

The 2023-2024 hockey season seen a slight decrease in registration in the U7 division from last season. In 2022-2023 there were 99 kids registered to play U7 and this season there were 79 kids registered. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of running a U5 program and it was another successful year. This program helps prepare kids for U7, as well as gets more parents certified to help out on the ice. This program started in the middle of October and ran until the middle of February – kids skated for 1 hour once a week. There were 14 kids registered in U5 this season. Having the Cross-Ice jamboree as the last session for U5 has been a great way to end the program for the year. I would like to see this continue. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of having a U7 Sharks team, it continues to help grow female hockey and provide a space for girls to play hockey with other girls.

Feedback from surveys sent out to U5 and U7 showed that the majority of families were happy with the coaches and assistants, as well as the progress their children made over the season. Each team had a team manager this year and it made running the division much smoother and let the coaches coach practices while the managers took care of the rest.

U7 had a very successful year end tournament. We held it a bit earlier in March, as a complaint from last season was that it was held too late in the season and finding teams that were still playing was difficult. We will look to continue to hold the tournament by mid March.

Lastly, I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the coaches, assistants, and on-ice volunteers for your commitment, your patience and mostly for sharing your knowledge of hockey and skating with the U5 and U7 hockey players. To each teams' managers, you ladies made running this division a breeze – I hope you all continue to take on this role in the future as our teams and players need managers like you. And all the parents that helped plan the U7 tournament – THANK YOU!!! I know how much work it takes to run a smooth tournament and you all worked soo well together to plan a great event for the kids. It is our volunteers that make up this association, the divisions and help the individual teams run, so thank you from the bottom of my heart!!

Thank you for a great 2023/2024 Hockey Season!!!

Chantel Lapointe

U7 Director