

TD Annual Report 2021 - 2022 Season



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The season overall was one of learning for me. Understanding the inner workings of the association, the coaches, and the players was a priority for me in year number 1. As a result, I feel much more comfortable moving into year two and how I can impact positive change in my role.

Overall with the numerous and sometimes lengthy stops and starts due to Covid, I feel the association and its coaches provided a quality experience for our players this season. In addition, we should all be proud of how our collective community conducted themselves at the arenas this winter.

Below is a brief wrap up on some of the development initiatives this season:

Goalie Development

Once again, Empire Goaltending handled our goalie development and, by all accounts, did an excellent job again this year. Brad and his team are very engaging and supportive of the goalies, and they provide a very safe environment for goalies to improve their games. In addition, shooters are always very respectful and are mindful of the age groups. We certainly saw our goalies take significant strides this year. I think this was a combination of Brad's group and the individual teams making sure goalies were receiving proper coaching in team practices and a lot of one-on-one time with goalie coaches, which was great to see.

We need to continue investigating ways to increase our goalie numbers and keep players in the goalie position.

Friday Night Lights

There were many challenges with covid this season, but I feel Friday Night Lights was a success overall. A few lessons learned from year one include shifting to a Monday night might be better for overall attendance. Friday cut into weekends and travel for tournaments etc. Next year, a focus on the younger age groups will be essential as the U15/18 age groups did not take to the program. The strength is in the U9/11 and 13 age groups. Definitely looking to bring it back next year.

New to Hockey Program

Still ongoing with the new to hockey players from the Muslim community. I can already see a lot of improvements in some players in such a short time. Players and coaches are all having a great time on the ice, and the hope after the program is we will have some new registrants to hockey next year.

Pre-Season Camps

Pre-season camps were a big success this year and will return this year. Attendance at all levels below U15/18 was near capacity. Just waiting on an official start date to the season from HNS and ice time from Centennial for planning purposes.

Coaches Conference

I have been the lead organizer on this. Dates, times, and presenters are confirmed, and the conference is a go. It has been a lot of work to organize the conference, pulling it all together with Bedford, Chebucto, TASA, and Metro West Force. Still, I am happy with the group of presenters, and it should provide some real value to the coaches who attend. I hope it is successful in year 1 and becomes an annual event.

Summer Development

Registration has been strong so far in all groups. We are offering three age groups this summer. A combined U7/U9 group along with a U11 and U13 group. We are close to full with just Hawks players and are now taking registrations from players that live in other associations areas.

The majority of the registrations are from A,B and C level players.

Discussions continue on a pilot U13 spring hockey league for the spring of 2023

U7 Program

Overall the U7 program ran without issues other than Covid shutting down the season for periods. I will look into a sponsor for the program this summer to pay an instructor for the 2022-23 season. I was exclusively at the U7 program every week, which did not allow me to get around to C-level practices or the U9 program as much as I would have liked. Hiring an instructor for U7 will allow me flexibility for the coming season to move around to other levels since we have ice conflicts at different venues on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Shout out to Todd for a phenomenal job organizing this group.

This is not an easy task. If numbers spike in registration for the coming year, a 4th hour will need to be explored. Eliminating the 7 am slot would be preferred, and every attempt to do so will be made, but this will be based on the ice time HRM gives us.

U9 Program (Peter)

The u9 program had an excellent year minus the interruptions due to COVID. I would suggest the 2013s at the top end are very strong collectively and as a group, and I think the program is in excellent shape. The focus of the practices was on individual skills, and I saw significant development throughout the year. It remains imperative that there is a lead designing and running the practices for Hawks allocated ice, and I am happy to work with Tim next year in the capacity when coaches were left to their own, whether due to COVID or when they rented ice, the drills tended to be on skills and team play that did not reflect the children's age and/or skill. The only other suggestion is the removal of the 7 am timeslot. A suggested alternative would be to have the Advancing Group practice regularly on Sundays at 8 am and offer it to them as an additional hour of ice.

Some items I will be working on over the summer months, and implementing for the upcoming season are listed below.

| 2022-23 Deliverables | | |
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| Deliverable | Description | Date |
| New to hockey U7/U9 Parent Package | PDF document we can send to new hockey parents explaining the U7/U9 process, how to properly fit hockey gear, cut sticks, sharpen skates etc. | Sept 1 2022 |
| Coach the Coaches Day - U7/U9 | Get all the volunteer coaches on the ice for 1 hour. The focus will be on reviewing the basics of teaching in the U7/U9 Program. | August/September (Based on registration closing date) |
| First Assist Program | All teams U13/15/18 in the association will volunteer with the U7/U9 programs this yr, assisting with demonstrating drills and | Start of season |

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| | running stations. | |
| Defense Specific Training | Periodic Defense training sessions throughout the year where we can teach the specifics of the position to coaches and players | 2022-23 season based on ice times |
| Shared Ice Practices | Pilot for 2 months - Would like to have coaches run shared ice practices where a 3-hour block is shared between 2 teams Team 1 Practice - Hour 1 Team 1 and 2 Skills - Hour 2 Team 2 Practice - Hour 3 | Dependent on ice allocation for coming year. |
| Basic Seasonal plans U11/U13/U15 Coach Welcome kits | Provide seasonal plan outlines to coaches so they can modify them as their own. A starting point that will also ensure we are teaching the right things at the correct times providing specific skills and tactics are not being missed. | Start of season, coach welcome meeting |
| Formal Coach Check ins | At the end of each month, call or text to see if anything needs to be discussed outside the day-to-day. | Ongoing 2022-23 season |
| Coaches Room at Centennial | It would be nice to repurpose part of the Hawk's Office or the warm room as a coaches' room. A place where coaches can collaborate with staff or team, do video, work on practice, explain drills etc. | Summer 2022 |
| Themed weeks | Battle Week Leadership Week Assistant Coach Week | Ongoing throughout the year |