

Sault Female Hockey Association (SFHA) 2025/26 Survey Results and League Statistics

A) Overall League Statistics

The league has been growing in recent years and returned to registration numbers observed prior to covid-19 (Figure 1). League numbers started to decline prior to covid-19, but have steadily increased since 2022.

SFHA Player Registrations

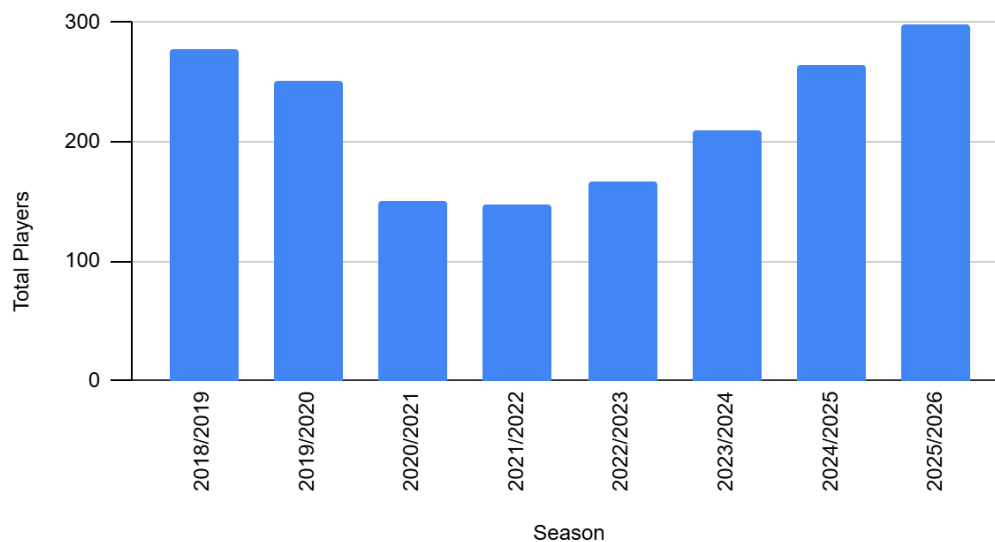


Figure 1. Player registration in SFHA by season from 2018/19 to the current season 2025/26. Data prior to 2018 is not available in SFHA's digital database.

All divisions, except U18 and U13 are back to, or exceeding, pre-covid numbers (Table 1). All divisions except U18 have added players in the last year, with U9 growing the most; U7, U13 and U15 each gained 5 players, U9 gained 20, U11 gained 3, and U18 lost 3 players.

Table 1. Player registration by division where U7 is Timbits and was formerly mini-cats. Registrations include both rep and house league divisions.

Season	U7	U9	U11	U13	U15	U18
2018/2019	15	30	47	61	46	79
2019/2020	30	30	60	32	50	49
2020/2021	0	18	27	15	57	34
2021/2022	0	28	19	35	31	35
2022/2023	13	18	30	38	49	19
2023/2024	16	15	37	43	50	49
2024/2025	49	28	45	46	48	49
2025/2026	54	47	48	51	53	45

Looking forward, the number of goalies in each division still remains a concern. Figure 2 shows the number of girls that are eligible for each division next year, based on their birth year and divisions. To help grow the number of goalies in House League (and therefore the entire league), the league has provided a refund of half HL goalie registration fees, if they complete the year in net, and has also purchased equipment to lend to goalies for the year.

