

Director U18 Recreation

Here is my report for the 2023-2024 hockey season.

We had 68 skaters and 5 goalies register with the Hawks to play U18C hockey this year.

We decided to split the players into 4 teams and that left a concern of what to do with the extra goalie. In the end we decided on the fairest approach for all and that was to have the 5th goalie play every team's 5th game. We developed his schedule very early on and it ran very smoothly. Thank you to the coaches for accepting this proposal and making it work.

Once again, we offered players the opportunity to "scrimmage" before the evaluation sessions. It was well received and the 20 players that attended enjoyed it. 2 coaches refereed the game.

Then we were able to hold four evaluation sessions which consisted of a 50 minute scrimmage. No drills, just drop the puck and play. This was very well received by the players.

Following the evaluations the 4 coaches and myself held a meeting to select teams based on friend requests and evaluation scores.

After the first round of 20 games 5 points separated the 4 Halifax teams in the standings.

2 Hawks teams made the final round with both losing in the semis.

Challenges

There were a number of instances across the whole U18C league of trash talking opponents and disrespecting referees. We tried on a number of occasions to address this, but with limited luck. Going forward I feel the coaches need to address this early and take action so it does not get out of hand.

The schedule was posted very late by the MMHL. Some teams only had a couple of days notice at the start of the regular season and playoffs.

Recommendations

It is recommended that U18C players have access to ice times at the same time or very shortly after competitive tryouts start.

Friend requests, regardless of how it affects balancing, needs to be taken seriously or kids will drop out. Too much time was spent addressing the balancing issue, when in the end it all worked out.

Several teams asked for some practice ice early in the season. I recommend 2 hours for each team be considered.

I heard that there were many hours where ice was not used, yet paid for by the Hawks. Perhaps a system or not can be circulated with free available ice.

I will be stepping down from this role in 2024. Thank you to the coaches, Halifax Hawks and the players for their support throughout.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank