

Halifax Hawks: Board Meeting - U7 Halifax Hawks March Update

Year-end On-Ice Recap

- Each of our 111 skates showed progress throughout the season. Liam Oxner continued to develop a program based on the needs of the skaters and ensured the skaters progressed in the areas of skating, stopping, stick-handling and having fun.
 - In 2023-24 Liam Oxner made it a priority to start each session with power skating. In addition, in February he included a 40min power starting session. Feedback from players and parents was positive.
- Each skater has an opportunity to try goaltending during the 2nd half of the year. This created excitement around the position.
- Our on-ice coaching volunteer #s were excellent throughout the season. I hosted an event for volunteers at Freemans last weekend with free pizza. It was a way to thank Liam and connect away from the rink and build our community while showing thanks to our sponsor.

Additional Program Activities:

- Jamborees: Halifax U7 participated in 4 Jamborees throughout the season including Brookfield, Bedford, Eastern Shore and Moosehead Event. We had approx. 50-60 participants per Jamboree. Our program presented well vs other associations. I am confident our skill development is helping our skaters succeed at U7.
- Moosehead Mini Games: Halifax U7 has participated in 5 Moosehead Games throughout the 2023-24 Season. This allowed all 2017's who wanted and were available to participate in the Mini Games to have done so.
- PD Day Campers are greatly appreciated and well attended by U7.
- Hawks Spring U7 Program is full and the extended duration is appreciated.

2024-25 Recommendations:

- Less Skaters per Sessions: 30 Max (5 Groups of 6)
 - Reason: Neutral Zone is too small for 2 Drills to be run successfully
 - Allow to use Neutral Zone for better drills. Skating, Passing.
- 4 Ice Sessions for U7 (Saturday 7-11)(Sunday AM or Sunday PM)
- Min. Monthly Power Skating Session 1X per Month
- Evaluation Process is fair and appropriate for U7. Continue with this process vs. doing it by Birth Year like some organizations.
- Introduce Goalies earlier in Season to give additional opportunity to try position
- Equipment Update
 - More pucks required to successfully run drills
 - More pylons required to successfully run drills
 - New lock required to protect equipment for U7.
 - U7 Mini Nets for use during some drills (especially with goalies involved)
 - 2024-25 Jersey Order – I would like to be involved in the process based on the above comments around # of Groups and # of Sessions
- Welcome to Hockey Session – would like to coordinate this with Technical Director and U9 Director and have an Open Session so that New to Hockey Parents can ask questions about Program, Equipment, Rules, Community
- Welcome to Coaching – would like to coordinate this with Technical Director and Liam Oxner to have an Open Session so that New Coaches can ask questions about expectations, goals and basics of coaching fundamentals such as skating
- Christmas U7 Event – should we look at a U7 Jamboree or 3-on-3 Event for U7 next holiday. The past two season we have travelled to Brookfield which is a long day for 4-6 year olds over the holidays. I understand Chebucto was looking to do an joint event and wondering if this is something we could action prior to the start of next season alongside Chebucto.

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