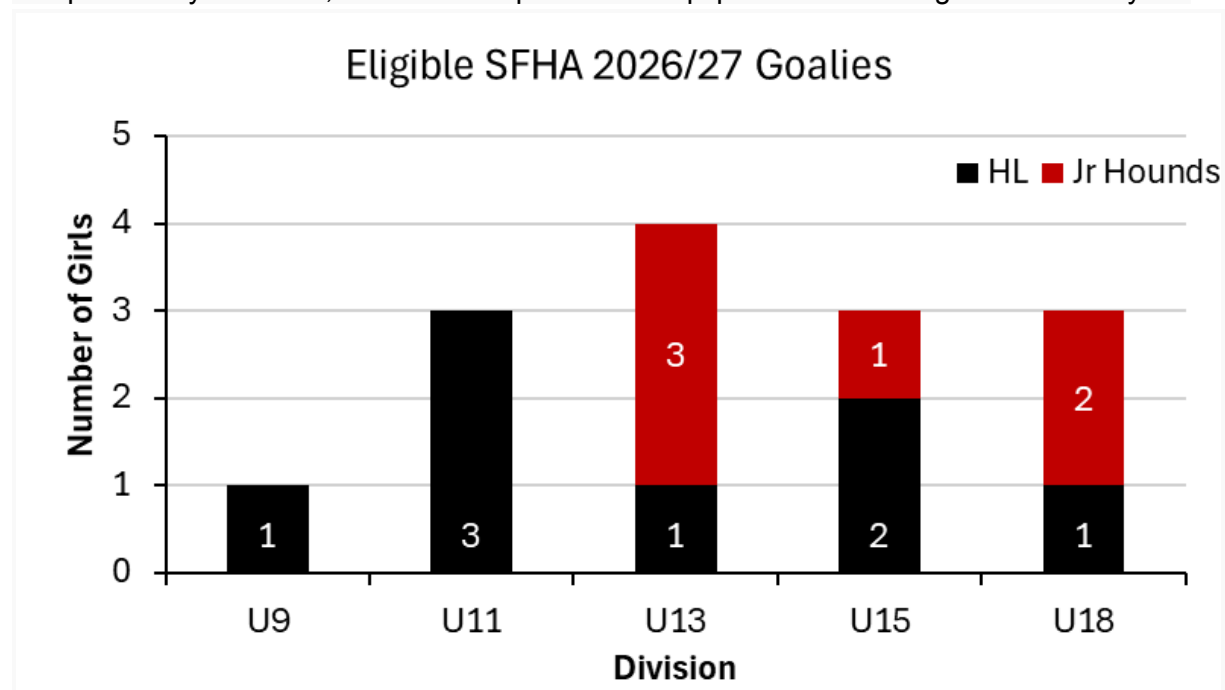


Figure 2. Goalie numbers for next year based on the current number of girls registered as goalies in either HL (House League) or Jr Greyhounds. The division they are graphed in is based on their birth year and division they are eligible to play in for 2026/27.

B) 2025/25 Survey Results

1. Are you a parent or a player?

176 Responses were received; 165 from parents and 11 from players. Therefore, of the 299 registrants we received feedback from 55% of the league (assuming only one parent replied to the survey, as per the instructions). Based on more responses than registered players on some teams, more than one parent replied per registered player. Therefore, some survey results should be viewed with this in mind.

2. Age Category and Division

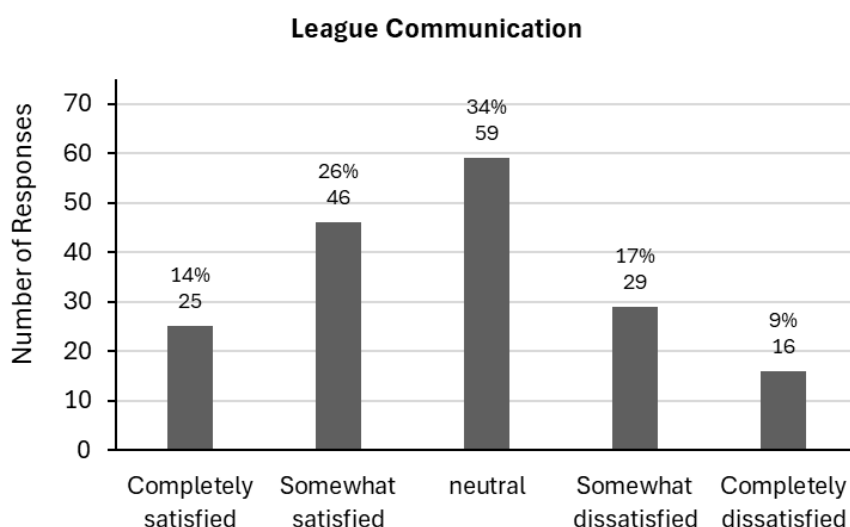
Responses were received from all teams/divisions with the majority from U13 JR Hounds (22 for 16 players) and Timbits (22 for 54 players), and the least from U11 Atomic Purple (2 for 16 players). The remaining majority of teams received responses from half or more registrants.

3. How do you receive most communication about the league in general?

Most parents receive communication from either social media (51%), emails (50.6%) or SFHA website (26.1%).

