

# 2023/2024 U11 Division Year End Report

The 2023/24 season was definitely not the season that anyone could have imagined with the unfortunate news of our arena closures. I do however think that when we look back we can all agree that we made the best of the situation and managed to pull off a very successful season given the circumstances.

My hat goes off to all of the kids, families, coaches, managers and volunteers who banded together to make the best of an unfortunate situation. Thank You All!.....even if it meant an unpredictable ice schedule, shared icetimes or having to utilize various rinks that we normally wouldn't have too. At the end of the day our kids were still able to hit the ice and play the game they love. And that is what matters most!

## **Teams**

We started the year off with a total of 80 kids registered for U11. We were able to roster 3 house teams this year along with an A team and B development team this year (17 each).

## **The U11 House Division**

This year we had a total of 45 kids split amongst 3 teams. I am hopeful we will continue to see our association numbers grow and maybe see 4-5 house teams for next season.

Our 3 house teams were coached by Chris Nault, Dacen Brooks and Jim Melenka. Teams played in the EK league where we had the pleasure of regularly competing against Creston, Fernie, Invermere and Elk Valley. The teams also attended various tournaments this year including Kimberley, Castlegar, Fernie, Canal flats and Crowsnest Pass. All teams battled hard all season and enjoyed various levels of success.

New for this year our EK league banner tournaments were separated into two pools in the rec division. The banners were hosted in Golden and also Sparwood. From what I hear all of our teams left it all out on the ice and made for some very exciting hockey to play and also to watch! All of our teams should be very proud of this season and what they have accomplished.

## **U11 A&B Bucks**

The U11 A Bucks (Coached by Colin Sinclair) competed in the West Kootenay League. They attended various tournaments throughout the season but the one that stands out most to the team is a gold medal win in December. The game had to be settled in the finals by a shootout. Great work Bucks!

*Hi-lights from Colin “ the personal growth of the players from a team and skill standpoint but also on a personal level. Although the wins were few, we competed near the end of the year with teams that we couldn’t compete with at the start of the year. The skating of our kids I felt was our biggest improvement from a skill level and our angling/checking felt was our biggest game improvement.”*

The U11 B Bucks (Coached by Wade Daignault) competed in the East Kootenay League. They also attended various tournaments throughout the season and also had a stand out team highlight gold medal win. That game also went the distance and had to also be settled in an OT battle and finally decided by shootout! Again great job B Bucks.....and glad i’m not a goalie parent!

In closing, I would like to congratulate all of our U11 teams this year. It was a positive season for everyone however I'm sure we are all looking forward to a more normal 2024/25 season with all rinks open!. Again a big thank you to all of our coaches, managers, referees and volunteers. Your time and efforts do not go unnoticed and can not thank everyone enough for making our kids season a success!

Thank You  
Dustin London  
CMHA U11 Division Head.