Director’s Report

U11

2020/2021 Season

Surviving the season may be the best way to properly describe this past year of hockey. The season began with much uncertainty and continued with many challenges throughout the entire year.

The season was started under the Return to Play protocols set out by SHA. The first evaluation skates were divided into cohorts or bubbles of 50 We started with 67 skaters so two bubbles were created, one for the 2010’s and one for the 2011’s to further limit contact. Once skates had begun our division was informed of a female league looking for another U11 team to enter in to a cohort. This was one of the season’s highlights, creating a U11 female Sharks team. The remaining numbers left us with less than 50 players which allowed us to create our own cohort for games. During this timeframe, multiple changes were occurring within Covid-19 protocols; forcing the decision to allow the coaches to create 3 even teams without traditional evaluation skates. This was done to reduce contact and ensure the players were in the safest environment possible.

Along with the U11‘s dedicated coaches, teams required a Covid-19 representative. These wonderful parent volunteers helped to ensure all parents and players followed mandated protocols so that our season could continue. There were many ever changing regulations to navigate through, but our Covid-19 reps managed to keep on top of things and help keep our kids safe. I want to send you a special thank you for all you did this year.

With only 3 full time goalies and 1 part time goalie, 3 teams were created. Due to a large gap in skill levels, coaches decided to match lines during the scheduled games. This took some getting used to but resulted in a positive experience for the players as well as enjoyable for the spectators.

Between the Sharks and mixed teams I believe, there were a total of less than 8 games played before SHA cancelled all games November 27th. After a short pause to our season, all players and coaches were given the choice to continue with the mandated 8 person skates or opt out of hockey for the remainder of the season. We were left with 41 players to finish off the year. There was a coaching change for the Sharks and 9 players remained. The other coaches were able to place the remaining players with similar skill levels into 4 groups of 8. This allowed the coaches to create more inclusive drills that all the skaters could participate in. Feedback from the coaches indicated having the kids grouped together with similar skill level was much easier to plan and run practices.

A few things were added to the season to assist in development such as skill evaluation drills, Trach Power Skating and extra goalie sessions with Jean Fauchon. I believe these things should continue into the next season as feedback was positive.

Even though our season was not want we had hoped for I would like to take this time to thank all the parents. Thank you for all the extra things you had to do this year to allow your child to continue to play the game they love so much. I know it wasn’t easy, but thank you for making the best out of a difficult situation and for encouraging your little one. Hopefully next year you will be back sitting in the stands sharing stories with each other about how we made it through a hockey season during a pandemic.

Thank you to my fellow board members for your guidance and support throughout the season.

Thank you to our coaches. It’s not an easy job to take on the duties of a hockey coach, and this year Covid-19 brought its own challenges with masks and social distancing. Thank you for willingly accepting all the changes, and protocols put in place this year. Thank you for creating a safe, positive learning environment so the kids could feel somewhat normal during a time where things were anything but normal.

And most importantly, thank you to the kids for showing up, working hard and having fun, you have made all the work done behind the scenes worthwhile.

I hope to see you all back at the rink next season, have a healthy and happy summer everyone!!

Missy Reiter

U11 Director

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