DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR PROGRAMMING – ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

The 2025/26 saw the first year for HHRA to have a director position focused on the U12 and younger groups. The realignment of board positions supported the Director of Junior Programming and Director of Athlete Development to build a strong off season development program. This support several U10, U12, U14 athlete gaining the necessary confidence on their skates to transition comfortably in the regular season.

The 2025/26 season started strong with a growing FUNDAMENTAL numbers, and we welcomed many new players in U10 and U12. The excitement of new jerseys for all groups really was a highlight of the beginning of the season for many.

HHRA numbers grew specifically in the younger ages and we welcomed many new children and their families into our organization and onto the ice. This increase in numbers is directly attributed to the hard work of many volunteers at HHRA who have hosted many Come Try Ringettes and continued with our equipment rental and half year registration to make our sport attractive. The Fundamentals program ended the season with 50+ children that were divided into more of a Fun 1 and 2 format which allowed the older and more skilled players to get some mini game exposure through jamborees. A huge appreciation to the volunteers who helped, Natalie Berry and Rachel Furey who were instrumental leading the program with the support of some experienced ringette parents, current players and new parents. With the growth in this program in the 2025/26 season we hope to be able to offer a great team experience in future season for children who have been with the program for a few years, to help support a stronger final year of Fun before U10.

Our U10 group also welcomed several new players and families to the sport. We were able to develop two strong U10 teams, welcoming former players back as coaches, continuing to develop strong parent coaches as well. The U10 program focused on establishing a solid ringette foundation while having lots of fun. Team DeYoung and Team Cann/Lewis represented our association at multiple local and Maritime tournaments, showing up and giving it their all. They certainly brought their hearts to every game and there was no shortage of spirit in the stands cheering the children on, with parents decked out in gold vests.

We rounded out our U12s with some news faces this season, which enabled HHRA to have two U12 teams. Team Lobban and Team Lamb focused on continuing to develop fundamental ringette skills throughout the season for both the players and coaches. The two teams battled hard, it wasn't always easy but they both represented HHRA with dedication and effort durin season and tournament play. Team Lamb was able to bring home the U12 C Provincial championship with Team Lobban right there beside them dressed in the HHRA digs with parents showing their spirit in purple jogging suits!

Overall the 2025/26 season was a success for the HHRA junior programs. Our numbers are steadily increasing creating a solid base for future years.

Thank you.

Alyson Lamb, Director of Junior Programming – HHRA 2025-26