

Mount Pearl Blades U7 Program – 2020/2021
Year-end Report Dawn Walsh, MPMHA U7 Program Director 2020/20201



Season Highlights

▪ This season the Mount Pearl Blades U7 Program started on October 24th, 2020. After a brief shut down in February/March, we were able to resume our season safely and finish our year!

* Registration numbers for U7 Division - Total Registered: 100

* Number of Teams/Groups

To start the season we formed 4 groups to keep the numbers of players, coaches and spectators on the ice and within the building to the requirement within the COVID restrictions.

- Group 1: Coyotes (24)
- Group 2: Stars (24)
- Group 3: Kings (26)
- Group 4: Jets (26)

Following the February shut down, we split these groups further to make a 5th group to comply with a lower number of people allowed within the arena due to COVID restrictions. The fifth group, the Lightning, allowed each of our groups to have between 18 and 22 children. A big thank you to coaches that stepped up to take on the head coach positions for this group at the end of the year, Jordan Stagg & Steve Pearson

* League/Division review

The season went fairly well. With the later start and division of weeks we attempted to split the schedule fairly, which meant more changes to the schedule than in previous years. This is something we are hoping to improve on for next year with one shift in the schedule for teams. In light of not having tournaments this year, our coaches implemented mini games throughout the season which gave the children a chance to wear the goalie gear and play games in their Sunday skates. The children enjoyed their final practice at Glacier 1 and were excited to be able to skate through the puck (Thanks to Ron Power for fixing our puck this year so it was able to be used!). At the end of the year, the players received a medal and mini stick provided by Tim Horton's.

50 children will be moving to U9 next year (Ron Power organized certificates for graduating players this year, thanks Ron!)

* Division Personnel review

Division coordinators: Tanna Clarke, Lori Price, Leslie Blundon, Sara Evans, Jennifer MacIntyre, who were all fantastic. A gigantic thanks for all their help, this season could NOT have run smoothly without our coordinators. They were extremely dedicated to be at each practice to screen and ensure that the check ins and exits ran extremely smooth all year long!

They also organized and supplied treats and loot bags for the children at Christmas time and year end! I can't thank you all enough for the work you've put in this year!

Head Coaches: Ron Power, Adam Pennell, Andrew Young, Kirk Simms, Jordan Stagg and Steve Pearson & our many fabulous assistant coaches. A theme we heard all year was how amazing, dedicated and experienced our coaches are. We were very fortunate this year with all of our coaches, in addition to Trevor Budgell. Thanks to all the work our coaches put into organizing practice plans and coordinating everyone on the ice while following our guidelines in our return to play plan this year. It certainly was a challenge to keep the younger children distanced and moving but you guys did an amazing job!

Trevor B. reported coach engagement as positive this year. Our coaches were willing to ask questions and were open to Trevor's involvement and suggestions on the ice. Trevor had many opportunities to observe U7 and made lots of suggestions, which were well received. We did make some changes in drills on the ice to bring "edge work" into play as opposed to straight skating. Trevor also reported that coach support was great; normally we had lots of bodies on the ice, which led to better engagement with the kids. We were able to move coaches between groups to ensure a good balance amongst all the groups early in the year. A big thank you to Trevor for all his help on the ice this year!

* Suggestions and Improvements for Next Season

- Schedule: One shift of scheduled times halfway through the season.
- Program Development: Hoping restrictions will lift for the Fall to allow early skaters to register for continued program development
- Coach Development: Trevor hopes to assist in improving the technical ability of coaches through education, video assistance and meetings. He would like to offer more support with regards to the basic skills.
- Divisions 2021-22: Trevor will help us to form groups and assign coaches.
- Graduating Players: Next year we also hope to continue to strengthen the programs for skaters preparing for U9.

* Conclusion

Overall, we feel this season went fairly well! A great big thank you to all coaches, parents and players for a successful 2020/2021 season! We know it was a rocky end with ice times being scattered but we really thank all of you for helping get the children back on the ice to finish out their season. We look forward to seeing you all back in the Fall!!

