

2019/2020 Initiation Year End Report

Initiation began the season with 65 registered players. They were randomly divided into three preconditioning groups and the first preconditioning skate was October 1st. Each group was given the opportunity to skate three times with coaches before being divided into 6 teams. Teams were announced October 16th and practices began October 19th. We were fortunate enough to have 10 coaches certified with their Coach I Certification and 3 other volunteers complete their Respect in Sport and other certifications to qualify them to be on the ice with players. All coaches and volunteers submitted their CRC.

This season was challenging as nearly half of the registered players were non-skaters with no previous skating experience. This required some tiering of sorts into two stronger, more experienced teams, two middle range teams, and two very weak teams. First Shift resulted in 10 more registrants making the total player count for the 2019/2020 season 75 players. Some teams were able to participate in events and games such as:

SHA Jamboree (all Initiation players) :	November 17th @ Battleford Arena
Team Red (Bajalovic & Campbell) :	December 14th: Game in Spiritwood January 11th: Hepburn Tournament February 2nd: Neilburg Tournament
Team Black (George & Pruden) :	No Tournaments or games
Team Blue (Friedman & Rose) :	January 11th: Meadow Lake Tournament January 25th: Turtleford Tournament February 8th: Maidstone Tournament
Team Yellow (Keller & Strain):	February 1st: Edam Tournament February 9th: Game in Meadow Lake February 23rd: Game in Maidstone March 1st: Game in Wilkie
Team Gray (Boothman & Sabin):	February 8th: Game in Cut Knife February 23rd: Game at home vs Cut Knife
Team Green (Simmonds & Nelson):	February 8th: Game in Cut Knife February 23rd: Game at home vs Cut Knife

Our home tournament was set to be March 21st, our last ice time of the year, and we had three out of town teams registered: Radisson, Martensville, and St. Walburg. The budget had forecasted a high profit from this tournament and we were very disappointed to have to cancel the event due to restrictions enforced because of COVID-19. The team wind up was also organized for March 22nd. A private Capitol Theatre viewing of the Mighty Ducks was generously donated by the Boothman Family, but unfortunately also had to be cancelled.

SHA requirements suggested the use of mini nets for the Initiation level. After consultations with the SHA, the decision was made to invest in nets for the 2020/2021 season. Tentative plans include BMHA purchasing one set of nets for the Don Ross Arena and the Town of Battleford purchasing a second set of nets to stay at the Battleford Arena. Net costs have been quoted at approximately \$500/net (\$1000.00 for a pair).

2020/2021 Season Forecast/Recommendations:

Moving into the next season, 6 coaches and their children will be moving up to Novice, leaving Initiation (under 7) in a position of requiring many new volunteers. All volunteers/coaches will be asked to submit an equipment request at the beginning of the season. Items could include pylons, cones, coaching tools, etc. BMHA would consider covering the costs of reasonable equipment requests.

It is my hope, as director in my second year, to organize more use of the AAA Stars and the North Stars to volunteer and assist at practices, rather than leave it to the coaches to organize. I also feel that our presence at North Star games during intermissions was weak this season. I hope to become proactive and better organize the teams to play during the North Star home game intermissions. I am also hopeful that we can implement the pre-season power skating program submitted by Mr. Haggard in order to improve the skating skills of our players and give them the opportunity to develop even further.

As the season evaluations are returning from families, I am very pleased to say that satisfaction was very high and it was no surprise to me as we had fantastic coaches this season. Thanks to all the parents, grandparents & players for a great hockey season. Thanks to the office staff & board members for all their hard work. Most of all thank you to the coaches & managers who are dedicated & organized parents who volunteer their time & efforts to making your child's hockey season fun & helping them learn how to play.

I look forward to working with everyone again next season,

Mallory Simmonds

BMHA Initiation Director