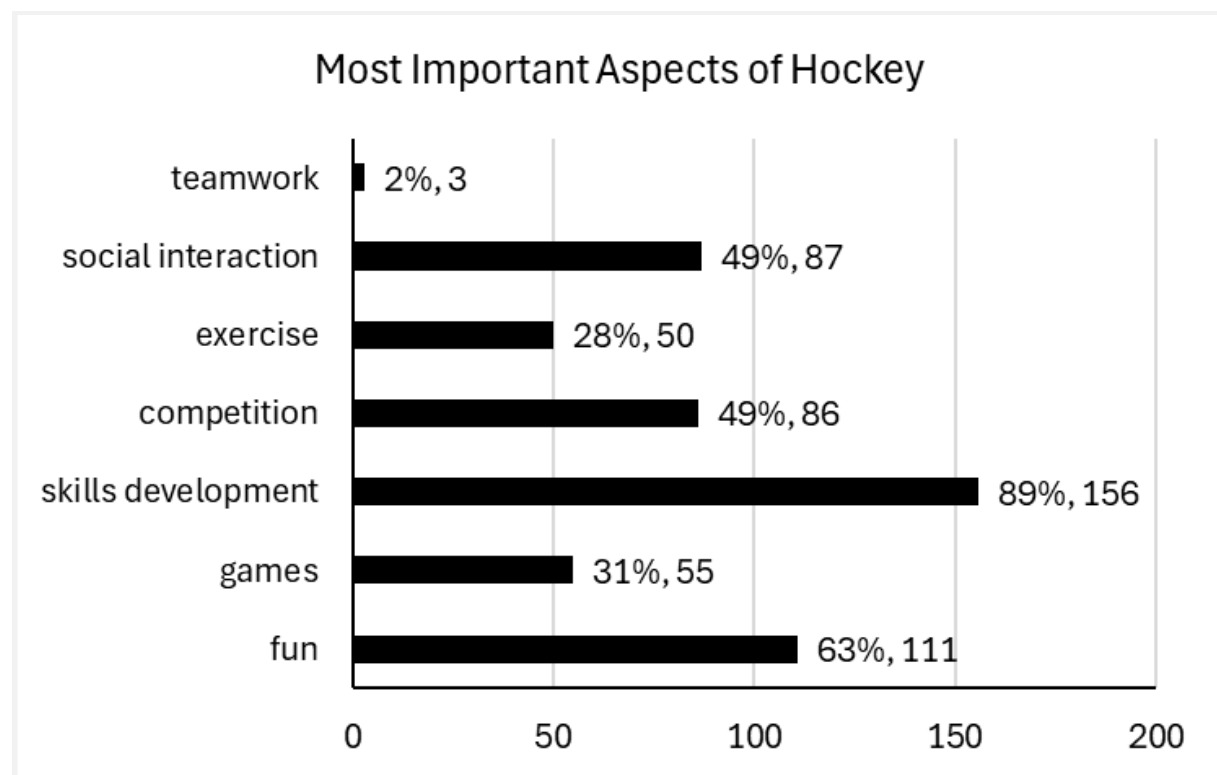
4. How do you rate the communication from the league? Please rate on a scale of one to five, where three is neutral.

The majority feel that communication is meeting their needs. This was also highlighted in the responses to question 17.



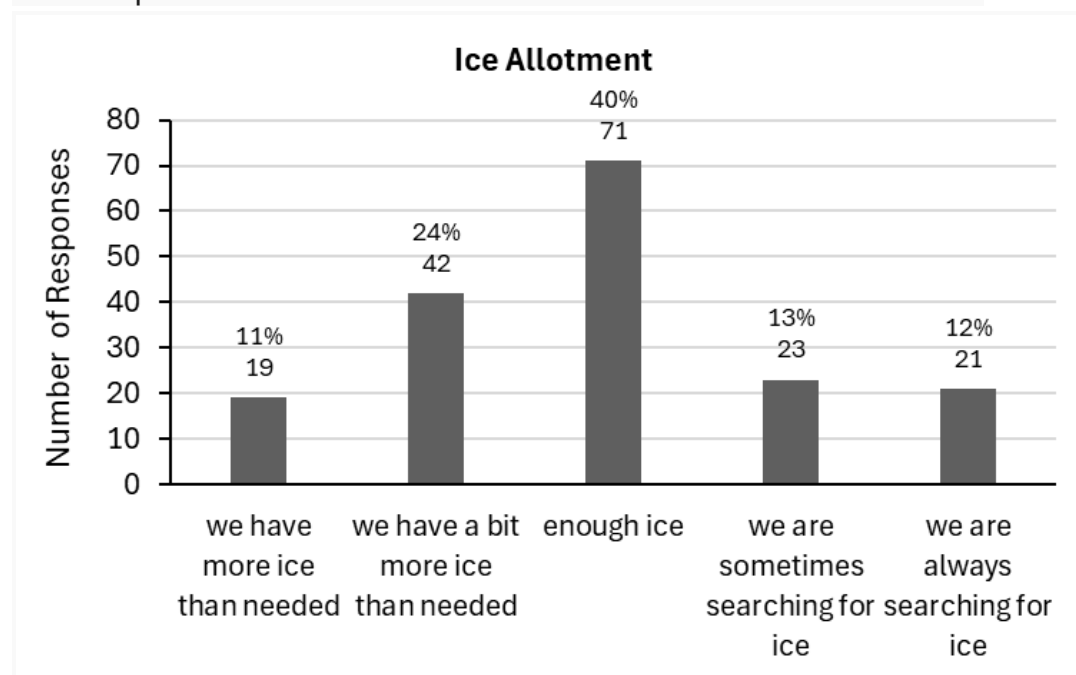
5. What aspects of hockey are most important? (please indicate your top 3)

