

2021-2022--Director: U6-9

We kicked off the U6-9 season with 200 players ages 5-8, taking to the ice. During the first 2 weeks these players participated in a brand new Hockey Canada Pathway program. This program provided the framework for age appropriate development guidelines and helped create balanced teams by evaluating the skill level of each player through a set amount of practices & development ice times. Once placed on a team, The Hockey Canada Pathway served as the foundation upon which the entire hockey experience is built, allowing kids to get the “right start” in the game.

U6: 2 teams

U7: 3 teams

U8: 3 teams

U9: 4 teams

U6 & U7 players took part in the Jr. Hawks program which was led by Coach Chris Price. The program was built to create fun and positive first steps to hockey skill development for U6 & U7 players. The emphasis of the program is placed on having players develop their skills with similarly skilled players at a pace dictated by each player's own personal achievements. This allows players to focus on having fun and learning skills in a graduated program as per the Hockey Canada curriculum and set practice plans so that they can learn and develop all the skills necessary to move on to U8. As players worked to develop their skills, every six weeks were awarded a coloured puck for their achievements. At the end of each six weeks, those achievements were celebrated with an on ice party with music, fun games and prizes.

Once our U7-9 teams were declared, players quickly settled onto their teams while participating in some fun events over the season such as playing scrimmages during Vancouver Canucks and Abbotsford Canucks intermissions, Zamboni rides during the Chilliwack Chiefs games, Christmas skates with music and prizes.

Sadly, our annual U6-9 Christmas tournament was canceled due to the PHO at that time, however teams were able to participate in some fun home exhibition games during the holidays which put smiles on the faces of our youngest hockey players. A big thank you to Karey Mann for taking on the role as our U6-9 Tournament Chair. Karey's countless hours and hard work behind the scenes was much appreciated. In February, once teams were able to resume participation in tournaments, all U7-9 teams excitedly played in at least one away tournament in various neighboring associations and boy did they have fun!

After two years, we were happy to once again host our volunteer appreciation awards and dinner in person where we honored and thanked the tireless efforts of our volunteers. I was very honored to have the opportunity to present the 2021-2022 U6-9 head coach and assistant coach of the year awards to two very deserving recipients.

A big congratulations to:

***Kevin Witmer* of U9 C3 as the U6-9 Head Coach of the Year**

***Kevin Enns* of U9 C2 as the U6-9 Assistant Coach of the Year**

I would like to personally thank all of our head coaches, assistant coaches, HCSP and managers for all their hard work and dedication on and off the ice. I greatly appreciate your patience during the ebbs and flows of the season. Our programs would not have been successful without your efforts and support.

I also want to thank Amanda Kandler, our U6-9 coordinator for all the help and dedication to ensuring our a successful season.

To all the families in the U6-9 divisions, thank you! It was a pleasure getting to work with you and I look forward to seeing you next season around the rink!

Sincerely,
Michelle Mitchell
U6-9 Director