

U9 RMHA Director Report, Year End 2024/25 Season

The 2024/25 season saw the U9 age group have 26 players registered to start the season. One player moved up to help fill the U11 Tier 4 Grizzlies roster and one player moved up from U7 as an underager to play in U9. The U9 Grizzlies were split into 2 teams right off the start this season. The U9 Blue team rostered 12 players and played in the Medicine Hat A division and the U9 white team rostered 14 players and played in the Medicine Hat B division. The U9 white also added one player part way through the season to bring the total U9 players up to 27. The entire U9 division ran joint practices during their Wednesday ice slot, and then the teams played games or practiced on their own ice slots for the Saturday and Sunday ice slots (some of these became shared ice practices due to lack of ice). Things I will work with Medicine Hat on going into next season are:

- Consistent ice slots for game play so we can make sure we still get enough practice time (including some full ice practices)
- Locked in dates for format changes (when we move to full ice, full ice with offsides, full ice full rules, line changes vs buzzer, etc.).

Throughout the season while playing against the Medicine Hat U9 A and B teams the Grizzlies played games at home and in Medicine Hat. They also battled the Irvine Bulldogs for some games both at home and in Irvine. The U9A Blue team also played exhibition games with Duchess and Brooks, both at home and on the road. The U9B White team played 1 exhibition game against Brooks.

The U9 teams co-hosted their home tournament November 29th to December 1st. Teams from Medicine Hat, Calgary, Airdrie, Okotoks, Beiseker, and Foothills attended. Thanks to the tournament sponsors and volunteers the tournament was a huge success!

The U9A Blue team participated in 3 tournaments this season; their home tournament, a tournament in Duchess December 13-14th and their final tournament of the season was in Strathmore February 15-17th (this tournament was mainly full ice).

The U9B White team participated in 2 tournaments this season; their home tournament, and a tournament in Irvine held January 4-5th.

The U9 division had 6 female players in the 2024/25 season. All 6 players attended the association's second annual "Redcliff Grizzlies Girls Night Out" on February 28th. The girls each received a "Girls Night Out" toque, shared a pizza supper with all the other girls in the association as well as players from the SAHA Women's hockey team and the Medicine Hat College Rattlers Women's Hockey team. After supper the girls heard the hockey stories of several SAHA and Rattler women as well as a couple of Grizzlies. This year the girls were fortunate to build bracelets with the SAHA girls. After the speeches the girls went on the ice for drills with the two women's program teams and finished the night off with a shootout celly competition.

End of season awards for the U9 division were awarded to the following players:

U9A Blue:

Hardest Working Player - Easton Eisenbarth

Most Improved Player - Audrina Bressler

Sportsmanship Excellence - Nolan Skagen

Leadership & Dedication - Ashton McCrea

Most Valuable Player - Jordyn Sawchuk

Best Teammate - Emmett Green

U9B White:

Hardest Working Player - Frankie Frederick

Most Improved Player - Greyson Barnes

Sportsmanship Excellence - Drake Lochart

Leadership & Dedication - Stella Church

Most Valuable Player - Kendrick Baron

Best Teammate - Charlie Brake

The U9 division will graduate 11 players to U11 in the 2024/25 season. I wish all of these players the best of luck as they progress to full ice and full rules next season! Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Rectangle next season!

Thanks,
Corey McCrea
U9 Director, RMHA