

## 2023/2024 U11 BMHA Year End Review

We started the year with 115 registrants in U11. 6 mixed preconditioning groups were made and preconditioning skates were ran between September 18<sup>th</sup> and October 12<sup>th</sup>. Evaluations were held September 23<sup>rd</sup> weekend for the A team using outside evaluators.

Teams were made using a draft style format. 5 STEP teams were made with 14-15 kids on each team. Each team had a goalie with one team having a half time goalie. All 5 steps played in the B division within STEP League. Each team had a schedule of 12 league games and teams went to 2-3 tournaments each.

The A team went to 8 tournaments and did not play in a League. They did schedule a few exhibition games as well.

This year we had 34 females register in U11. After surveys were conducting at the end of the 2022/2023 season there was interest in having a team not travel into the Sask Female Hockey League. This was put on the registration and half the families had chosen to play on a developmental non travel team that would focus on skating and development with less focus on game play. We made two female sharks team one entering the SFHL and one playing exhibition games and tournaments only. The non travel sharks 2 team were given the opportunity to have Strydes Power Skating out to run power skating sessions bi-weekly. This was to be supplied by BMHA. These skates went until Christmas. The Sharks team played in the SFHL ended the season being league champions.

3 PD goalie camps were run by Focus Goaltending for the u9/u11 divisions. These were very popular and seem to be helping kids get interested in goaltending.

The teams all had one shared after school practice per week and one full ice practice in the am. The amount of practices were as followed.

Blue	34
Red	36
yellow	34
Maroon	36
Sharks 1	34
Sharks 2	34
Tan	35
Silver	33

Hockey development guides suggests 34 practice sessions, 3 tournaments, and 32 games for recreation U11 pathway and 60 practices, 3 tournaments, and 46 games for competitive U11 pathway.

The Sharks co-hosted a tournament seeing two different division with like skilled teams. Thank you to the tournament committee for a successful tournament. The U11 STEP teams also ran a successful tournament with 14 teams coming to the Battlefords. This tournament ran as a B tournament but feedback from the STEP team coaches are encouraging it to be registered as C for

the next year. Thank you again to everyone on that tournament committee for running a really successful and large tournament. The U11A team also hosted a tournament at the end of the year. Thanks to the U11 team manager and parents for a great home tournament for that team.

Next year you will see 47 kids move up from U11 to U13 and 67 kids staying in U11 (both male and female). Out of these numbers 33 kids that played mixed will be moving up and 46 kids that played mixed will stay in U11. For female 14 girls will move up to U13 and 19 will be staying in U11.

This year we also brought in Ritchie Reghier at the beginning of the season to do skills sessions. We did 5 skills session in total and they were a huge success. Each team also had 7 Trach session each 45 min in length, these development skates were also a success.

Goals for the 2024/2025 season:

- Keep the PD days with Focus goaltending maybe even expanding into a camp style format
- Bring back Ritchie Reghier for skills session in Sept/October/November and tier them if possible (based off coaches feedback)
- Keep the trach skates for after Reghier and until March
- Based on coaches feedback have less preconditioning skates and make the teams earlier
- Improve the evaluation process to make teams. Run evaluations over one weekend and have the same evaluators doing each session. This should help in drafting the house teams more evenly. Based off coaches feedback also have the A team made before these evaluations take place to avoid skewed results
- Register the house tournament as a C tournament not B
- Have the house team coaches and managers meet before scheduling league games before the league scheduling meeting.
- Have ice times for some A team exhibition games set aside earlier before other A teams schedules fill up.
- Look at ways to bring in a coaching mentorship program to support the development of coaches.
- Offer registration for a weekly 1hour rec hockey program.

A big thank you to the parent coaches and managers. Our hockey program could not run without you and we are grateful for your support and dedication throughout the season.

Jolene Strain

U11- Director

