2022/2023 U11 BMHA Year End Review

First of all a big thank you to the coaches, managers, assistant coaches, and parent helpers.  Hockey in our community could not run successfully if it weren’t for our volunteers.

We started the year with 90 registrations in U11.  Six preconditioning groups were made and they started September 12 and were completed by October 6.  Groups were split based on alphabetical order and each skater was evaluated by on ice helpers using the hockey canada evaluation guide.  The female Sharks did not have any evaluations done as their numbers allowed for one team.

Teams were picked using a draft style format. Four teams were made and entered into the STEP league in a B tier which included Battleford, Glaslyn, and Moosomin. Teams practiced once per week 7am with their own team and once per week after school shared with another team.  Sharks chose to have their alone practice out of town instead of 7am.   STEP teams were coached by the following:

Black Barons - Kelly Page

Blue Barons - Dallas Pawliw and Lori Pruden

Red Barons - Ryon Haggard

Purple Barons - Cordel Hull

Team Red, Purple, and Black Barons made it to the B side playoffs and team red ended up losing to Glaslyn in the final.  Team Blue competed in the C side playoff tournament.

The Female Sharks joined the Sask Female Hockey League and were coached by Bryce Bohun.  They had a very successful season, finishing second in the league.

Tournament team evaluations were done with 3 outside evaluators.  We had 40 kids tryout for this team and 15 kids were selected.  This team traveled to 8 tournaments and played 6 exhibition games.  This team was coached by Mike George.

U11 had 7 trach sessions.   These sessions were made into 45 minute skates and were not shared with another team.  This was from poor feedback given from the year before around too many kids on the ice.  2 trach sessions were before christmas and 5 were after christmas (including 3 in March alone).

3 focus goal tending clinics were held on PD days in November, January, and March.  These were successful and overall had good feedback.

Next year we will have 23 Male players stay in U11 and 14 females (one of which played mixed this year).  We will have 7 Females (2 that played mixed) move up to U13 and 31 Male players move up to U13.

Goals for the 2023/2024 season:

* Keep the monthly goalie sessions going on PD days and possibly add another hour on those days to have it more  a camp style format.  Make sure to include October PD day as well.
* Review Trach Power skating and move more session before christmas so it is not so heavily weighted at the end of the season.  Explore the ‘sign up’ option and see if that may be a possibility to better utilize Trach and our ice time as an association.
* STEP maybe looking into an early tournament or exhibition games to better place teams in their appropriate tiers.  BMHA is short ice but may look at early availability.
* Look into other leagues or centers to play for the travel team.  NE wolfpack Meadow and west central for example could be options to play .  Also conduct an in depth review of the budget for the tournament team to determine if $250.00 league fee is appropriate.
* Bring in outside evaluators to complete evaluations on all U11 kids to better split the STEP teams evenly.  Do more scrimmages instead of skills sessions.
* Possible formation of a female development team for females wanting to play all girls but don't want to travel in the SFHL.
* Coaching development is still a major hurdle.  Mandatory coaching mentors may be placed with every coach in U 11 next season

Thanks

Jolene Strain