

U21 Year End Report 2023/24

The U21 hockey season was a huge success. This year all registered players were rostered allowing everyone to play. To achieve this the roster was extended to accommodate 19 skaters and 2 goalies, as well as one overage goalie who also played out. We had 2 players from Campbell River and 2 female players on the team. The team had exceptional coaching from Andy Moorehead, Mike Fournneau, and Rob Clarke.

Something to consider in the future is allowing registration of players who do not intend to play. We had one player registered who was an Affiliate Player for the CR Storm and never came to our ice. It didn't affect the team because we had extended the roster and had space but in future could be an issue.

This year the U21 division was divided between the North and South island. Weekend travel was less with the North/South split and therefore more convenient for players also balancing work and school commitments. Our North division consisted of 2 Nanaimo teams, Port Alberni and Oceanside. The schedule consisted of 12 league games. The team was second in the North division standings and made it to the semi-finals in playoffs.

Overall we had a very successful season. This team was fun to watch and be a part of. A highlight was winning the Gold Cup at our home tournament in Dec 28-30. We hosted 7 teams, 2 came from the mainland. Everything went very well. We had zero complaints and no incidents that required discipline. One suggestion is increasing the tournament entrance fee to help with referee coverage and increasing ice costs.

I want to recognize Luisa Perry, Elaine Sutter, Terra Brown and Melissa Berrigan for helping me before, during and after the tournament. I couldn't have done it without their advice and help.

The tournament volunteer burden was very high with one team covering 18 ice times. Huge thank you to Melissa and Ken Berrigan who covered 16 volunteer slots and to Terra Brown, who came to help when she heard we needed timekeeper slots covered. We also would like to thank CVMHA President Ken and Director Trevor for coming out to support the team at our gold medal game.

We ended the season with an out of town tournament in JDF March 15-17. The team made it to the bronze game but was unable to take it home. Regardless it was a great way to end the year!

Finally, I would like to recognize the 3rd year U21 players who move on from CVMHA. It was a pleasure to have you this year! You were leaders on the team and will be missed. All the best in the future.