

Hello Hockey Families:

This is an information letter on the U13 Cranbrook Bucks 2024/25 tryouts and season plan. The Cranbrook Bucks are open to all players from Cranbrook and Kimberley, but not to players from outside of those two associations.

### **Camp Schedule**

The tryout for the Cranbrook Bucks will coincide with the tryout for the EK Avalanche, so the overall schedule provided for the Avs tryout, provided concurrently with this information letter, applies to the Bucks tryout as well. It's possible that one additional game will be added to the schedule for an additional tryout game on Sunday afternoon for some of those Cranbrook/Kimberley players that are released from the Avs following the Sunday morning games. Evaluators will then determine if additional ice times are needed on the Monday/Tuesday evening following tryout weekend. Families will be notified accordingly.

### **Player Evaluations and Releases**

All player evaluations and releases will be done in accordance with CMHA policy, as set out in the Avs information letter.

### **U13 Cranbrook Bucks Season Plan**

- League Play – Will play in the West Kootenay League, with Trail, Castlegar, Nelson, Spokane and whatever other associations that enter a team. Expected to be approximately 12-16 games.
- Exhibition Play – Expect to play some exhibition games against other EK teams that will be close in caliber to the U13 Bucks (Invermere, Fernie/Elk Valley) – perhaps 4-6 games.
- Hope to have a home tournament in January/February, subject to ice availability.
- Away Tournaments – expect 4-5. Already applied for West Kelowna (October 11-14), Vernon (November 8-10) and Trail (January 10-12).
- Provincial Championships will be in March. Location to be determined.
- Team Travel: Families are mostly expected to travel to all away games/tournaments themselves. We will consider chartering a bus for one away tournament, to give the kids that experience, cost permitting.
- Practices/Dryland: 2 on-ice practices per week in Cranbrook or Kimberley, along with 1 off ice dryland session per week which will always be the same day as an on-ice session. Morning practices are expected.
- Affiliates: players on the Cranbrook/Kimberley recreational teams will be AP'd and used as much as possible.
- Team Fees: A \$750 team fee will be requested quickly upon selection of the team, to pay for tournaments and other up-front costs. Fundraising will be done to offset as many costs as possible, so that fees can hopefully be kept to that \$750 amount for the season, though it's possible that a further cash call will be needed.

Thank you, and good luck to all players trying out! Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I will look forward to seeing you all in September!

Todd Leffler  
U13 Cranbrook Bucks Head Coach