



**Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association  
U11 Annual Report 2022**

**U11C Report – Barry Bowser, Director**

U11 C had 3 teams this season. They were equally balanced through 2 different assessments and a scoring process. Each team had 16 skaters and 1 or 2 goalies. The teams had 1 shared practice a week until Xmas and then we were forced to only have 1 team on at a time as per Covid restrictions. This may have been a blessing in disguise as the teams seemed to improve after having full ice practices.

Unlike the Hawks, Bedford, Sackville & TASA did not balance their teams and different divisions had to be created after the 1st round of scheduling. As a result, 1 Hawks team had a very poor 1st half of the season but managed to win the Bronze division. The other Hawks teams seemed to have success early on but then struggled after the divisions were rebalanced. There were 2 or 3 teams within other organizations that only lost 1-2 games all year and had players who were well above C skill level. I'd propose that a rule eventually be created that a player can't score more than 3 goals per game to avoid 1 kid making all the difference.

There were quite a few Covid scares this season but thanks to the diligent work of Amy Fredericks and our Covid committee, there were no major outbreaks.

The Hawks may have to implement a friend request rule of only 1-2 requests. A major headache this year was trying to accommodate 20 something requests and still keeping the teams balanced. The Hawks also need to investigate better practice times as 7AM & 8AM on Sunday morning is about as bad as times can get. Most teams only ever had 50 percent of players show up.

**U11 Competitive Report – Chris MacKay, Director**

Opening remarks:

This year the Hawks' U11 division teams (and NS hockey in general) were pleased to see the return of spectators, team events, and tournaments – really hockey as we all know and love. The four U11 competitive teams had a great season, thanks in large part to the wonderful coaches and volunteers that helped pull the season together.

Team Summaries:

U11 AA Red: Head Coach Carter McMullin (non-parent volunteer). The team had a 16-player roster. Both U11AA teams rostered only one goalie this season, in large part due to the goalie shortage across

the association (and many associations). The team finished with a 5-17-2 record, finishing 12th of 13 teams in the division. The Red team won the season series against black 2-0, in very close (and exciting) games. The kids had a great season and made noticeable improvements in their play throughout the season thanks to the dedication of their coaches.

U11 AA Black (Kraken): Head Coach Mike Sim (parent volunteer). The team had a 16-player roster. Both U11AA teams rostered only one goalie this season, in large part due to the goalie shortage across the association (and many associations). The team finished with a 5-13-6 record, finishing 10th of 13 teams in the division. Not reflected in their record, 7 of the team's 13 losses were decided by only one goal and one of their 6 ties was against Bedford Blue. The kids had a great season and made noticeable improvements in their play throughout the season thanks to the dedication of their coaches.

U11A: Head Coach Jon Stanfield (parent volunteer). A young team with 9 players of the full 17-player roster being first year players. The team finished with a 4-17-3 record, finishing 9th of 11 teams in the division. The U11A team finished with a strong 4-2 record (in their last 6), which included a close 3-2 loss against the first place Sackville Flyers. The kids finished very strong and all had a great season of hockey.

U11B: Head Coach Nick Asselin (parent volunteer). A young team with 10 players of the full 17-player roster being first year players. The team finished with a 7-14-3 record, finishing 7th of 9 teams in the division. The U11B team finished with a strong 3-4 record (in their last 7), before a very exciting overtime loss to the #2 TASA Orange in the playoffs. The kids finished very strong and all had a great season of hockey.

Competitive Concluding remarks:

The 2021/22 season faced several challenges and a few disruptions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the season, the Coaching and Team staff remained incredibly dedicated to keeping kids safe and made the best of the development resources that were available - in the end, all Hawks' U11 Competitive teams completed the 24-game regular season.

The Hawks had four competitive teams at the U11 level - having some flexibility on the mix of AA and A teams (2 and 1 or 1 and 2), we once again had 2 teams in the U11AA division. As a development model, this age group (U13 and below) represents the pivot point where kids move beyond developing fine motor skills and coordination, to beginning to understand game strategy and capacity to perform more complex drills. Maximizing the number of kids involved in the competitive stream increases the number of kids exposed to a higher level of hockey during this key development phase. Given the successes experienced by the U11 teams this season, I believe all kids benefited from playing at their respective levels.

Moving into the 2022/23 season, I will be handing over the U11 Competitive Director torch and wish those remaining and moving into the division a successful and fun season of hockey.