The most important aspects to the majority of respondents were skills development (156, 89%), fun (111, 63%) and social interaction (87, 49.4%) with competition close behind (86, 48.9%).



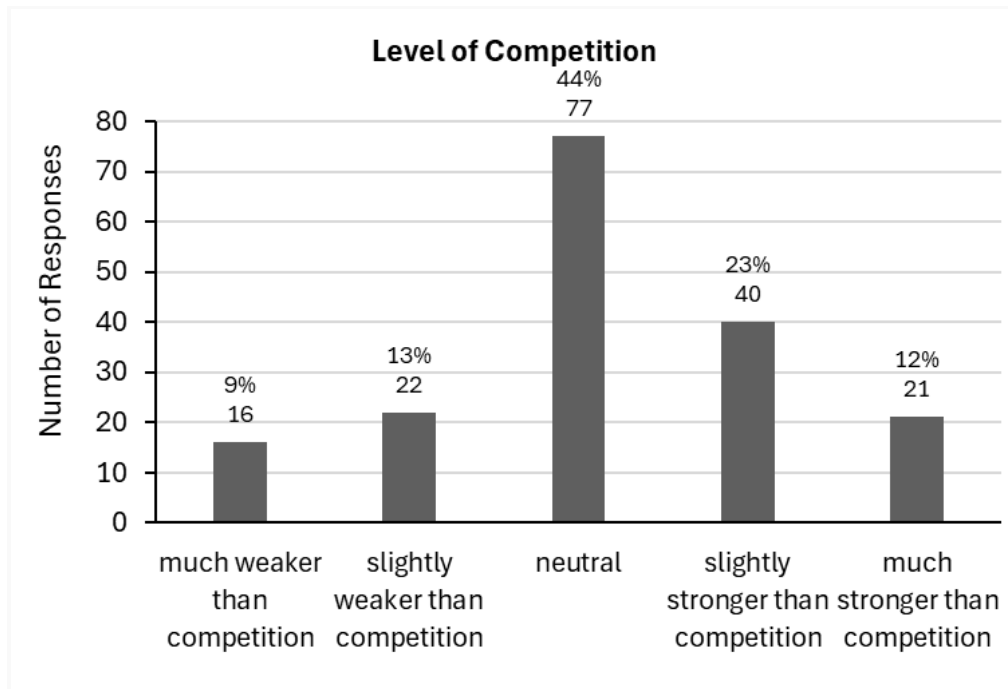
6. Are you satisfied with the amount of ice your team receives? Please rate on a scale of one to five, where three is neutral.

Most respondents felt the ice allotment met or exceeded their needs.



