



## Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association U18 Annual Report 2022

### U18C Report – Chris MacDonald, Director

Hawks iced five teams this season with each having 14/4 skaters and a goalie. This continues to reflect the popularity of U18C as registrations have been consistent for the past number of years. This is due to the effort made to have friends play together while maintaining team balance.

The challenge in U18C is that while we attempt to start the season with evenly balanced at the start of from an overall points perspective (i.e. range from 5 for competitive skilled player to 1 for a new player), during the course of the season the individuals team results reflect the increase in skills, team bonding, coaching, motivation. Often, players register for U18C who have not played hockey for several years and as such their skill sets develop after a couple of months. This is hard to predict and/or evaluate at the start of the season and once teams are formed, resistance is extremely high from players, parents and coaches for team change unless it is mutually agreed upon. I recommend that the Hawks continue this practice.

Goalies - This season our teams started the season with three goalies. With approval from HNS we were able to bring back an overage goalie from last season. Even with this the teams had to work with four goalies for five teams. I would like to thank the goalies and their parent for supporting all our team. Based on our future numbers this will be an ongoing issue and we must have a plan before the season start to use all U18 Division goalies between competitive and recreation.

Suspensions - Even with the reduction of games due to COVID restrictions this season there were a greater number of suspensions than in previous years. The Hawks U18C policy to double suspensions under the discretion of the U18C Director, did not seem to act as enough of a deterrent as in past years. Having coach this division for three years I understand the importance of controlling the emotions of this age group to help the players from crossing the line and getting suspended. As the complete nature of this league continues to grow coaches need to be more aware of this than I have seen the past couple years.

League Standings/Results: U18C plays in the Metro Minor Hockey League. This season there were twenty-two teams in the league. At the end of regular season play the Hawks teams performed as follows:

Halifax Wolfpack placed 2nd in Pool A, Halifax Titans placed 5<sup>th</sup> in Pool A, Halifax Patriots placed 8<sup>th</sup> in Pool A, Halifax Hawks placed 9<sup>th</sup> in Pool B and Halifax Golden Hawks placed 10<sup>th</sup> in Pool B.

Final Results for our five teams:

Gold Division (7 Teams) - Halifax Wolfpack – Lost in Gold Final, Halifax Patriots – 5<sup>th</sup> Place and Halifax Titans - 6<sup>th</sup> Place

Bronze Division (7 teams) - Halifax Hawks – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and Halifax Golden Hawks – 6<sup>th</sup> Place

Thanks to the Coaches and Managers: (a) Halifax Hawks: Frank Denis, Mike Hull, Ivan Murphy, Jamie Van Wart & Lisa Richard (b) Halifax Wolf Pack: Rob Apold, Tim Dauphinee, Sean Sturge, & Bruce Spares (c) Halifax Titans: Maurice Meager, Eric Burchill, Steven Moore & Jill Duncan (d) Halifax Patriots: Andrew MacDonald, Jody Pace, Chris Lightfoot, Laurie Clarke & Erika Smeltzer and Halifax Golden Hawks: Craig Johnson, Nicholas Budreski, Jason Powell, Nicole Budreski & Andrew Saweczko

### **U18 Competitive Report – Helen Pecoskie, Director**

The Halifax Hawks U18 Competitive had one team this year U18AA, this team was mainly comprised of first- and second-year players making this a developing season. There were challenges in forming a team at the beginning of the season with not having enough players to ice a team. With the cooperation of other associations TASA, Bedford and Dartmouth who helped to transfer needed players to form a team within the association. I would like to thank the Head Coach Pier-Luc Moreau and as well as the Assistant Coaches and Team Manager for all of their help and support throughout the season.

U18AA had 17 players on the team roster this past season. Tryouts were delayed this past season due to the lower number of registered players remaining after High School tryouts and the need to wait until other associations could release eligible players to join the team and be a part of the U18AA team. It would be beneficial that the U18 Competitive tryouts commence at the same time as other organizations to allow transfer of needed players in this division. It was a challenge with player injuries, suspensions and work commitments as there were only a few call-ups available this past season from U18C due to player restrictions during the pandemic.

In prior seasons there was a U18A team that could provide players for call-ups when there wasn't a game conflict, this now limits the availability of competitive players who are eligible to play on the U18AA team. Other associations such as Bedford and TASA had 2 A teams that supported the AA team ensuring there was always a full bench at their games.

Another challenge the U18AA team had this year was finding additional practice ice. With the tryouts being delayed and the timeliness of the team forming it left this team with very little opportunity to book a second practice. In the past the second ice session was purchased by the organization and billed to the team alleviating the stress of trying to find and secure additional ice for practices to help develop the team.

U18 AA

Here are the results of the U18 AA year – coached by non-parent coaches Pier-Luc Moreau, Ben McDow, and Jared McLean. The U18AA had a younger team this year and faced a more challenging season, the team had lost several returning third year players to High School Hockey teams.

Throughout the course of the regular season the team played hard and would only lose by a goal in most of the regular season games. At the end of the regular season the team played 24 games winning four, tying three and losing 17 finishing last out of 7 teams. The team stayed in the same position for CMHF Playoffs and were eliminated after their first game against Bedford and did not advance to the Championship games this past season. Unfortunately due to COV-ID the team only participated in one tournament this past season in PEI, where the team encountered a racial incident with a PEI team.

The coaches would like to acknowledge the hard work of the boys and a special acknowledgement of the third year players who concluded their minor hockey careers this season, Team Captain Ethan Bishop and Assistant Captains Duncan Sample, Ferris Young and Zachary Brown. There is also special note of recognition and thanks to Rylan Harrington for his affiliation to this team from U18C and supporting the team by making a difference at every game. Their leadership and experience proved invaluable to the team and the development of their younger teammates.

The coaches would also like to acknowledge the phenomenal parents for making this year happen. A special acknowledgment to Todd Bethune (Team Manager) along with Clint Delaney (Team Safety Representative) who provided support to the team throughout the year.