

## 2022-2023--Director: U6-7

We kicked off the U6-7 season with 85 players ages 5-7 taking to the ice. During the first 2 weeks these players participated in the 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

U6 & U7 players took part in the Jr. Hawks program which was led by Coach Travis Veldhoen. 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 U7 & 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 U6-7 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, taking part in the Timbits Jamboree in both Langley and Abbotsford, playing games in tournaments, as well as Christmas and year end celebrations.

We were so happy to continue with our U6-8 Christmas tournament this season. We welcomed teams from Langley, Chilliwack and Hope. Teams also played in at least one away tournament and boy did they have fun!

We were happy to once again host our volunteer appreciation awards and dinner, where we honored and thanked the tireless efforts of our volunteers.

A big congratulations to:

**Jarod Rempel** of our U6 division for being awarded the U6-9 Assistant Coach of the Year award.

After 3 years, we once again hosted the NHL First Shift program, where we welcomed 30 brand new hockey players. They were fitted for their brand new hockey gear and were provided with 6 on ice sessions with coaches and U15 teams from our association leading the program. A big thank you to Dustin McAuley and Andrew Mitchell for taking the lead and providing our new hockey players with tons of fun and new skill.

As I say goodbye and move on from the board, I'd like to thank all my fellow board members for all your support over the last six years. It has been a pleasure serving alongside you. I've thoroughly enjoyed serving on the board and meeting and welcoming new hockey families to our association.

I would like to personally thank all of our team officials that I've had the pleasure of working with over the last 6 years. Thank you for all their hard work and dedication on and off the ice. I greatly appreciate your dedication to making a difference in our young hockey players' lives. Our programs would not have been successful without your efforts and support.

And to my family, thank you for all your endless amounts of support and encouragement.

I look forward to seeing everyone around the rink again soon!

Sincerely,  
Michelle Mitchell  
U6-9 Director