**Chebucto AGM**

**U9 Year in Review**

**2021-2022**

The U9 program had six co-ed teams this year. Two teams at each level: Development, Intermediate and

Advancing. While Covid made scheduling complicated, our teams competed hard and admirably represented our association.

**Preseason**

The U9 season started October 16 with groups based on their birth year. NSST evaluations were used again this season to determine the groups of U9 players at each level.

**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 NS implemented exhibition full-ice games in February with teams in our region. A few extra hours of ice allowed our team to play full-ice games against the other Chebucto team in their level as well as outside teams. These games help the second years to become more prepared for U11.

**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**

● Strong enrollment

● New head coaches filled the void

**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

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 who worked hard to keep the season running smoothly through this turbulent season.

Desi Munden

VP U9