

2019/2020 U18 Directors Report

Our U18 registration numbers for 2019/2020 remained consistent with our numbers from last year, starting this season with 51 skaters and 6 goalies.

Preconditioning skates began at the beginning of September and ran through to the AA tryout Camp on September 27-29. Our player evaluation sessions and inter-squad scrimmages were then held on October 1 & 2, and October 3 & 4 so that team selections could be completed before the STEP league scheduling meeting held on October 6.

For evaluations this year, two skill evaluation sessions were held, using a pre-determined standardized practice plan, as well as three inter-squad scrimmage sessions. Our independent evaluators attended both the skills sessions and the scrimmage sessions and provided player assessments and rankings that were used in team selections.

At the conclusion of the AA tryout camp, we were left with an awkward number of players - 36 skaters and 5 goalies. The decision was made to form three U18 house teams and employ the use of U15 APs to maintain roster size. That decision was based on a number of considerations, including trying to avoid some of the issues encountered last year with the very large team sizes.

Unfortunately, it became apparent that the three teams could not be sustained, and it was necessary to consolidate into two teams, both with 20 players – one with 18 skaters and 2 goalies; one with 17 skaters and 3 goalies. While this was not optimal, it did allow for all players to continue on with the season.

We did not have a U18 home tournament this year.

Both teams played in the S.T.E.P. League with 18 regular season games and both teams made the playoffs and were able to participate in the first round before the sudden cessation of the season due to the COVID-19 restrictions imposed in March. Battleford 2 (Kramer) played and lost out to Debden and Battleford 3 (Snyder) played and lost out to St. Walburg.

Thank you to the coaches, their staff, parents and others involved with the U18 BMHA program who volunteered their time and energy to make this a successful hockey season.

-Cameron Schmunk, BMHA U18 Director