



## MHMHA Female (City) Year End Director Report 2020-2021 Season



MHMHA provides the opportunity for females in the U7 to U11 age groups to join an all-female team that plays in the City league in their respective division. The 2020/2021 season saw a total of 93 females registered to play hockey. This includes 63 females registered to play on a Wildcats team, and the remaining 30 females played on various co-ed teams.

### U7 Division

- 13 females played for the Wildcats in the U7 division (one team)
  - Previous season comparison – 15 players
- 14 females played co-ed
  - Previous season comparison – 16 players

### U9 Division

- 25 females played for the Wildcats in the U9 division (one team)
  - Previous season comparison – 15 players
- 7 females played co-ed
  - Previous season comparison – 9 players

### U11 Division

- 25 females played for the Wildcats in the U11 division (two teams) – this includes 6 overage players (U13)
  - Previous season comparison – 25 players
- 5 females played co-ed
  - Previous season comparison – 2 players

### U13 Division

- 6 females played as overage players for the Wildcats in the U11 division (not enough interest in U13 age group for form a Wildcats City league team – two U13 Wildcat travel teams)
- 4 females played co-ed
  - Previous season comparison – 2 players

### 2020-2021 Season Summary

- Registration numbers continue to be steady among the younger age groups
- For the most part, we were able to easily fill coaching spots on most teams
  - Fortunate to have a few female coaches participate this season
- COVID restrictions severely impacted development opportunities for all players
  - Plans were in the works to offer additional development ice times for female players, but put on hold due to varying COVID restrictions



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A majority of players chose to continue with their team through February once COVID restrictions were relaxed.

- Number of players on U9 Wildcats team was challenging
  - With half-ice system in place, it was difficult to have that many players on a half-ice surface, coaches did well to accommodate such a large group
  - Too many players for one team but not enough to create two teams to effectively operate game play within the half-ice system
  - Difficulty filling coaching spots for one team, adding a second team would have created a coaching shortage
- We had only two female players interested in playing U11 Rep (RMFHL) – no travel team was offered in the U11 age group

### **2021-2022 Season Look Ahead**

- We are lacking interest in the U11 division for players who want to play competitive travel hockey – look into ways to grow female interest in the competitive stream
  - We have made great progress in recent years in Medicine Hat and surrounding areas to provide competitive hockey for the girls as they get older, and it takes interest and development at the grass roots level to continue to feed into these programs
  - Generate interest at the younger age groups to play competitive female hockey
- Arrange ice times to offer additional development opportunities throughout the season for female players across the U7-U11 divisions
  - This will be built to provide challenging, fast-paced practices to give the girls an opportunity learn new skills outside of their comfort zone
  - Bring in older female players (SAHA players, U13/U15 players) to assist with practices and provide mentorship to the young girls
- Look to recruit more female coaches for either full-time positions within a coaching group or part-time attendance at practices/games to provide female mentorship to the young girls
- Looking forward to a great 2021/22 season with (hopefully) no restrictions in place and getting these kids back on the ice!