

## U18 2022/23 Season report

A note from the CVMHA Coaching coordinator; Cam Knox.

“As coaching coordinator, I also helped organize the house teams rosters and made sure rosters had parity and all teams were set up as equal and fair as possible. I did this for all CVMHA divisions. The overall success of the Recreation Program was outstanding, and players and coaches had a great season.”

“I also helped organize the house all-star teams and selections. This was a very time consuming endeavour but paid off with the creation of CVMHA house all-star teams that will represent CVMHA in the Powell River All Star tournament. Doing player evaluations, vetting, and choosing all-star coaches and getting feedback on how to improve the process was a great success and something we will build on in the upcoming seasons.”

The release of the U18 player list was very close to the start of the season which led to having to divide the players into five groups based on positional play and not necessarily strength to simply get them on the ice. After two rounds of exhibition games the CVMHA coach coordinator, alongside the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice held a meeting to discuss the current groups and shuffle players. Another round of exhibition games occurred, and a second meeting was held by the CMHA coaching coordinator and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice to again make further adjustments. Even after the two shuffles, not enough movement was made which left the division unbalanced for the remainder of the season. The top two teams jogged back and forth for first, the next two teams bounced in and out of third and fourth position and the fifth team could not seem to climb their way out of last and had trouble with full team participation the entire season. It is always interesting to see how the playoffs shape up. This season the third placed team at the end of regular season play pulled ahead with three straight wins to earn the title of playoff champs.

The U18 division had coaching challenges which left teams short on the bench at times during the season. It seems each year it has been an issue to get all the bench staff up to date quickly on their credentials as it usually requires them to take time out of their already busy day to do mandatory courses or upgrading. The team managers have made it very clear that finding volunteers has become very challenging and it is becoming noticeable by many that it is the same handful of volunteers for each game that are able to help their team out so the kids can play.

The other concern felt this season amongst the parents was some of the officiating. The division understands that there is a lack of bodies to fill the slots and can appreciate that brand new individuals have stepped up to do the job, however; U18 is quick paced, and more mentorship from the top needs to be provided to these refs so they can feel confident when on the ice. The inconsistent officiating and direction provided to the officials at the start of the year was a contributing factor to increased penalties. Too often there was a lack of control on the ice which posed a safety concern when dealing with players in this age group.

We hosted yet another successful U18 tournament over the Family Day weekend that was made up of a total of 12 teams. Thankfully our tournament coordinator, Elaine Sutter, has been around the association for quite some time and knows a thing or two about putting them together. Nothing but positive feedback was provided, and there are teams excited to submit their application for the upcoming season.

Finally.....CONGRATULATIONS to all of our 3<sup>rd</sup> year U18 players for completing your Minor Hockey careers. We hope you and your parents have enjoyed the journey, you've learned life skills and made lifetime friendships. Good luck on your future endeavors!

Melissa