently I am the Goalie Coach for the LCAHA.

Growing up, I played roller hockey in the streets of California before settling in the Valley in 1995. I graduated from LHS and then from the University of Idaho, which is when my passion for ice hockey started. While at the U of I, Moscow opened an ice rink less than a block away from where I lived, and I had the chance to start playing the sport I loved again. I had only been ice skating a few times before, but that did not stop me. I jumped headlong into practicing, striving to be as good on the ice as I knew I was on rollerblades. I played two seasons in Moscow before I graduated and moved back to the L-C Valley. Shortly thereafter, Lewiston opened an ice rink, and I was back on the ice. I played on the adult league until work and my young children consumed my free time.

My career is not as hectic now, and my girls are participating in their own sports. As a parent, it is exciting to watch them find a love for sports, and even more thrilling when it is one that I also have a passion for, such as hockey. Last year, one of my girls decided halfway through her first hockey season that she wanted to play goalie, and she truly found her place in the game.

Through her decision to play goalie, it became apparent to me that as an association, we were missing something: goalie specific training and practice. This was especially notable when we played other teams, seeing that their goalie had more control and movement on their skates, and the ability to follow and focus on each play. It was evident that direct coaching time was spent with the other team's goalie and that they had been instructed on how to play smarter. Many consider the goalie position the toughest to play, both mentally and physically, and coaching specifically for that role clearly made a discernable difference for those teams we competed against.

When last year's season ended, I decided I was going to do my part to help the kids who play goalie; I volunteered to be a goalie coach, although I knew it wasn't going to be easy. I had much to learn at the time and have continued to refine my coaching ever since. I constantly search for effective resources, striving to become better myself, which allows me to give everything I can to help the kids to grow and excel. I feel I've had a positive impact on the players I coached, and I hope it continues to have a meaningful influence on their game.

If appointed to the role of Coach in Chief, I would be enthusiastic about building a robust coaching program for LCAHA and have key points that I would strive to have implemented.

- Coordinate with the coaches prior to the season beginning. The meeting would plan the skills that each age group will aim to master by the end of the season, and how as a group we are going to make it happen.
- Create a path of effective coaching techniques that would be built upon incrementally and strategically each year. I believe this can be accomplished by bridging the coaching gaps that exist between the age groups. Just as you must first learn algebra so you can learn geometry later, hockey skills could be taught in the same way.
- Become a resource for coaches if they would like assistance in creating drills, using a different approach to teach a skill, or to communicate more effectively for maximum retention and understanding by the players. I recognize that just because USA hockey offers many drills and exercises, it does not mean they all will work for our players. However, through discussion, we can work to restructure them to be effective for the LCAHA.
- Work to develop a unique and strong mindset for our youth league coaches across all levels, from 8U to 18U. The coaching staff should work as a team if they want to lead a great team.

My desire is to see LCAHA grow and be competitive. I believe this can be done in a way that our kids come away from playing LCAHA hockey with a sense of pride of where they were taught. The players would have a strong pathway to success if dedication were put toward strategic coaching, and I am willing to step up to the task and put in the time and dedication. I would be honored if you would consider me for the position and eagerly await your decision.

Thank you for your consideration,

Randy Gossage

*Randy Gossage*

