

## 2021/2022 U9 Year End Report

Thank you to all the coaches, volunteers and families for making this a very successful, “learning to live with COVID-19” hockey season. We were fortunate enough to have enough volunteer coaches to form 6 teams. Five teams were mixed, ranging from 12-15 players each and one was a Female team with 20 registered players. New to BMHA this season, was a U9 carded team made up of players from all the other teams who tried out. With a total of 89 registered players in U9 this season, our program was very well received. Teams shifted from last season, having a half-ice to full ice transition, to now staying half-ice all year for games and practices.

Beginning the season with providing proof of Vaccination, mandatory mask wearing for all spectators and coaches, contact tracing, and COVID-19 health checks did put a lot of extra stress and strain on our families and the team volunteers. I thank you whole-heartedly for your patience, understanding and hard work. If it weren't for everyone's cooperation, we would not have had such success and excellent player retention this season.

Our Female Sharks team, with coaches Stephen Mann and Wes Dust, had an excellent season. They began the year with 13 registered females, but eventually gained more interest from females registered in the mixed teams after an all female preconditioning skate. After the release of the First Shift players in January, our Sharks had 20 registered players. The Females had 24 home practices, 7 home games, and participated in 3 tournaments. Under great team management by Shalynn Miller, the girls were able to travel to and host games against other female teams in the province while still playing against our BMHA house mixed teams occasionally. The feedback was unanimous that this program was extremely successful this season and they have many ideas and plans moving forward into next season.

The Maroon team, coached by Brennon Strain and Dallas Simmonds, with devoted helpers Dallas Pawliw, Kris Dushire, and Jeremy Pethick, also had a well run season. With a final tally of 14 registered players, this group formed tight bonds very quickly. The dressing room was always a happy, welcoming space that included plenty of laughs and smiles. There was always a battle over who would dress as the goaltender, a coveted role for this team. Team Maroon had 28 home practices, 10 games at home, and the team participated in three tournaments, one in Edam, our U9 home tournament and the Martensville tournament in Hague. The skill growth in these players was a joy to watch and I undoubtedly envision so much success for each of them as they move forward in their hockey journeys.

Team White was coached by Michael George and Chris Stephens. They ended up with 14 registered players after the First Shift program released its players. They attended 2 tournaments, one in Unity and our home BMHA tournament. Team White had 31 home practices, and 8 home games. Following our season, the team decided to take their portion of the tournament proceeds and donate it to the Battlefords North Star team. This group was full of passion for hockey and their donation proves that! I am looking forward to seeing all the positive things that will come for these players next season.

The Yellow team, lead by coaches Derek Keller and Ryon Haggard, had plenty of support with on ice helpers Dustin Elder and Aaron Friedman. This team had 13 players registered for the season and they kept busy. With tournaments in Lashburn, Radisson, Goodsoil, and our home BMHA tournament, the team was on the road a fair bit. Team Yellow had 30 home practices and 9 games on home ice. The team also paid out of pocket to have a practice in Wilkie. This team saw a lot of success this year with moral and skill development. Every opportunity was taken to make the most of their ice times and friendships were strong among players and parents at the end of the season.

Coaches Davor Bajalovic and Mike Nelson led Team Black through this season. Sheena Connolly managed the team for the season and did a fantastic job. The team wound up with 13 players, all ready to hit the ice and play games. They attended 4 tournaments, traveling to Shellbrook, Turtleford, Hague and attending our home BMHA tournament. Team Black had 28 home practices in total and 11 games on home ice.

Team Silver was coached by Graham Campbell with assistants Shaun Rose and Nathan Rafuse. After teams were picked and First Shift players were released, the final player count was 14. This team attended 4 tournaments this season; Unity, Dalmeny, Goodsoil and the BMHA home tournament. They had 28 home practices and 10 games at home.

New to BMHA this year was the formation of the U9 carded team. After all the house teams were chosen and they had a few chances to skate, tryouts were held to evaluate any interested players. After three ice sessions, with 28 players trying out, the team was chosen and coaches Derek Keller and Michael George were selected to lead the team for the season. Each player paid a \$250 fee to play on this team and jerseys were provided by BMHA. The team consisted of 13 players and they practiced once a week from 7:00am-8:00am at the ACC, with a total of 13 practices altogether. Their carded weekends were December 11th/12th (Kerrobert home and away), January 15th/16th (Rosetown; canceled due to COVID), February 19th/20th (North Battleford mini tournament), and March 25th/26th (Black Aces in Saskatoon). This team was managed by Jackie Young and was very well received by parents.

I am very pleased with how this season ended and I sincerely thank everyone on the board for their support and guidance through the year. I am honored to be a volunteer with minor hockey in our community.

Mallory Simmonds  
BMHA U9 Director 2021/2022