



Executive Summary

This season marked another important step forward in the continued growth and development of our players, coaches, and overall hockey programming. Through a strong focus on skill development, coach education, player experience, and long-term athlete development principles, our association continued to build a positive and competitive environment for our players and volunteers

Our development model focused on:

- Improving individual player skill development
- Enhancing practice quality and structure
- Supporting and mentoring volunteer coaches
- Creating consistent age-specific development standards
- Increasing player confidence, hockey IQ, and enjoyment of the game
- Promoting sportsmanship, teamwork, and character development

Throughout the season, we saw positive growth across all divisions, from Initiation/U7 through competitive levels. The commitment from coaches, volunteers, players, and families played a major role in the success of our development initiatives.



Player Development Overview

Development Philosophy

Our player development philosophy continues to center around providing age-appropriate training in a fun, challenging, and positive environment. The goal is to help players maximize their potential while fostering a lifelong love for hockey.

Key development principles included:

- Skill repetition through high-tempo practices
- Small-area games (**need more**) and competitive skill stations
- Puck touches and decision-making opportunities
- Increased focus on skating mechanics and edge work
- Age-specific progression models
- Building confidence and creativity with the puck
- Teaching teamwork, accountability, and sportsmanship



On-Ice Development Initiatives

U7 / Initiation Program

The U7 program continued to emphasize fun, engagement, and foundational skill development.

Key focus areas included:

- Basic skating fundamentals
- Balance and edge control
- Puck handling and passing introduction
- Station-based practice environments
- Small-area games
- Fun and active participation

Successes this season:

- Strong player participation and enthusiasm
 - Increased confidence and puck control among players
 - Excellent volunteer coach engagement
 - Positive feedback from families regarding development structure
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U9 Development

The U9 program focused on continued skating progression, puck skills, and introductory team concepts.

Development priorities included:

- Forward and backward skating efficiency
- Passing and receiving fundamentals
- Shooting mechanics
- Small-area decision-making



- Introduction to positioning and hockey concepts
- Continued emphasis on fun and competitiveness
- Private Hockey is a concern with player and coach attendance

Highlights:

- Improved practice pace and station efficiency
 - Strong player growth throughout the season
 - Increased confidence in game situations
 - Strong tournament participation
 - Coach Engagement (Especially @ INT & DEV)
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U11 C / COMP Development

The U11 level focused on advancing individual skills while introducing more structured team play concepts.

Development priorities:

- Skating speed and agility
- Puck protection and puck support
- Transition play
- Individual offensive and defensive habits
- Hockey IQ and decision-making
- Practice competitiveness and accountability

Highlights:

- Increased player engagement during practices
- Better understanding of team systems and support concepts
- Noticeable growth in skating pace and skill execution
- Continued improvement in practice attendance and commitment
- All U11 teams were competitive



U13/U15/U18 C / COMP Development

At the older age groups, development continued to focus on advanced individual skills, game awareness, and preparing athletes for higher levels of competition.

Development priorities included:

- Advanced skating and edge work
- Game pace and decision-making
- Position-specific concepts
- Special teams awareness
- Compete level and consistency
- Leadership and accountability
- Strengthening team culture and communication

Highlights:

- Increased competitiveness across U13 & U18
- U15 Struggled but ended strong
- Strong player commitment and attendance at U13
- Improved game management and hockey IQ
- Positive player leadership growth
- Continued advancement opportunities for players

Skills Development Sessions

Throughout the season, additional development opportunities were provided to supplement team practices.

These included:

- Power skating sessions
- Position-specific training
- Shooting and scoring clinics
- Puck skills development



- Small-area game sessions
- Goaltending support and development
- Spring and summer development planning

The additional skill sessions allowed players to receive more repetitions, individualized feedback, and focused development opportunities outside regular team practices

Coach Development Overview

Coach Support & Education

Coach development remains a critical component of building a successful and sustainable minor hockey program.