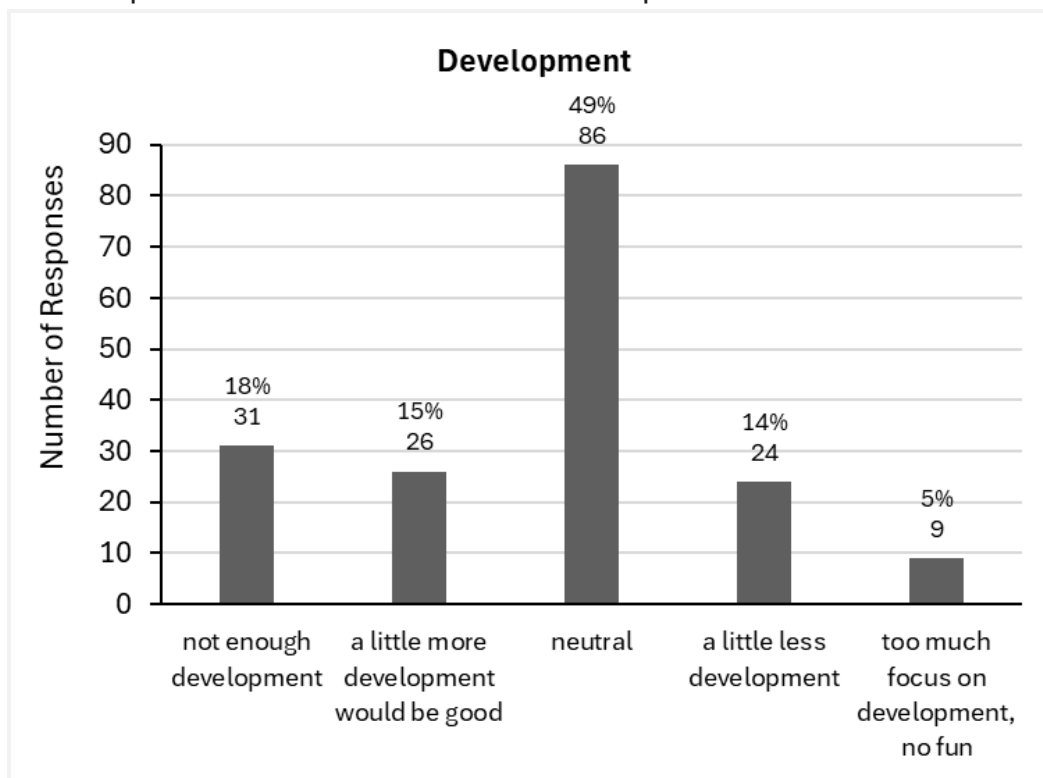
7. Are you satisfied with the level of competition? Please rate on a scale of one to five, where three is a perfect fit.

Most respondents felt the level of competition was relatively even.



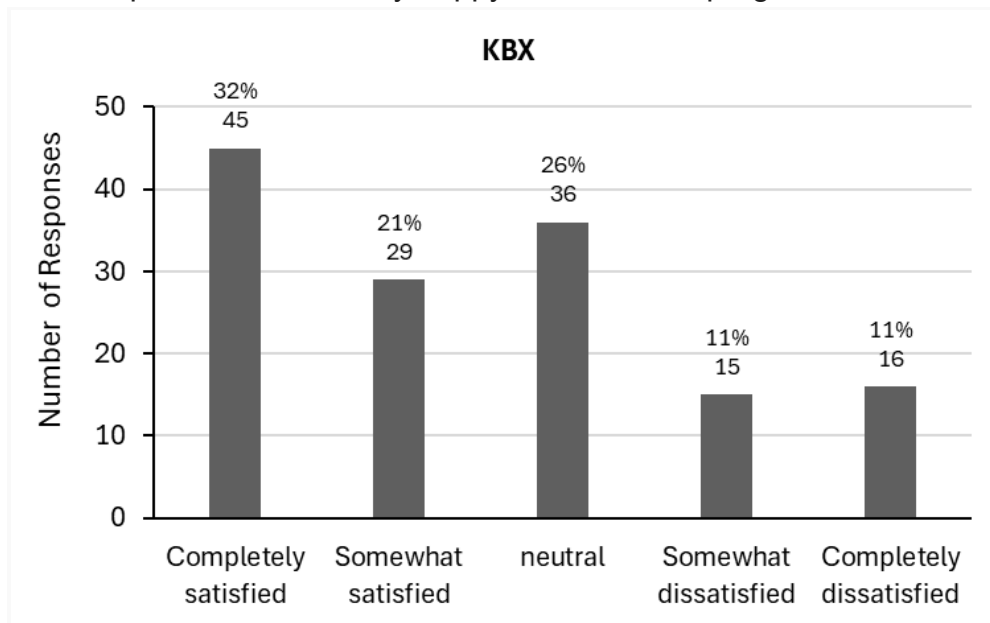
8. Are you satisfied with the level of skill development? Please rate on a scale of one to five, where three is a perfect fit.

Most respondents felt that the level of development was sufficient.



9. Are you participating in KBX dryland training? If so please indicate your level of satisfaction with the training. Please rate on a scale of one to five, where three is neutral.

Most respondents were very happy with the KBX program.