Dawn Walsh
MPMHA U7 Program Director

Mount Pearl Blades U9: 2020-2021 Year End Report

Shannon Smith (Director - U9)

Season Highlights

- This year brought many changes to our U9 program due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions in place and following our back to play plan.
- We decided to move to a major/minor development system to ensure players were able to play within our own association in a two line system and have the best experience with the most development possible. This was mostly divided by age of the players (2012 - major/2013 - minor) with a few exceptions. 2012 players new to hockey were moved to the minor division to allow them a better environment to develop their skills and these players truly excelled here by the end of the season. Several 2013 players moved up to the major division and had a great year as well, although we tried to limit as much as possible due to a greater number of older players registered and needing the spaces in that division.
- We were only able to play within our own organization but with four teams per division they were able to have a good game playing experience.
- Our technical director Trevor Budgell spent a lot of time with our program and a huge thanks goes out to him for all the time he put in developing our players as well as coaches.
- Players were eager to help out with events this year such as the "Hockey with Heart" event to collect donations for local food banks and collecting toys for Christmas.

Registration Numbers

- This year we had 97 players registered for U9.
- Due to Covid-19 restrictions for numbers on ice and bench we had 8 two-line teams (4 major/4minor) of 12 players each (1 team had 13).

League/Division Review

- The 2-line system of play was a great benefit to developing players allowing a maximum amount of ice time, however, offered its own challenges when teams had 12 players (11+1), 6 players on one shift was not ideal in the major division playing half ice.
- The major/minor system offered newer and developing players a great experience allowing appropriate practice drills at the right skill level and more puck time during gameplay. It also allowed our strongest players the opportunity to play in a group with a tighter skill set where they could both improve skills and be offered more challenging gameplay.
- There were only 4 designated goalies in U9. Goalie quick change equipment was a great help. There was also a goalie coach present each week for practice allowing players to try out the position which was a great benefit.
- Inter-association play and tournaments were unfortunately not approved this year.

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- Due to a shutdown for a portion of this year we were unable to offer a transition program for players moving to U11 next year. An effort was made to allow 2012 players in minor an opportunity to have some experience with the major division starting in February where they moved up to fill in gaps to allow this division to play 4vs4 on half ice. This was well received and participating players were quite successful.
- Our technical director was a fantastic resource helping focus on key developmental skills and following the HNL/Hockey Canada Guides to Play/Pathways for U9.

Division Personnel

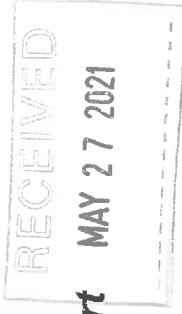
- We had an excellent group of dedicated Volunteers this year, many thanks to all!!
- Head coaches Scott Riggs, Andrew Morrissey, Adam Pennel, Jarred Thomas, Carl Penny, Shannon Warren, Ken Shaw, Adam Smith/Karl St. Croix (shared)
 - Coaches were very engaged, worked extremely well with each other and were eager to learn. Much positive feedback was given here.
- Team managers Amanda Evans, Shawn Snook, Tanna Clark, Jennifer Toope, Blaire Patey, Krista Tucker, Jackie Welsh, Ashlee St. Croix/Melissa Aiello (shared) went over and above this year and ensured the season went as smoothly as possible.
- Division coordinators would be recommended as well in a regular year for tournament and event planning as well as initial set-up. Thanks to Denise Riggs for helping out here whenever she was needed!

Recommendations

- Recommend continuing major/minor system of grouping teams.
- Goalie recruitment heading into U11 will need to be a focus. For U9 games, implementing a scheduled goalie system may help for teams without a designated goalie.
- Setting a scheduled rotation of practice/game times so that teams are not stuck in an undesirable timeslot.
- This year we did not use official referees for games. Our technical director and coaches filled the role which resulted in better guidance to our players on ice learning the rules of the game and more calls resulting in safer gameplay. Recommend continuing with this next season.
- Recommended to bring in unbiased evaluation personnel to assist with splitting divisions if necessary.
- If we resume with a 3-line format it is recommended to use half ice during games as a development zone, with planned, supervised drills.

Once again a HUGE Thank You to players, parents, and all Volunteers for a successful and enjoyable season of hockey during a complicated time!! Go Blades!

Shannon Smith, MPMHA U9 Director



2020/21 MPMHA U11 and U13 Director's Report

U11

The 2020/21 hockey season had 66 players registered in the U11 house league and six teams were formed.

MPMHA participated in the Interlocking House League (IHL) again this season allowing our teams to compete with other Associations including Bell Island, Southern Shore and the Goulds.

