

## U7 Annual Report 2023-2024

U7 was a great success again this season because of the commitment and generosity of our incredible volunteers and parents who supported us. Thank you all for your donations of service and time to U7. We could not do this without you.

We were awarded the WestJet fundraiser again this year (special thanks to Joel Richer!). We included the U9 divisions and increased our sales and total funds raised to over \$25000. Teams used funds for Chebucto branded team apparel, end of year gifts/events, extra ice/development sessions and more. U7 plans to use remaining funds for summer development sessions and a jamboree next season.

Registration was up over 15% compared to the 22-23 season. Our group sizes were very large this year. Projections suggest a real possibility of 4 U7 groups next season. Retention was also very high with only 2 of our 107 registered players withdrawing before year end.

Player development and engagement were noticeably increased again this season. We introduced a periodic try goalie option in the second half of the season rotating 4 sets of gear. The kids loved it. Players were exposed to more hockey games using 1v1 up to 5v5 Mini games, intergroup tournaments, Jamborees and scrimmages). Players in Groups 1 and 2 attended two Jamborees and a mini tournament at Chebucto. Group 3 attended three jamborees and the mini tournament. A Game exposure increase of 33% from last year in Group 3 and 50% in Groups 1 and 2.

Coaches Adam Morash (Gr. 3), Justin Mabe (Gr. 2) and Ryan McCurdy (Gr. 1) and their coaching teams were excellent and received very positive feedback on the survey. They put forward consistently challenging plans resulting in a fun and exciting environment where kids grew significantly and improved at different rates across the spectrum of development both personal and hockey related.

Our 3 Group coordinators Stacy Forgeron, Hawley Dowe and Karolynn Holland made a huge impact again this year. These roles are essential to U7 and these volunteers deserve our sincere gratitude.

We held the annual U7 Christmas Skate and Pancake Breakfast. Players received gifts and a breakfast from Kimmie's. We rented the Admiral Clubhouse for our pre-season U7 draft (Jersey distribution) and Jill's World of Fun for our end of year event. All were very well attended.

Volunteers received Chebucto branded Hats and Tim's gift cards. U7 players received Chebucto branded personalized Track jackets/Jersey style Dri Fit shirts/hats, treat bags and medals. We purchased a small order of Chebucto TShirts and have been selling them to raise extra funds for the division and proposed Jamboree.

\$5500 in surplus in U7 Account to be invested back into the players by way of free summer development sessions and extra ice times as well as a proposed Jamboree in Chebucto next season. TBD

Our Junior Coaches remain an integral part of U7 and continue to add full value during practices. This program is only getting better and should continue to be invested in annually.

Yours in hockey,

Jay McKenzie

VP U7 CHEBUCTO