

Chebucto Minor Hockey Association

2022-2023 Development Report

Introduction

This was my fifth year as the VP of Development, and after 5 years, I have decided the time is right for someone else to take on this rewarding role. It was fantastic to see success from players and coaches, both past and present in a wide range of leagues again this year. Without the dedication of our volunteer coaches, managers, parents, officials, and again this year, our amazing safety reps, our association would not be continuing to advance players to the next level. I think that our small association has proven that we are competitive and hard-working but that there is still room to grow.

Preseason

This preseason again was a huge success. As in the past, this year we were able to secure ice for the month of September at the Halifax Forum for the entire preseason. This allowed all of our players the opportunity to get on the ice early and prepare for tryouts and more align ourselves with other associations' timelines. We offered our packages, or BLOCKS as we called them, in groups of 5. Players could choose to participate for 1 or 2 blocks. From our perspective, the turnout exceeded expectations and provided our players with a good foundation going into the tryouts. Another advantage is that getting on the ice early and collaborating with others is a great opportunity for any coaches who choose to get involved. The players and I thank those coaches who gave up their time to help out this year.

In-season development

With limited ice available, and conflicts with many teams schedules, in-season development still poses a major hurdle. Having ice available specifically for individual skill development during the season would be a huge benefit. This year we were able to provide times on Saturdays' and Sundays. Unfortunately, these times often conflicted with existing schedules, and attendance reflected that.

Even more challenging for many parents and players, is to solely offer it as a pay to play model. In order to maximize development for all players, an inclusive model is needed. In an ideal world, we could offer each player, at a minimum, an additional hour of skill development per month, above and beyond their team practices, and at no added cost. This individualized skill focused practices could then be used to support a specific team structure.

Where do we go from here?

The current board has a vision and the new VP of Development is encouraged to find ways to get involved early and bring their vision of how to maximize our players and coaches development. This past season, I was not a member of the Tryout Committee or the Coach Selection Committee. These are two crucial areas that a new VP of Development should look to get involved in.

I look forward to continuing to cheer on and support all past and present players and coaches.

Go Chebucto Go !