

MHMHA – U11 Division – Directors Report 2020/2021

Director: Dan Kitching

LEAGUES/PLAYERS/COACHES

CAHL

Two Tier 1 – CAHL travel teams competed in the Atom Division this past season. Each team consisted of 15 skaters and 2 goaltenders.

Tryouts took place from September 5th to 20th, consisting of 4 conditioning skates, 2 skills sessions and 3 evaluation games.

A total of 69 skaters and 7 goalies were registered to try-out. Of the total 76 players, 10 were from our zone (6 Redcliff and 4 Irvine).

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we were forced to cut the group down to under 50 after our 2 skill sessions to abide by the COHORT rules that were in effect. We realize this was not an ideal situation and we are hoping we can operate under normal circumstances next season.

This was the first year in which we had two teams compete in the Tier 1 division. Unfortunately, the teams did not get far into the season before being shut down.

U11 “A” – CITY LEAGUE

We had 6 teams compete.

Tryouts took place from September 19th to 27th, consisting of 2 conditioning skates and 2 skills sessions.

Teams were drafted by Coaches using a snake draft format at a Director lead meeting. Season schedule consisted of 2 practices and 1 game per week (most of the time). The schedule was affected from time to time at the start of the season due to a shortage of ice from the city of Medicine Hat.

U11 “B” – CITY LEAGUE

We had 6 teams compete, consisting of 3 MHMHA teams, 2 MHMHA all female teams, and 1 team from Redcliff (which included 5 kids from MH).

Tryouts took place from September 26th to October 4th, consisting of 2 conditioning skates and 2 skills sessions.

Teams were picked by the Director, which included discussions with coaches and took into consideration the coach and parent player requests. Season schedule consisted of 2 practices and 1 game per week (most of the time). The schedule was affected from time to time at the start of the season due to shortage of ice from the city of Medicine Hat.

The evaluation process was new this year for all divisions. We had independent evaluators provide scores on the kids based on 5 main categories (forward skating, backwards skating, shooting, stickhandling – puck control and work ethic). Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, majority of the evaluations were based on skill sessions and not game play. We realize this was not an ideal situation and are optimistic we will be able to return to normal next season.

PLAYER/COACH DEVELOPMENT

All coaches were certified as per Hockey Alberta/Canada guidelines.

Nola Besplug – MHMAHA Director, created a new and improved Goaltending Clinic that took place throughout the year, with the focus on building/growing our goaltenders across all divisions.

Thank you to all the coaches and volunteers for their extra efforts this past year working with the kids and the extra focus that was required on skill development (due to government restrictions).

OVERALL

We feel this year's U11 Division was as successful as it could have been, despite the shortened season.

Unfortunately, due to COVID no tournaments were held across all Divisions.

Thank you to all the Coaches, Parents and Volunteers for all the feedback throughout the year. The Association is always looking for ways to improve and it has not possible without your feedback.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Rink next year!