10. If you participating in dryland training from another provider, please indicate who they are.

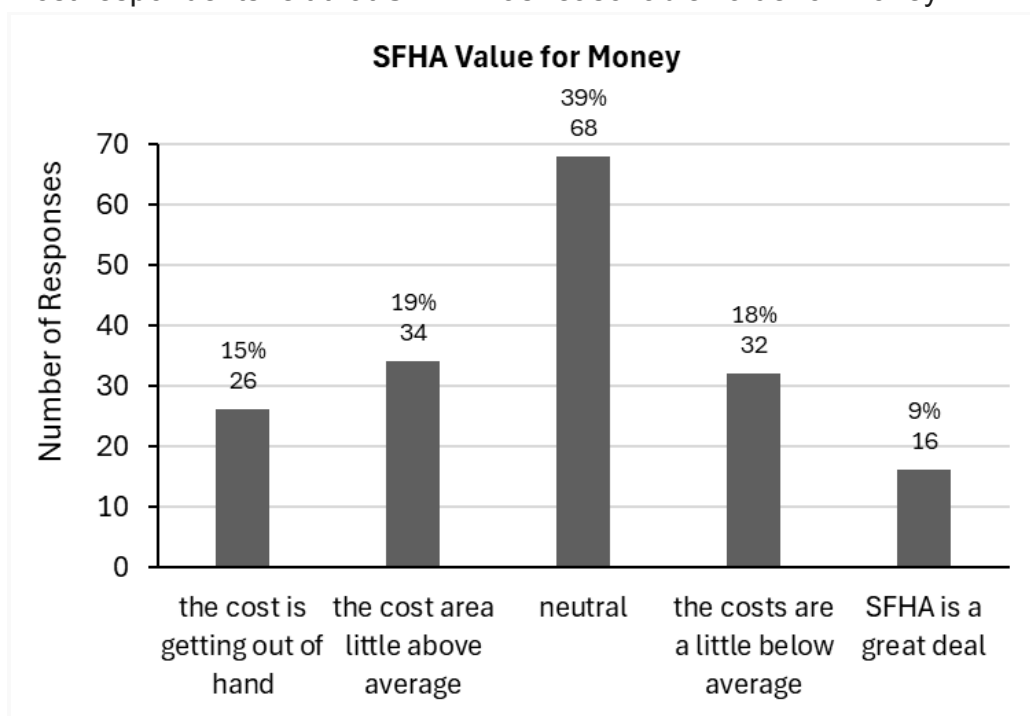
- **TMX and Peak Performance:** These two providers were frequently mentioned, often together, as external dryland training options.
- **Refinery and John Rhodes:** Both "The Refinery" and "John Rhodes" (or variations like "trainer at rhodes," "John Rhodes - Zanatta") were also commonly used for dryland training.
- **Specific Individuals/Groups:** Several respondents listed specific trainers, including Tyson Mount (often with TMX), Mike Cowan, Morgan Tersigni, and Aiden Wright.
- **Other Providers:** Less frequent mentions included Built 4 Ice/BOI, Superior Sports Training/Superior Heights, Unleashed Fitness, Get the Edge (Sandra Finley, Pep, Jaimie Elliot), and Bar 1 (with Roy).
- **SFHA/Team Dryland:** Several responses indicated the SFHA does not provide dryland for Jr Hound teams or the team did not have dryland and had to seek it independently at an additional cost.

**11. What is your level of satisfaction with this alternate dryland training?
Please rate on a scale of one to five, where three is neutral.**

Most respondents from rep teams who organize dryland training through other providers, were happy with the training.

