U9 Directors Report

Submitted by Melissa Welford

There were 100 players registered and playing in the U9 division for the 2022-23 hockey season.  27 players were registered as Sharks and 73 players were registered as Barons.  We had a total of 8 teams this year. Two Sharks teams and six Barons teams.  Players started off the season in conditioning groups and skated for several weeks. Once teams were made, they practiced twice per week on shared ice.  Half ice games were allowed after November 15 and were scheduled once per week (typically on the weekend) with a practice on the other ice time during the week.

The Black Barons team was coached by Michael Nelson along with on ice helpers Reid Lamon, Brendan Tebay and Ryan Muyres. Team manager was Nicole Jordan. The team had 12 players assigned. They attended three tournaments between December and February.

The Blue Barons team was coached by Brendan Boothman, assisted by Derek Schmidt with on ice helper Josh Weran. Team manager was Leanne Weran. The team had 13 players assigned. They attended three tournaments between December and February.

The Maroon Barons team was coached by Brennon Strain, assisted by Wade Schmidt with on ice helper Kyle Klasson. Team manager was Jenni Weber. The team had 12 players assigned. They attended three tournaments between December and February.

The Silver Barons team was coached by Stephen Mann, assisted by Blaine Bentley, Codey Miller and Brandon Taylor. Team manager was Shaylynn Miller. The team had 12 players assigned. They attended three tournaments between January and March.

The White Barons team was coached by Derek Keller, assisted by Dustin Elder.  Team managers were Keith and Jenn Ens. The team had 12 players assigned. They attended three tournaments between December and February.

The Yellow Barons team was coached by Nathan Rafuse, assisted by Ryan Acaster and on ice helper Dallas Simmonds. Team manager was Jackie Young. The team had 12 players assigned. They attended four tournaments between December and February.

The White Sharks team was coached by Mitch Hawtin, assisted by Tyson Knight and Michelle Florence. Team manager was Brandon Whitt. The team had 14 players assigned.  They attended five tournaments between December and March.

The Teal Sharks team was coached by Wes Dust, assisted by Emily Perehudoff. Team managers were Chantel Lapointe and Courtney Fauchon.  The team had 13 players assigned.  They attended five tournaments between December and March.

There were tryouts for a carded team that was coached by Derek Keller, assisted by Brennon Strain, Dustin Elder and Keith Ens.  Team manager was Jackie Young. The team had 15 players assigned. They attended 4 carded tournaments and practiced once per week after December 1.

Goalie Development was encouraged by holding training for players interested in becoming a goalie. This happened on school PD days as ice was available and Focus Goalie Development was already scheduled for those evenings. They were able to add some time slots for our young goalies in U9 and U11.

**U9 Female League**

Both Sharks teams joined a league with teams from Martensville, Warman, and Delisle. This league was jamboree style.  Games were held in Radisson once a month in December through March.  Feedback from the attending associations was favourable.  As this was the first year for this format, there were some items identified to change. Things like spreading out the games a bit to allow more time for the players to warm up in between games as Radisson is a cold rink.  All expressed interest to continue this format for the next season.  Each association taking a turn planning for one of the jamboree days.