

Sean Molina

My name is Sean Molina and I happily accept the nomination for the IHOA Board of Directors. Becoming an official this past year has brought me full circle within the hockey world having previously (and still currently) played the game, coached the game and then seeing the game thru the eyes of a parent. I grew up playing hockey in Illinois working my way up through the ranks, eventually playing 6 seasons of AAA hockey and representing the state of Illinois at the U15, U16 and U17 National Development Camps. I was fortunate enough to play a season in the USHL, 4 years on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame in the CCHA and then 2 seasons in the ECHL and AHL with the Philadelphia Flyers and Nashville Predators organizations. Upon my retirement I maintained my involvement in the game as a scout for both a NAHL and USHL organization as well as a coaching at the AAA level for 5 years. It wasn't until this past season that I got the itch and began to officiate games. My first season has been quite an eye-opening experience and one with numerous memories and opportunities. I was able to officiate numerous High School and AAA games as well as a host of ACHA, USPHL and even a game in the Federal Hockey League this spring. Having the opportunity to work with some of our seasoned officials during the year, watch their performance and have them evaluate my performance has been invaluable to my development. In my professional life I have nearly 20 years of experience within the financial services field, working primarily with trading firms and large global banks. Currently, I am serving as the Interim Chief Compliance Officer for the San Juan Mercantile Exchange, a startup Institutional Crypto Currency trading venue and custody bank. Having held senior roles throughout my career, I know how an effective Board of Directors operates and how they can impact the organization. I currently reside in Arlington Heights where I am actively involved with my 2 sons youth sports organizations, serving as a league commissioner for the youth baseball organization and serving on the board for the youth football organization.

My desire to join the IHOA board is centered around the numerous conversations that I have had throughout this past year with those coaches, parents and administrators that I have come to know over my 35 years within AHAI. The ability for IHOA to develop both young new officials as well as former players or even those eager adults who want to get back involved in the game is paramount to the long-term success of IHOA. I believe that there is a desire on both the officials end as well with the coaching/administration/parents to find common ground and establish a solid training program and open up the lines of communication so as to continue to support and help grow this great game. Without officials, players cannot play and live out their dreams like the ones I was so fortunate to have experienced. If elected I look forward to working with all of our members as well as with the various organizations to continue to better the relationship between these groups and to develop the next round of great officials in Illinois.