

U18 Year-End Summary – Battlefords Minor Hockey (2024–2025)

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As I close out my second year as the U18 Division Director, I'm proud to reflect on a season filled with growth, resilience, and team spirit. At the start of the year, we secured early ice to ensure our U18 players were skating ahead of evaluations. With registration numbers indicating we'd have just three teams (a Female U18A, a Mixed U18A, and a Mixed U18B) we chose not to host a formal tryout. Instead, we focused on skill development and getting players on the ice early. As in past years, independent evaluators were brought in to ensure a fair and consistent evaluation process for the mixed teams.

Female U18A – Head Coach: Bryan Bridges | Manager: Nicole Nasby

The Female U18A Barons wrapped up their season with a 4-14-2 record. While the results didn't always fall in their favour, this was a resilient and diverse group of players from across the Northwest region. They represented their communities proudly and worked hard to develop both individually and as a team. A highlight was the commitment of their underage goaltender who stepped up and grew tremendously throughout the season.

Mixed U18A – Head Coach: Chad Olsen | Manager: Russ Iverson

This season marked the inaugural year for the TriCity League, and our U18A team came out strong, finishing the regular season with a 13-3-0 record. In league playoffs, they faced Meadow Lake in a close two-game series, falling short with scores of 6-5 and 6-3. In provincials, the team battled fiercely against Southey, taking the series to a mini-game after a dominant 9-1 win and a 6-4 loss. Though Southey advanced, our Barons played with grit and pride. December brought significant changes, with some players moved to U18B, which created challenges for both teams and required difficult decisions at the board level. Despite this, the team maintained their focus and had a strong season overall.

Mixed U18B – Head Coach: Scott Schorrock | Manager: Leanne Kurysh

The U18B Barons had a 9-3-0 regular season and finished strong by winning their league finals in two straight games. The season began with uncertainty, as Shellbrook and Prince Albert elected to play in the 'A' division, leaving only three teams in the 'B' division. Our team supplemented their schedule with exhibition games against nearby communities to ensure strong development opportunities. Despite the league's growing pains, it was a successful inaugural year for U18B. The team also experienced adversity off the ice, rallying together during a difficult times and showing tremendous heart and unity through the season's ups and downs, especially amid roster changes in December.

Looking Ahead

This season brought new challenges, important lessons, and moments of pride. We need to continue focusing on growing female hockey and supporting girls to stay in the game, especially at the U15 and U18 levels. This is a commitment that BMHA must prioritize. As we continue to grow the U18 program and strengthen the TriCity League, we look forward to building on these experiences to create even more opportunities for our players. Thank you to all our coaches, managers, and families for your unwavering commitment to our players and our hockey community.

— Battlefords Minor Hockey Association | U18 Division