MPMHA was unable to host a tournament this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Our new technical director, Trevor Budgell was very involved this season. He worked with teams and coaches on and off the ice. He was present at many games/practices and was able to give feedback on the season. I feel player and coach development was improved this year and Trevor was an asset to our association.

We had a 6 week shut down due to covid, and when we returned we managed to get in some ice time to finish our season. We didn't have an IHL year end tournament due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we did have an in-house playoffs with our 6 Mt. Pearl teams. It went really well and a big Congratulations to The AtoMc Jets on their gold medal win.

Recommendations for improvement:

- Continue to host our tournament when the ice time is available.
- Continue the goalie training program.
- Continue the services of our new Technical Director, Trevor Budgell.
- We need to put a big focus on coach development and training. Hopefully next year we can have more in person meetings to help coaches use the tools for proper player development.
- Consider not joining the IHL next year, this will be discussed further at the board level.

U13

The 2020/21 hockey season had approximately 73 players registered in Pee Wee house league and 6 teams were formed.

MPMHA participated in the Interlocking House League (IHL) again this season allowing our teams to compete with other Associations including the Goulds, Southern Shore and Avalon.

MPMHA was unable to host a tournament this year due to Covid restrictions.

Our new technical director, Trevor Budgell was very involved this season. He worked with teams and coaches on and off the ice. He was present at many games/practices and was able to give feedback on the season. I feel player and coach development was improved this year and Trevor was an asset to our association.

We had a 6 week shut down and when we returned we managed to get in some ice time. We didn't have an IHL year end tournament due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we did have an in- house playoffs with our 6 Mt. Pearl teams. It went really well and a big Congratulations to A&W on their gold medal win.

Recommendations for improvement:

- Continue to review our Pee Wee House Program. Continue to explore options to ensure development and enjoyment of the game by players at all skill levels.
- Continue the services of our new Technical director, Trevor Budgell.
- Continue the goalie training program.
- We need to put a big focus on coach development and training. (this is even more important in U13) Hopefully next year we can have more in person meetings to help coaches use the tools for proper player development.
- Consider not joining the IHL next year, this will be discussed further at the board level.

Many thanks to all of the coaches, parent reps and coordinators for a great season. It was my pleasure to be a part of the MPMHA board and I look forward to 2021/22.

Tracy Young
U11/U13 Director
MPMHA 2020/21

2020-2021 MPMHA U15/U18 HOUSE LEAGUE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The 2020-2021 Hockey Season was another roller coaster of a season like the previous one. Covid 19 pandemic delayed our season with the different levels of return to play and then shut down hockey for the second year in a row on Feb 12 for another two months due to the variants that made its way to the city.

U15

Registration for U15 was...

Justin Spurrell Remax 13 players plus one goalie

Sportscraft 13 players plus one goalie

The Bigs 12 players plus two goalies

NOTE: 31 players graduated from U15 this season

Unlike last year this year we managed to get 3 teams in our U15 House League Division and they were sponsored by Sportscraft, The Bigs & Justin Spurrell Remax. These three teams competed in the IHL and the Bantam Division of MPMHA and played each other all year. Instead of practices each Saturday throughout the season we tried to make it like our Midget House Division once again where there were no practices and games only. This went well as the days we did have a practice in the beginning of the season we didn't have great numbers attending. From listening to the players they liked the fact we played a game every week instead of practice. If we had one more team it would have made it that much better for all involved. Over all I think the season went well despite the many challenges we had with no dressing rooms, 30 minute cleaning sessions in between sessions, kids only allowed to show up 10 minutes before game time fully dressed, etc.

IHL Results (as of time the league got shut down) 8 Team League

4th Place – MTP Justin Spurrell Remax – 11 GP – 5W, 5L, 1T, 37GF, 30GA – 11 Points

