

2023-2024 U11 Competitive Report

I am pleased to provide the following report regarding the 2023-2024 U11 Competitive season of the Hawks.

Generally speaking, the U11 season had relatively few issues of which I became aware, and anecdotally, in speaking with multiple coaches, parents and players, I think the general consensus is that we had a strong year throughout the entire season, and most importantly, the kids improved, had fun, and carried with them significant and immutable life memories. A few brief comments with respect to each competitive team:

The u11B team was fortunate to have a group of young non-parent coaches who were dedicated to the development of this team. While it would be accurate to observe that they got off to a slow start as far as the success of the team was concerned, they continued to improve throughout the season, and I was on hand for a few of the teams' wins in the second half of the season. The enjoyment of the kids was palpable, and was a pleasure to observe. The kids, coaches and parents should all be commended for staying committed throughout the season.

The u11 A team had a similar start to their seasons as the U11 B team did. However, in the same manner, their improvement throughout the season was very evident. I was able to attend many of the games of this team and can advise that in addition to their superb coaching, the kids all appeared to have a lot of fun and enjoyment together, clearly one of the more significant goals of kids at this age.

The success of the two U11AA teams speaks for itself, having finished 1 and 2 in the league, and both teams being (in my view) in the top 5 of teams in the entire province. The coaching of both teams was superb, and both coaching staffs demonstrated significant dedication to the development of their respective teams throughout.

I would be remiss if I did not comment on the strategic decision made by the Board (with the lead of Tim) at the beginning of the season to go with two u11AA teams, rather than 1. There was *significant* pressure on Tim to proceed with one team. To his credit, Tim maintained his position that the development of kids (rather than wins and losses) was the most significant driving factor in making his decision. In light of the success of both teams, there can be absolutely no question that Tim's perspective was the correct position to adopt, rather than those advocating for one team.

Next year, I fear the U11 level will face some challenges regarding goaltending. This is not unique to U11, nor is it unique to the Hawks' association, but it is certainly a challenge that will need to be addressed in the try-out process.

In summary, the U11 season of the Hawks was tremendous, and all of the kids, volunteers, and parents should be commended for such a positive season.

Kyle