

U15 Report for the 2022/2023 Season
Submitted by Lindsay Wolfe, Division Manager

This season was a normal hockey season. All the teams were able to attend a tournament away this season. Before the season officially began and after evaluations, I held a meeting with our coaches and together with the evaluations, we picked teams blindly based on those numbers, positions etc. That meeting was a great success and I felt the teams were quite balanced myself.. Actually, the evaluation teams were mostly balanced going into the coaches meeting and we made few changes. We did make a few adjustments which went over well for most parents/players.

Evaluations in September:

We were able to do evaluations in the beginning to help us place the kids onto what turned out to be 5 teams this season. Luckily most coaches are familiar with these kids since they have been volunteering for numerous years now. I had coaches send me their evaluations and put them into a google sheet. I then wrote everyone's names and scores on recipe cards for the choosing of teams. Recommendations: I do feel like we could be better equipped to provide the previous seasons evaluations for the incoming coaches each season and for those coaches who didn't do season ending evaluations. No year end evaluations were complete this year.

Season Format:

This season we were able to have a normal season of hockey. We had 5 teams in our division. Throughout the season some of my coaches didn't like sharing ice times for practices, and didn't practice as a large group but kept to their end of the ice. Each week Cam Knox sent a practice plan which I think was helpful to ensure everyone was getting the same drills. Recommendations:

Recruiting Coaches and Management team:

We didn't have any issues getting coaches this season at all. We had approx 2-3 people per team for coaching. We didn't have any issues recruiting managers for the most part either. It is handy after a couple seasons into this position knowing who is willing to volunteer for what and start this process early. Recommendations: Start the recruiting process early for coaches to ensure they are qualified and ready to go. Information on seminars, online courses, CRC, etc would be handy to have completed ahead so there are no problems tracking it down into our season. It would also be nice to have outside help when creating/evaluating teams. Finally, IF these volunteers knew the commitment level of these positions that would be great. Sort of like a job description of sorts. I also think it's important that we evaluate how coaching groups are formed. It gets difficult when you have 3-4 coaches and a manager wanting to be together, that

is half a team once we get going and impossible to balance. If we consider accepting 2 coaches per group and choosing the manager once teams are formed this will help balance the teams better.

Away Tournaments:

All five teams got away this year but it was difficult as everyone applied for everything this year based on the posted spreadsheet. Recommendations: none

Home Tournament:

We had a great year end tournament at the Sports Centre this year. Myself and two parents organized the tournament ourselves and made a great team. We had our 5 home teams and 7 away teams. We tried to use an app to get everything organized with team brackets, rules, etc. Great idea, but it wouldn't load or update for everyone and some people didn't download it. We also tried to go to an online 50/50 draw this season but the license didn't come through in time. So we didn't get to do a 50/50 at all which I know hurt us in the end. We had great feedback on our tournament from the visiting teams and home teams. Three of our Comox teams played for all medals. It was a lot of fun.

Recommendations: Apply for licenses extra early next season, use the white board for tracking games so everyone can see it.

Exhibition Ice:

We hosted Powell River a few times this season and had a team go to Nanaimo as well. The downfall always is they aren't as fortunate to receive their ice in advance like we are so when they invite us for a game we had already had a schedule. Recommendation: Keep planning these and reaching out to other rinks, it's a great experience for the kids.

All Star Tournament (Powell River):

We did get into this tournament and went through the try out process and selected a team this season. We ended up with 15 players and 2 goalies. They only take a few teams so it's important to apply early. They have done a great job organizing it this season. We did have some coaching drama this season with this group as some didn't want to coach together. We also had some issues when kids didn't make the team and lots of questions surrounding that. The biggest issue was that more first year kids made the team. Steps were made this year to only have outside evaluators until the final ice where coaches would then offer input. I felt this worked great and was unbiased but it still came back negatively despite the changes. Cam Knox and team did a great job in my opinion in choosing the players without knowing their names, in fact, that list stood true in the end. The team came home with Gold.

Recommendations: Have outside evaluators make this team again and then have coach input. I think it's important to hear from coaches and the division manager. It would also be beneficial

to remove the idea that this team should only be or primarily be second year kids. We are looking for the best players, and if that includes a lot of first years, it shouldn't matter. I think we still need to tweak this process and have something in place for next season across the divisions.

AP Process:

We did have a few AP requests for U15 kids who AP'd to other U15 teams throughout the year. I didn't get too many updates on this but know they got out to some practices and games. I don't know if anyone got called up to the Bears. Recommendations: get this going soon into the season.

Year End Evaluations:

Year end evaluations weren't done this season. We didn't have any direction as to how these should be completed. Last season an online document was created, but unsure if this was still in place this season as a previous coaching coordinator had set that up. Also, barely anyone completed them last season. Recommendations: If we are able to put something in place and make that known early in the season for our coaches, they may be more inclined to add their comments. An online live document might be handy.