

U9 Directors Report
Submitted by Melissa Welford

There were 104 players registered and playing in the U9 division for the 2023-24 hockey season. 27 players were registered as Sharks and 77 players were registered as Barons. We had a total of eight teams this year. Two Sharks teams and six Barons teams. Players started off the season in conditioning groups and skated for several weeks. New this season they had developmental sessions with Richie Regehr early in the season. Coaches attended to help out with these sessions. 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 scheduled ice time. All teams were scheduled to play each other (as evenly as possible), based on availability due to tournaments/exhibition games scheduled by teams.

The Navy Barons team was coached by Brendon Boothman, assisted by Brandon Taylor and Brad Kuntz. On ice helpers were Ryan Acaster and Brennan Tebay. Team manager was Trissa Boothman. The team had 13 players assigned. They attended three tournaments between December and March.

The Blue Barons team was coached by Daxen Collins, assisted by Jon Hosegood, Phil McGee and Branden Morris. On ice helper was Ryan Muyres. Team manager was Nicole Collins. The team had 14 players assigned. They attended three tournaments between December and February.

The Maroon Barons team was coached by Brennon Strain, assisted by Derrick Chapman and Ryan Woloshyn. On ice helper was Kris Higgs. Team manager was Kristin Parenteau. The team had 12 players assigned. They attended four tournaments between December and February.

The Silver Barons team was coached by Stephen Mann, assisted by Codey Miller, Cory Shiloff and Michael Lieffers. Team manager was Shaylynn Miller. The team had 12 players assigned. They attended two tournaments between December and February.

The Green Barons team was coached by Brent Puff, assisted by Keegan Sparrow and Jeremy Verity. On ice helper was Reid Lamon. Team manager was Wendy Verity. The team had 14 players assigned. They attended three tournaments between December and February.

The Gold Barons team was coached by Ryon Haggard, assisted by Dustin Elder. On ice helper was Calvin Kobelsky. Team manager was Erin Kobelsky. The team had 12 players assigned. They attended three tournaments between December and February.

The White Sharks team was coached by Mitch Hawtin, assisted by Keegan Sparrow, Rory Gregoire. On ice helpers were Brad Eischen and Ashley Rafuse. Team manager was Brandon Whitt. The team had 14 players assigned. They attended four tournaments between December and March.

The Teal Sharks team was coached by Frazer Donahue, assisted by Mike Gerein and Courtney Gardiner. On ice helper was Maddy Muzyka. Team managers were Chantel Lapointe and Courtney Fauchon. The team had 13 players assigned. They attended four tournaments between December and March.

There were tryouts for a carded team that was coached by Brennon Strain, assisted by Stephen Mann, Daxon Collins and Ryon Haggard. Team manager was Shalynn Miller. The team had 15 players assigned. They attended four 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. There was more interest as the season progressed with goalie parents reaching out to see if there were more scheduled. The young goalies really enjoyed the opportunity to learn from the instructors when attending these sessions.

The Barons teams organized a mini tournament on the weekend of March 16-17. Some teams decided to end their season after this tournament while others continued practicing until later in March.

U9 Female League

Both Sharks teams joined a league with teams from Martensville, Warman, Elrose and Delisle. This league was jamboree style. Games were held in Hague once a month in December through March. This was the second year for this format. Organizers moved the games to Hague as it is a warmer rink than the previous venue of Radisson (last season). Radisson is a natural ice arena so very cold. There is interest to continue this format for next season. Each association took a turn planning for one of the jamboree days.