

Technical Director 2023 Annual Report



As the season draws to a close, there are many people to thank for their work..

-) **Checking Clinic** - Successfully completed. One injury in clinic of a broken collar bone. Skaters were all average or above in their skating level so no issues there. Information has been sent to HNS. Will look to do a 2nd clinic in August if interest is there.
-) **April Spring Camp update:**
 - U7 - Sold out
 - U9 - Group 1 Sold out. Added second group that is near sold out.
 - U11 - Sold out
 - U13 - Half Full
-) Camps are running successfully.
 - o Thanks to Carter and Tyler (U13AA) and Greg (U13AAA) as well as Liam (U9) for the help with all the camps.
 - o The majority of players were A,B, C level so this will be our "sweet spot" for next season.
 - o Goalie enrollment was low in the spring camps so I may look at a 'goalie only' option for next year if ice time allows for it.
-) **U7** - A great year and well run by former Hawk, Liam Oxner. There were positive comments from parents and coaches regarding his on-ice demeanour with the kids and willingness to work with the coaches. Thanks again to Todd for keeping this group organized. It would be nice to invest in some smaller nets for the Civic like we have at Centennial. Goal for the u7 program next season will be to find some parent coaches that can handle the practices to reduce some of the costs associated with running this program.
-) **U9** overall has been a successful year on ice. Thank you to all the volunteer coaches! You were a pleasure to work with. Thanks to Tyler for keeping things organized and on track. By all accounts our teams were competitive this yr in cross ice games.
-) **First Assist Program** has wrapped up for the season and overall was a huge help to our U9 and U7 programs. Big thanks to all the teams, parents and coaches for making sure we had volunteers each week. Will be back with this in the fall.
-) **Wednesday Goalie Sessions** wrapped up on March 8th. Thanks again to Brad and his Empire Goaltending team. It seemed like we saw an increase this year in players wanting to try the position for the first time so that is a positive. We will bring this back next season as well.

-) **U11/U13 November 11th 3v3 tourney** was a great event this year and we will bring this back again next year. Lots of positive comments on this.
-) **C Level power skating** - Ran from January onward. Sessions were so well attended we extended this into March. Averaged about 20 skaters a session. Lots of great feedback from parents at the rink who stopped to say thanks. Will look to incorporate this next year.
-) **New to hockey program** - was successful again this season. Players were much further ahead in their skating ability than last yr so was an easier introduction. Thank you to all the volunteers.
-) **Player evaluations** have started to come in for competitive teams. Will have all of these wrapped up soon.
-) **Centennial Arena Hawks branding is in motion** - Have contacted 2 companies that work with Halifax Mooseheads for quotes, still waiting on quotes along with some design mock-ups.
-) Working to get more ice at Centennial next yr through HRM. We have support from Centennial on this as it is "The home of the Hawks". Working with Stuart now to see what we can do for ice next fall. Expectation will be more home games at Centennial next year as they are asking for it.
-) **Shared ice practices U11** - Coaches feedback was positive. One suggestion was having the hour combined session on a different night, so players are not on the ice for 2 hours straight. That will be a scheduling decision in the summer.
-) Congratulations to our U13AA team who took home the CMHF Playoff banner along with the U15B Red team who also took home the playoff banner. We had our U13A team lose a close one as well in the finals, so our U13 Division did quite well this year.
-) Our U11 programs struggled at times with more and more smaller associations moving to one U11AA team however, I felt the development of the players and teams was positive and signs of progress were evident throughout the year. The 2013 group is strong which is a promising for our U11 division next year. Goaltending at U11 is exceptionally strong for next yr. Full rosters will be the goal for next year. Will have to wait and see what numbers look like but early projections would have the following at U11:

Level	Returning
U9 Moving Up	61
U11 AA	13
U11 A	8
U11 B	8
U11 C	23
Total	113

Again, on the HNS rules we will be right on the cusp of one or two U11AA teams this coming season, assuming all return.

3.6. For the initial registration of teams, the number of players registered by an MHA within a division will be used as follows:

MINOR

U11

AA + 57 players (+110 (+/- 10) two balanced teams)

U15 AA took a hit this year with most of the team turning over. While only 5 players are eligible to return, a solid group of U15 A players can return (13). The A team had a solid season, with a lot of first yr players experiencing contact hockey for the first time and our U15B teams both finished in the upper half of the CMHF standings.

There are a couple players in 15B I am hopeful will move into contact hockey next season as they would be strong players in contact I believe. Our U15 division can take a step forward depending on how many U13 and U15 players land with the Wolverines as there are many openings there this coming season.

Our U18 AA program had a strong finish to the year, catching fire at the right time to make a run to the CMHF playoff finals. The hope is that next year we will have more players try out for U18AA and we will have enough players to form a team out of the gates instead of scrambling to find players last minute. Numbers below do not include 18C or 15B players as I am assuming majority of these players will stay in noncontact. We may see a couple skaters and goalies from these levels. Numbers below also do not factor in players making High School/U16 teams or going directly to U18C hockey, so we could be in another situation next yr of scrambling to find players to fill out the roster.

Team	Moving up
U15 AA	10 Skaters + 2 Goalies
U15 A	3 Skaters + 1 Goalie
U18 AA Returning	16 Skaters + 1 Goalie
Total	29 Skaters + 4 Goalies

-) **C Level practices** Thursday nights ran smoothly during the season; however, I believe we need to move to less players on the ice at once. I also still believe we look at a pay to practice model at the U13 and U15 levels (keep practice mandatory at U11). I think at the very least a survey of parents to see if this would be an option that players/parents would be interested in should be sent out. If we face an imbalance in players next year, larger rosters instead of smaller rosters will be the solution.
-) **Rawk the Rink** was a huge success in year 1. Thanks to everyone who made it happen. We were able to raise around 3k for our player assistance fund which is awesome, along with some great hawks spirit at the rink! Next year I will work with CMHF to have a Monday night clear with no games other than the 3 teams playing, so all our Hawks' teams can attend.
-) **Callups** - lots of discussion around this. I think the easiest method is to designate the 3rd week of every month "call up week" where the players go to practice, don't have to ask or be told to go, they just know. Identify the list, notify them that call up week is every 3rd week of a month and at a minimum they can go to practice that week. This way it takes it out of the coaches/managers hands and puts it on the players to attend.
-) **Pre Season Camps** - registration will open as soon as ice is confirmed for September along with U13AAA tryout dates to ensure there are no conflicts.
-) **U13AAA Tryouts** - I have secured some ice for tryouts provided they start early again this yr so we can start on par with other associations.

Overall a great year. I believe we took some great strides in development, as well as building up our hawks community and association pride as we returned back to a normal season. Big thanks again to all board members, directors, coaches, and volunteers. I appreciate all the time you volunteer to make minor sports happen for the kids. To the directors and board members leaving us, a special thanks for all your time dedicated to the Hawks! Much appreciated!