

Lloydminster Minor Hockey Association

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U7 Division Annual Report 2024

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I would like to begin by thanking each and every parent, player, and volunteer for your confidence in me as your U7/U5 Director for the 2023-2024 hockey season. These Divisions are the first organized hockey experiences for many of our athletes, which makes it a very important couple of years for them, and I hope each child enjoyed their first seasons in the hockey world.

The LMHA U5 Division was home to 44 players, with 4 teams of 10-12 players per team. Thank you to a wonderful manager keeping all four teams organized and to our dedicated and patient group of coaches leading practices on Saturday mornings.

The LMHA U7 Division was home to up to 129 players this year. There were 12 teams with 10-11 players per team. I am very thankful for another fantastic group of coaches and managers this season. With my youngest aging out of U7 after last season, it meant I could not be present at the rink for this division as much as I would have liked, however, I had no concerns knowing the kids were in great hands with this crew!

The U7 Division was, once again, composed of parents ranging from "new to the game" to our "seasoned veterans". This was also the case for our coaching staff and managers. It was a great opportunity for the new managers, coaches, and parents to learn the ropes from some of the best, and I am thankful that our experienced coaches and managers were willing to share their knowledge throughout the season.

Our teams practiced two times per week and we played games on Sunday mornings, with some teams choosing to travel for exhibition games and tournaments as well. The commitment from our coaches and managers is so valuable to this program – thank you for the countless hours you dedicate so the kids can get on the ice.

We hosted our U7 Tournament in February 2024. This year we were lucky to have two cochairs leading the committee, which allowed our new tournament chair to be mentored by an excellent and experienced chair – without the commitment of these ladies, our U7 Tournament could not happen. I am pleased to say that we hosted our 12 Lloydminster U7 teams and welcomed 12 additional teams from the surrounding area to our tournament. This was made possible by a top-notch group of committee volunteers who spent many hours planning, scheduling, crafting, collecting prizes and sponsorships, setting up, and taking down and support from our parents working ticket sales and timekeeper shifts. Your hard work does not go unnoticed.

As for our U7 Athletes – I hope your first years of hockey made you love this sport and that you continue to play for years to come. Thank you for making my job as U7 Director such an enjoyable experience, your smiles on the ice and around the rink make every minute of this worth it!

Nonetheless, after four years with the U5 Division and three years with the U7 Division, my term as the LMHA U7/U5 Director has come to an end. Thank you to the LMHA Board and Executive for your support and mentorship, to the LMHA Staff for keeping our organization moving, and to our LMHA Members, I appreciate your trust in me leading these divisions and I hope I was able to play a small role in instilling a love for hockey in our community's youngest athletes. See you at the rink!