

## **Chebucto AGM U9 Year in Review 2022-2023**

The U9 program had six co-ed teams this year. Two teams at each level: Development, Intermediate and Advancing. Our teams competed hard and admirably represented our association.

### **Preseason**

The U9 season started October 15 with groups based on their birth year. NSST evaluations were used again this season to determine the groups of U9 players at each level.

There was difficulty getting volunteers at the development level, as well as getting them all to finish courses on-time. This caused some difficulty at the start of the season and in December.

### **Play**

This year U9 teams played half-ice games for the entire season. Players developed their skills in four-on-four games with more ice time in a game setting, more puck touches and passes, as well as a team approach to the game. Volunteers stepped up every game to help assemble the half ice boards to keep the rink on schedule.

Hockey Nova Scotia only allows each team to play 6 full ice games after February 15<sup>th</sup>. No ref's allowed, coaches have to ref.

### **Goalies**

There was a shortage of goalies again this year, but the rotation of players to the goalie position seemed to go well. It is more work for coaches and managers to organize a rotation, but many players enjoy having a turn in the net.

Chebucto Minor hockey needs to create incentives to promote the goalie position within the organization.

### **Highlights of the Season**

- NSST's went smooth for the second season.
- New head coaches filled the void.
- U9 Coordinator did a fantastic job keeping things organized.

### **Suggestions and Ideas for Next Season**

- 1 month of structured, skills-based, station practices for practice groups
- Coach Development Program with practice plan support
- Power Skating Sessions
- back-to-back games to limit the strain on time to assemble the half ice boards.
- Earlier notice from the VP of Risk about coaching courses, as well as staying on top of the individuals to get courses complete. We ran into issues with a lack of coaches at the development level due to courses being missed.
- Development is always a challenge to get volunteers.

In summary, our U9 level players continued to develop their individual and team skills, as well as their love of the game.

A big thank you to all coaches, managers and safety reps, especially the U9 coordinator, who worked hard to keep the season running smoothly.

Desi Munden

VP U9