6th Place – MTP The Bigs – 10 GP – 4W, 5L, 1T, 33GF, 35GA – 9 Points

7th Place – MTP Sportscraft – 10 GP – 1W, 5L, 4T, 25GF, 37GA – 6 Points

Unfortunately this year we didn't get to host what would have been the 4th Annual Steve Good Memorial Tournament but we did have a playoff round for our three teams. These teams played off for the Steve Good Trophy in a double round robin tournament with a semifinal game between the 2nd place team and the 3rd place team. The 1st place team received a bye to the final game. Bigs ended up in second place and played third place Sportscraft in the Semi Finals. After being down in the game 5-1, Sportscraft made a comeback and tied the game 5-5 forcing a five minute overtime. In overtime Sportscraft took a penalty and made it 4 on 3 power play for The Bigs. Sportscraft killed off the penalty and then we ended up playing 3 on 3 hockey again. Then the excitement hits with 29 seconds remaining in OT Sportscraft scores to win the game 6-5 and upset 2nd place The Bigs. In the final game 1st place Justin Spurrell Remax won the game 5-1 and was awarded the Steve Good Trophy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - it is highly recommend that MPMHA consider the following for next season...

1. Try to increase our divisional numbers to get to 4 teams. This way we can avoid playing in the IHL and have our own house league.
2. Create a House League U15 Division that has standings, weekly award winners, updates website and Instagram results. Also add a few awards for the Year End to keep kids engaged.
3. Keep teams with 12-13 players only.
4. Avoid playing in the IHL as this is where we see all the suspensions and trouble coming from. Not only that 9-10 kids and parents don't want to travel to the Southern Shore or Jack Byrne and cold, wet, stormy winter days/nights.



5. Based on the situation at the start of the year I think it is very important that we consider our coaches that we select. We need to do a better job of screening and asking questions of them. With the coaching situation to start the season, I think we need to do better for our directors. We had a coach who resigned then asked for the position back and agreed to the changes we made only to send an email to all the parents of his team lambasting Kim, Mike and Chad. (See mins for more info).

U18

Registration for U18 was...

Little Caesars 14 players plus two goalies

UCW 14 players plus one goalie

Windsor Coombs 14 players plus one goalie

Subway 14 players plus one goalie

Marks 15 players plus one goalie

NOTE: 24 players graduated from Minor Hockey this season.

There were 5 teams in our Midget House League Division and they were sponsored by Little Caesars, Windsor Coombs, Subway, Marks Work Warehouse and Universal Corporate Wear. These five teams competed in our own U18 House League Division. We had our regular Wednesday night time slot again this year with the Sunday slot from the IHL being added for this season. The Wednesday/Sunday night hockey went extremely well and it seems that the kids enjoyed the season more than most other seasons when we played in the IHL.

There was some discussion amongst parents on changing the teams early on in the season. I made it clear we would look at it after we played each team a couple of times. In early December there were a few trades made to try to even out the teams. PLEASE NOTE: It is very important in midget to have your better players attend games as they are missed when not in the lineup. This was the case with Windsor Coombs as they were missing key players early on in the season and it made it difficult for them to compete.

We ended up with each team playing approximately 21-23 games each before we were shut down in early Feb. Standings at that point were...

1st Place – Universal Corporate Wear – 21 GP – 17W, 2L, 2T, – 36 Points

2nd Place – Marks – 21 GP – 10W, 9L, 2T, – 22 Points

3rd Place – Subway – 23GP – 8W, 13L, 2T, – 18 Points

4th Place – Little Caesars – 22 GP – 7W, 12L, 3T, – 17 Points

5th Place – Windsor Coombs – 22 GP – 6W, 15L, 1T, – 13 Points

As you can see UCW played extremely well all year but were also the team to have the best attendance and this was a contributing factor to their great season. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE GOOD ATTENDANCE IN U18 AS ONE PLAYER CAN CONTROL A GAME AT THIS AGE.

Once we returned from the shutdown in Feb we played a double round robin with the top team advancing directly to the championship game.

Results of the Round Robin were...

