Director’s Report 2021/22

U7 Division

First, I’d like to start by thanking all our wonderful volunteers. The U7 division had great coaches and on ice helpers on each team this year. They were truly interested in the kids having fun and developing appropriately for their ages. It takes a lot of patience and dedication at this age level and our association is very lucky to have you all – I hope you all continue to coach well into the future. Thank you to all of the parents for your commitment of bringing your child to early morning practices, after school practices, out of town games/tournaments or just finding a way to make things work - hockey is long season but it is so worth every minute of it to see your child progress or come off the ice smiling and excited to come back. I also wanted to really just thank everyone for coming together for all of our kids to keep the season going as we entered some fairly strict covid protocols mid season.

The 2021/22 hockey season had a total of 74 kids registered in U7. We started with 5 groups of mixed skill level preconditioning teams and from there the coaches evaluated the kids and we made teams based off of that and tried to keep like skilled kids together. We ended up making 6 teams, of those 6 teams, 5 were co-ed and 1 was an all-girls team. This season was the first time BMHA had all girls U7 team and it was very successful. We started the season with 16 girls and added 2 more in January to finish the season with a team of 18 girls. My hope is for the Female Program to keep gaining momentum so there can eventually be more than 1 team in each division starting at the U7 level. This season seen some of our teams going to tournaments, away games and hosting games. Teams that choose to, played during intermission at the North Stars game. Some teams had players from the North Stars come out to practices. The girls had AAA Sharks come out to a practice, they also had the opportunity to practice with the U9 girls as well. A highlight for them was getting to be a part of the North Stars Female Hockey appreciation night and getting to play during intermission and attending a Female Shark Attack Camp. Near the end of the season, we had a tournament. It was great getting to see how much each team had improved and how much fun the kids were having. Our younger of the U7 kids played 2 games and the older kids played 3 games in our 1-day tournament. Our tournament committee hosted a great tournament that was very successful. It cost $1337.50 for the U7 division to host a one-day tournament and they were able to come out with a profit of $4750 leaving $3412.50 to be split among the 6 teams. Huge thank you to the committee for putting on a fun and successful tournament.

Something new and exciting for next year is a U5 division. Dillon Friesen sent the board a great proposal which the board approved. In his proposal it outlines that this division would be for kids 3 and 4 years of age that want to learn the very basics of hockey. It would consist of ice time once a week from middle of November until middle of February giving the kids 11 ice times. The fees would be lower and not as much commitment but also at the same time giving kids the basic skating skills to later join U7 without needing as much 1 on 1 assistance.

Thank you all for your patience with me as I learned this new role – it was at times a huge learning curve for me but one that I really enjoyed. Thanks to all the other board members for all your help, for answering all my questions and just supporting me through the role. Looking forward to another year as the U7 director with a year of experience under my belt.

Chantel Lapointe

U7 Director