

## **U9 RMHA Director Report, Year End 2023/24 Season**

The 2023/24 season saw the U9 age group have 24 players registered. One player moved up to help fill the U11 Tier 5 Grizzlies roster. The U9 Grizzlies began the season as one large team to play against Medicine Hat Minor Hockey Associations U9 A & B teams in a split squad format (2 half ice games at a time, half the team on one end, half the team on the other). By the end of November we were informed that Medicine Hat was moving to full or  $\frac{3}{4}$  ice games starting in November and were forced to split the 23 players into two teams, an A and a B team. The entire U9 division ran joint practices during their Tuesday ice slot, and then the teams played games or practiced on their own ice slots for the Saturday and Sunday ice slots (as separate A and B rosters).

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. In December the Grizzlies played in a tournament in Duchess. In January they played in a one day tournament in Bow Island and hosted their own tournament on the 26th to the 28th. At the end of the season the 2nd year U9 Grizzlies as well as most of the U9A team were able to play some full ice exhibition games against Duchess using full ice rules to help prepare graduating players for U11 next season.

U9 Players were able to participate in the RMHA "Bring a buddy" event in December, that allowed them to bring a friend that has never played hockey and go through some drills and give hockey a try.

The U9 division had 6 female players in the 2023/24 season. All 6 players attended the associations first ever "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:

### **U9A:**

Hardest Working Player - Jaxon Mullis  
Most Improved Player - Lincon Dobson  
Sportsmanship Excellence - Declan Jordan  
Leadership & Dedication - Broxx Minor-Greer  
Most Valuable Player - Colt Chaffer  
Best Teammate - Rowen Deck

### **U9B:**

Hardest Working Player - Jordyn Sawchuk  
Most Improved Player - Declan Hunt

Sportsmanship Excellence - Audrina Bressler  
Leadership & Dedication - Maddox Anderson  
Most Valuable Player - Emmett Green  
Best Teammate - Daxton Depape

The U9 players and families donated \$1850 to the Brandon Primeau Fund and \$1850 back to the Redcliff Minor Hockey Association to close their books on the season.

The U9 division will graduate 13 players to U11 in the 2024/25 season. I have no doubt the players are ready to take on all the challenges that come with moving to full ice thanks to the hard work of the coaches and managers making sure these players were able to get in a couple full ice exhibition games with full ice rules at the end of the 2023/24 season. Good luck to everyone next year!

Thanks,  
Corey McCrea  
U9 Director, RMHA