Universal Corporate Wear 7-1

Marks 5-2

Subway 3-4

Little Caesars 2-5

Windsor Coombs 1-5

So Universal Corporate Wear ended up in 1st place and got the bye to the final game. Then in Quarter Final # 1 we had Marks (2nd place) vs Windsor Coombs (5th place) followed by Quarter Final # 2 Subway (3rd place) vs Little Caesars (4th place). In QF # 1, Marks had to come from behind against the hard working Windsor Coombs Express all game only to rally and tie the game 3-3 with the goalie pulled for the extra attacker. Marks scored with 20 seconds left in the game to get the tie and send the game to 5 minute overtime period. In OT Marks had a penalty shot with goalie well out of the net only to miss and extend the game a little further. Only seconds later Marks received a penalty and the situation changed to 4 on 3 for Windsor Coombs. Windsor Coombs scored the power play goal with 1:48 left in the game to send them into the semifinals. In QF # 2, again another exciting game as both teams went back and forth the entire game. Little Caesars took an early lead only to have Subway come back late in the game to tie things at 1-1. Subway took a penalty with no time left on the clock in regulation which meant OT started with 4 on 3 for Little Caesars. The 5 minute overtime was short lived as Little Caesars scored with under a minute gone into OT to get the 2-1 win. In the Semi Finals we saw Windsor Coombs vs Little Caesars. Windsor Coombs didn't have the same game as the previous night against Marks as they came up empty with a 3-1 loss to Little Caesars. Little Caesars scored one into an empty net for the win. Another great game going right down to the wire.

So we have 4th place Little Caesars playing 1st place Universal Corporate Wear in the final. Little Caesars had control of most of the game as both teams went back and forth in the action. Little Caesars went up 2-0 only to have UCW come from behind to tie the game 2-2 with 10.2 seconds remaining in the game. Little Caesars had a penalty and UCW pulled their goalie with 1:38 remaining in the game only to score and tie things up. Both teams played very well in OT and with 1:30 left on the clock UCW got a goal from 3rd year player Jayden Murrin to capture the Phonse Cup. It was a great play off by all teams as they all battled hard to play for the Phonse Cup. With the sad news on Tony this year it was great to have his family in attendance to present the trophy and even more important to have Tony watch the game on line as Trevor Budgell provided the play by play for the Championship Game.

I have to say overall despite all the downfalls that we faced we had a very good season. It is unfortunate for our graduating players to have to end their Minor Hockey careers this way but we made the best of it and got to play for the Phonse Cup unlike the previous season.

Challenges that we continue to face are...

Playing the in the IHL continues to be a major hurdle. Most parents don't want to be going to Bell Island, Southern Shore, Gould's, Torbay to play hockey. It is also in these locations where we receive most of our suspensions happening. I have expressed my concerns over this numerous times as a coach (as have many other coaches currently coaching and before me) and board members and we need to really look at this one closer. We have showed that we can have a successful season of playing Mount Pearl Minor Hockey with our own House League in U15/U18 Divisions.

As I did last year I suggest we look at playing our own league for U15 & U18. We should create a league with some cool functions such as Website, Social Media Post (i.e. Instagram), weekly interviews on the social media platform we use, Team Standings, Player Stats, Player of the Games, Player of the Month, Year End Awards like the NHL with Top Defense Man, Top Goalie, MVP, etc. As I suggested last year we could even have a draft like they do in the NHL to pick each team. We could do it

by age and the caliber of players be selected in a way so there is no one hurt by being picked first or last. It would end up that the best players would be picked last.

As we did this year given the pandemic, I suggest what when picking teams next season we do away with our policy of letting kids play with their best friend. Unfortunately every kid request is linked to a bunch of kids playing on the same team and it DOESN'T work.

Chad Hart

MPMHA U15/U18 Director

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Ways and Means Year-End Report 2020-2021

In a season with many moving pieces, I would like to extend a thank you to the corporate community for their continued support this season. With changes to team sizes, and the unexpected nature of the season, we relied on many corporate sponsors from the past in coming up with enough jerseys in a quick period of time to get the season up and running.

Due to the unexpected nature of the season, the board of directors decided to forego sponsorship fees and contractual obligations for this year, and roll over the contracts to next season. As such, for the 2021-2022 season, we will have 2 sponsor contracts expiring in our house league divisions. I am hopeful that we will be able to retain our valued corporate sponsors in these divisions, however please encourage any local businesses who wish to sponsor a team or event to reach out the office.

My only recommendation to the Board of Directors would be to assess, as soon as possible, what the next season would potentially look like with regards to number of players per team. Although this is likely very difficult due to the nature of Covid-19, if smaller team sizes are anticipated again for next season, some work could be done over the summer to look at new jerseys and sponsors for each division.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my position as Director of Ways and Means. Our Association has over the years built many community and corporate relations and I look forward to expanding our community partnerships and sponsorship programs for the 2021-2022 season.

Sincerely,
Michelle Sheppard
Director, Ways and Means, MPMHA