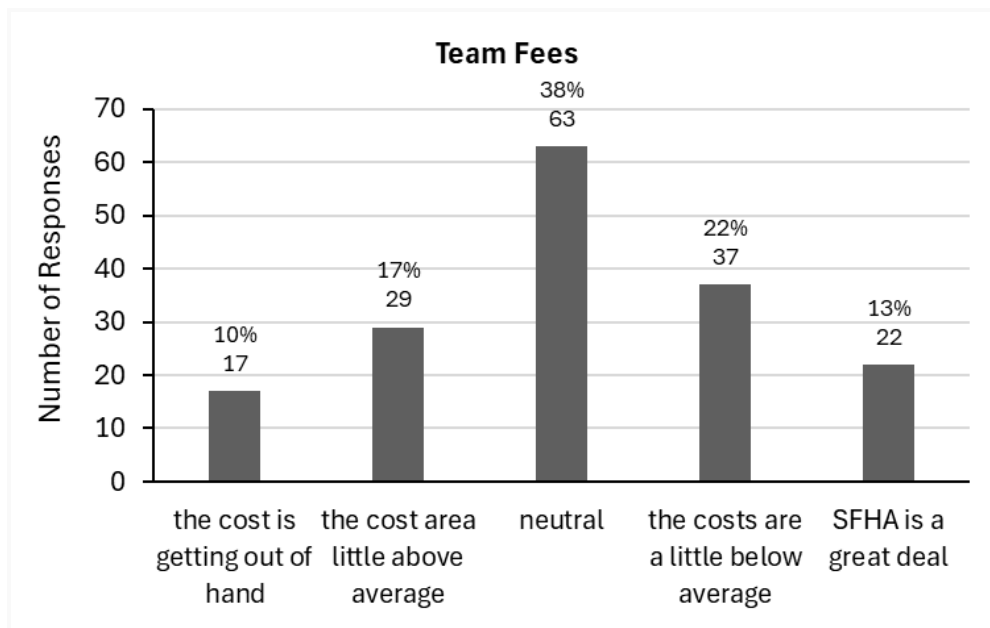
12. Parents, do you feel the SFHA league program is value for money? Please rate on a scale of one to five, where three is neutral.

Most respondents felt that SFHA was reasonable value for money.



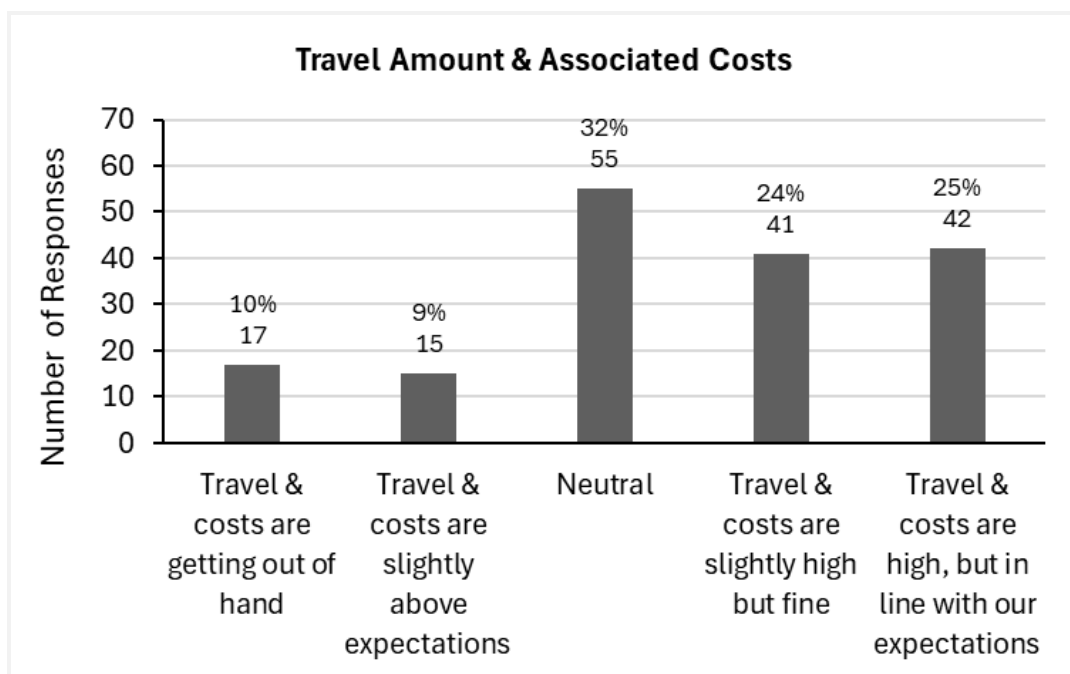
13. Parents, do you feel team fees are reasonable? Please rate on a scale of one to five, where three is neutral.

Most respondents felt that team fees were reasonable.



**14. Do you feel the amount of travel and the related costs are reasonable?
Please rate on a scale of one to five where three is neutral.**

Most respondents felt that the amount of travel and associated costs were reasonable and results show that some could tolerate more travel. Keeping in mind these results do not distinguish between rep and house league teams. Travel costs were a subject of concern brought up in answers to question 18 below, primarily from rep (Jr Hounds) teams.



15. Are you new to SFHA this year (including those who have left for other associations and came back)?

Thirty eight (22%) of respondents were new to the league this year. The majority of new players into SFHA, who responded to the survey were in HL (House League).

