

U7 Annual Report 2022-2023

U7 was a success this season because of the commitment and generosity of the incredible volunteers and parents who supported our ideas and stepped up with their own. Their donations of time, funds and an amazing prize to fundraise with, made it possible for us to create a culture of caring and an environment of fun and excitement for our players and members where kids felt safe to learn and grow.

Player, and parent, engagement were higher this year, player relationships and team spirit were high and a lot of love for the sport and pride in our association was cultivated on and off the ice.

For the majority of players, this was their first year in hockey post COVID, the first year of normalcy. We went above and beyond with events and fundraisers making it extra fun, and took all players to at least 1 jamboree. 2nd and 3rd year U7 players attended 2 jamborees.

Group coordinator roles made a huge difference. U7 had 3 coordinators, 1 per group. Communication was significantly improved.

We implemented policy around certain things, like the Mooseheads game intermission to foster fairness and transparency. Kids in the graduating class got first dibs, and were drawn at random to make it fair for all. Sent 50 players total. Every player moving up to U9 got the chance to go and experience this once in a lifetime opportunity!!

We rented the Admiral Clubhouse for our pre-season U7 draft (Jersey distribution) and End of year party. Both had excellent turn outs. Families could eat and play games while players were awarded medals, gifts were given and development sessions announced during end of year event.

Volunteers received Chebucto branded Coffee tumblers made by local graphic artist. U7 players received personalized Chebucto Tracksuits from local business, Coach Envy.

We purchased and insured 18 hrs of Development ice at BMO this spring and summer. Sessions will run from May 13th - Aug 18th 2023. Available to all Chebucto U7's, free of charge.

\$1736 surplus in U7 Account for possible end of summer recruitment event/extra development or seed money for next season. TBD

Our Junior Coaches are great and add massive value during practices. The Junior Coaches Leadership Program is an excellent program and should continue to be invested in annually.

Considerations

- Explore later ice times next season for U7 and U9. 7am and 8am are too early for little kids. Not enough investment in the sport at that age. Creates high absenteeism and is a deterrent for parents. Potentially lowers registration at the most important entry point to the sport.
- Less mandatory coaching certifications for first year U7 parents who help out on the ice. Process is overwhelming and not generally applicable. Recommend certifications for 1 Head coach and 2 Assistants per group. On ice helper policy would be more appropriate for most at that level. Mandatory Certifications in 3rd yr of U7 or pre U9 would be most useful and applicable. Background Checks would of course remain mandatory for all.
- More access to goalie gear and free goalie training for U7's.