

U11 RMHA Director Report, Yearend 2023/ 2024 Season

This season the U11 age group had 29 players. The large numbers are contributed to the MOU agreement with Medicine hat Minor Hockey. With the large number of players in U11 division this allowed the group to split into two teams who played in the Central Alberta Hockey League. For the league tiering, the teams were entered as one tier 3 and one tier 5. After the tiering round the tier 3 team moved to Tier 2. And the tier 5 team remained the same through regular season.

U11 Tier 2 (White) had a great season playing hard throughout. The finished the season with a 6-7-3 record. The team lost out in the first round of playoffs to Pincher Creek. Throughout the season the team attended several tournaments. One in Bentley which they won. a tournament in Irvine they took a loss in the finals due to shootout. And the home association U11 tournament which they won.

U11 Tier 5 (Blue) had a great season as well playing hard throughout the season. The finished the regular season with an 8-7-1 record. The T5 team lost out in the first round of playoffs to Kainai. The team attended several tournaments. One in Airdrie, Bow Island and the home association U11 tournament.

The U11 Division had 5 female players attend the associations first ever all girls event “Redcliff Grizzlies Girls Night Out” on February 28th. The girls each received a girls hockey hoodie, were able to enter to win door prizes, and 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 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:

U11 T2:

Hardest Working Player – Jaxx Joyal
Most Improved Player – Hadley Marks
Sportsmanship Excellence – Parker Craig
Leadership & Dedication – Jayden McCrea
Most Valuable Player – Michael Weisgerber
Best Teammate – Joel Jasper

U11 T5:

Hardest Working Player – Austin Werbiski
Most Improved Player – Cohen Marshall
Sportsmanship Excellence – Liam Middlemiss
Leadership & Dedication – Caleb Martin
Most Valuable Player – Max Kuiper
Best Teammate – Chase Hellman

This season both Teams had an exceptional group of kids and coaches graduating 11 players. Next season there will be a potential 18 returning players.

The player evaluation process was a challenging for the season. During the process it was a benefit to have the Rattlers women's hockey team do the evaluation and run the on-ice portion. A defined system needs to be in place to assist the division directors for the coming seasons. A lot of time and effort is spent early on by the directors without clear direction or a system to follow for consistency.

Chris Lonson
U11 Director, RMHA