16. If yes, what made you choose SFHA?

Reasons for coming to SFHA include:

- **All-girl league/Environment:** Many respondents chose SFHA because their daughter wanted to play with all girls, for the social aspect, to develop female friendships, to feel included, and to be in a female-empowered league. This was a primary factor for those transitioning from playing with boys or other sports.
- **Social and Friendship Factors:** A significant number of responses cited friends/friendship, or wanting their daughter to play with friends from school, as the reason for choosing SFHA.
- **Development and Skill:** Multiple responses indicated seeking better development, skill development, new skills, more ice time, equal competition, or hearing positive things about learning and developing skating and hockey skills.

17. Please indicate one thing you feel SFHA is doing really well and would like to see more of.

A response to this question was optional. Ninety nine parents responded to the question asked (56%). Responses included the following:

- **Positive Environment and Inclusivity:** The association fosters a fun, positive, welcoming, and inclusive environment, with coaches who are friendly, kind, encouraging, and supportive of all players, helping girls feel confident and empowered. (32 responses, 19%)
- **Growth, Recruitment and Changes to Governance:** There's positive feedback on efforts to grow the association, especially at younger ages and recruit more girls and goalies. Changes to the governance to allow for more HL teams and opportunities for more girls to play against girls are positive. (24 responses, 15%)
- **Social Media and Promotion:** SFHA excels at promoting the league, teams, and players through social media, highlighting positive events, tournaments, and accomplishments for girls hockey. (19 responses, 12%)
- **Skill Development and Coaching:** SFHA is doing well with skill development, utilizing tools like power skating and dryland, and goalie development. The volunteer coaches are frequently praised for being excellent, supportive, and focused on both fun and skill development. (16 responses, 10%)

- **Scheduling and Ice Time:** The association is praised for scheduling reasonable and consistent ice times and keeping the league calendar up-to-date. (8 responses, 5%)

18. Please indicate one area where you feel SFHA could improve. Potential ideas/solutions are welcome.

A response to this question was optional. One hundred twenty six parents responded (71%). This is a summary of their primary concerns:

- **Enhancing Communication and Complaint Process:** Members request better, more consistent communication from the board. Several responses highlight the need for an improved, confidential complaint process that bypasses the team manager/coach. The roles/documents/training for team staff should be clearly communicated and followed. Codes of conduct enforced and followed. Having a well communicated long-term plan was also highlighted. (24 respondents, 14%)
- **General development and player retention:** members would like to see more development at all levels to keep girls at SFHA, team building opportunities, league growth and looking at changes to carding at the rep level. (19 respondents, 11%)
- **Adjusting House League/Timbits Structure:** Many suggestions recommending that Timbits (U7) be split by age or skill level due to the large gap between first-year and third-year players. For U9 and House League, there's a desire for more equal team selection based on skill level and consideration for special status players. (19 respondents, 11%)
- **Restoring Tier 2/Additional Competitive Teams:** Some respondents want additional rep teams, including tier 2 at the U13 and U15 levels, to provide a competitive option between Tier 1/Rep and House League/Wildcats. (17 respondents, 10%)
- **More local games and opportunities to play against other female teams:** Many suggest more opportunities to play against girls at all levels; having more house league teams and opportunities to develop at all levels (16 respondents, 10%).
- **Improving Coaching Quality and Selection:** Numerous responses call for a more rigorous and transparent coach selection process, a move toward more non-parent coaches and female coaches, and better monitoring/evaluation of coaches and practice plans to ensure high-quality skill development for all players. Concerns about nepotism, bias, and lack of experience among some coaches were frequently mentioned. (13 respondents, 8%)
- **Managing Travel and Financial Commitment:** There is a need for better standardization and limits on the amount of travel (tournaments,

showcases, exhibition games) and associated costs for Rep teams, especially at younger levels. Excessive travel are impacting families' finances, time, and students' focus on school. (10 respondents, 6%)

- **Addressing Practice Ice Times:** The late ice times, particularly for older divisions (U18), are a major concern, with many practices starting at 9:00 pm or later, which is difficult for high school students. (6 respondents, 4%)
- **No changes needed, all good:** Three respondents said there was nothing to change. (2%)

19. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the SFHA program. Please rate on a scale of one to five, where three is neutral.

Most felt the program met their needs, or slightly exceeded, but there are still a significant number of respondents that felt the program is lacking. As is represented by the feedback to question 18.

