

VP U9 2023-24 Report

First, I would like to thank all my coaches, volunteers, families, players and Stacy Forgeron, my U9 Coordinator, for what I believe was a very successful season for U9. We had an enormous amount of engagement, commitment and support from our volunteers and families this season. I believe player success was higher this year because of the time and effort that was put in, so thank you!

Evaluations: With my experience as U9 Coordinator in 2022-23 season and the direction from Desi (past U9 VP) and Craig Messervey (EVP) our evaluation process went very smoothly. Special thank you to Craig Messervey, Matt White, Doug Clark and all the other volunteers who assisted with U9 evaluations. I appreciate your dedication and time put in for our group. We iced 5 U9 teams with 88 registered players; two development teams, one intermediate team and two advancing teams.

Team configurations: With lower numbers for U9 than previous years we decided to go from 6 teams to 5. Having 5 larger teams is more beneficial than having 6 smaller teams (in our case last season). Half ice games means more players are needed to play. This change worked well this season and I think teams had more success and engagement because of it.

The decision on team configurations with intermediate and advancing was not an easy one. We looked at a lot of information and reflected with past and current volunteers and evaluation results. We have recognized that with the lower numbers and skill set that this will need to be looked at even closer moving forward to make sure we are doing the best we can with the information we have.

I would, however, like to remind everyone that all U9, regardless of level, is still developmental hockey. There are no scores kept and games are half ice for better success and to promote more puck touches. I am confident from some feedback that most of our teams and players had great development and fun this season.

I would like to specifically mention our development group. We had an enormous increase in engagement with this group this year! Thank you to everyone for making this season not only a learning one but a fun one.

Fundraiser: Our group had the opportunity to participate in a large fundraiser that originated from U7. Teams were able to sell tickets for a grand prize of West Jet tickets. We raised over \$10K for U9 alone! The U9 teams were able to use much of these funds toward extra development. Thank you to the Richer family for the donation of the tickets, Jay McKenzie and Stacy Forgeron who did a lot of behind the scenes work and to everyone who sold and bought tickets. What a success as over 25k was raised between U7 and U9!

To close, I enjoyed my time with U9 the past two years and I am looking forward to someone new to take over and continue to strive to improve things for our group!

Charlotte

U9 VP Chebucto Minor Hockey Association