

U13C COORDINATOR YEAR REVIEW

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

For the 2023-2024 season we had five U13 C teams representing CMHA in the Fraser Valley North region. This was my first year in the coordinator role with CMHA.

The year started with the recruitment of our five head coaches. All of the coaches were great to work with and made for a smooth season. I am truly grateful for this group of coaches!

For the players and coaches, the year was full of highlights and of course, not without its challenges. On our five teams we had a range of hockey experience: We had some players that have been with CMHA since initiation and some players playing their very first year of hockey! Despite some of the challenges and troubleshooting at the beginning of the year, our five teams were well balanced, with many of our players improving through the course of the season.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Our U13C3 and U13C4 team both won league banners in their respective tiers. Our U13 C4 and C5 teams made it to the final Four and C5 won the playoff banner. Huge congratulations to these teams!

One of the greatest successes at this level of hockey is the development that happens over the course of the year. From the evaluation sessions to the end of the season, all players showed a margin of improvement in their skill development. It was amazing to see the leaps and bounds some of our brand-new hockey players made during the season; becoming more confident and skilled every time they stepped on the ice!

I would like to thank all the coaches, team officials and parents who volunteered their time to make this a fun and successful season!

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

In my role as a coordinator, it is my responsibility to manage the team creation. Last year, the policy around team creation was updated, and we did our best to follow the new rules to ensure equal and balanced team creation. At the beginning of the season, we had our evaluations, and then a draft with all coaches, development coordinator, and division coordinator involved in the drafting process. There were a few setbacks early in the draft as the drafted teams were shared prior to being finalized which resulted in a parent asking for a trade which unbalanced the teams at that point. This is unfortunate, and not part of the process, and

we have learned that this part of the process needs to be handled differently. We are all trying our best to be transparent in the process and want families to understand the process and decision making that goes into creating balanced and fair teams.

Here's what we did this year:

- We started with having the players split into four groups to be evaluated with two skills sessions and then going into scrimmages.
- When players were released from rep tryouts, I had to place them into these groupings as we went.
- As Board members and hockey parents ourselves, we understand players wanting to play with their friends. I tried my best to accommodate as many requests as I could with also respecting the need to have balanced teams. This was a challenging task with *so many* requests for friends also coupled with limited availability for days/times of week. It is so important that families put in their requests ahead of evaluations in order to create the teams.
- After our drafting process I set up balancing games between the teams to determine if any movement was needed. I feel this is an important part in determining fair and balanced teams.
- A big challenge we faced during the balancing games, was the attendance of players. There were a few players who missed all balancing games. Moving forward, I would recommend that the coaches convey the importance and value of these balancing games to their players and that **all** players need to attend these games.
- After balancing games were completed, we reviewed the teams once more with the coaches and ensured all were in agreement with their rosters. This was the best opportunity to create balanced teams in hopes that all players would have a successful season with development and fun in mind!

I do hope this helps provide clarity, and some understanding about our process. Our house players make up the biggest percentage of our players in CMHA and their development, enjoyment and love for the game will continue to be amongst the highest of priorities!

Thank you to everyone for a great hockey season!

Kind Regards,

Tiffany Simms

U13 C Coordinator