This season, emphasis was placed on:

- Supporting volunteer coaches
- Providing practice planning resources (mostly but not limited to U9 / U7)
- Improving communication and mentorship
- Encouraging positive coaching environments
- Aligning coaching methods with Hockey Canada development principles

Coaching Initiatives

Practice Planning Support

Coaches were helped with:

- Practice templates and station ideas (mostly but not limited to U7 / U9)
- Skill progression drills
- Age-appropriate practice structures
- Small-area game concepts (**area to improve**)
- Seasonal development priorities

This helped create more organized, efficient, and high-tempo practices across all divisions.



Coach Mentorship

Ongoing mentorship and communication with coaches focused on:

- Practice efficiency
- Communication with players and parents
- Bench management
- Creating positive team culture
- Player confidence and development
- Managing player motivation and accountability

The goal was to support coaches in both technical hockey instruction and overall leadership development.

Positive Coaching Environment

A priority this season was ensuring players experienced a positive and supportive environment.

Key areas emphasized included:

- Respect for players, officials, and opponents
- Encouragement-based coaching
- Constructive feedback
- Building confidence through development
- Ensuring players felt valued and included
- Promoting teamwork and sportsmanship

The association continues to recognize that player retention and enjoyment are directly connected to the environment created by coaches and team staff.



JR Coaches Program

The Jr Coaches Program continues to be an important part of player and coach development within Chebucto Minor Hockey. The program provides young athletes with leadership opportunities while also supporting the growth and development of our younger players.

Key Benefits of the Jr. Coaches Program

Leadership Development

The program helps young athletes build valuable leadership skills by placing them in mentorship and support roles within younger age groups. Jr. Coaches learn how to:

- Communicate effectively with players
- Lead by example on and off the ice
- Demonstrate accountability and professionalism
- Support team culture and positive attitudes
- Build confidence in leadership settings

Development of Future Coaches

The program creates an important pathway for developing future coaches within our association.

Jr. Coaches gain early exposure to:

- Practice planning and drill execution
- Teaching hockey fundamentals
- Managing player engagement
- Supporting skill development
- Understanding age-appropriate coaching techniques

This experience helps prepare participants for future coaching certifications and volunteer roles within the hockey community.



Positive Role Models for Younger Players

Younger players greatly benefit from interacting with older athletes they can look up to and relate to.

Jr. Coaches help:

- Increase player confidence and comfort
- Create a fun and welcoming environment
- Encourage positive habits and sportsmanship
- Inspire younger players to stay involved in hockey
- Strengthen the sense of community within the association

The connection between younger players and Jr. Coaches often has a significant impact on player enjoyment and retention.

Increased Player Engagement

Having Jr. Coaches on the ice creates additional energy, support, and interaction during practices.

Benefits include:

- More individual attention for players
- Improved station flow and practice efficiency
- Increased encouragement and feedback
- More demonstrations and skill support
- Greater player participation and engagement

This contributes to a more active and positive learning environment.



Building Community Within the Association

The Jr Coaches Program strengthens relationships across all age divisions within Chebucto Minor Hockey.

The program helps create:

- Stronger association culture
- Greater connection between teams
- Increased volunteer involvement
- Pride in giving back to the organization
- A supportive developmental environment

It reinforces the idea that players can continue contributing to the association beyond their playing years.

Personal Growth Opportunities

Participation in the program also supports personal growth outside of hockey.

Jr. Coaches develop:

- Communication skills
- Patience and responsibility
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Time management
- Confidence working with groups

These are transferable life skills that benefit participants both in sports and in everyday life.



Program Impact

The Jr Coaches Program has become a valuable component of Chebucto Minor Hockey's development model. It not only enhances the experience for younger players, but also helps shape future leaders, mentors, and coaches within our hockey community.

The continued success of the program reflects the commitment of our Jr. Coaches, volunteer staff, families, and association leadership in creating a positive and development-focused hockey environment.

CMHA Development Successes

This season produced many positive outcomes across the association.

Key successes included:

- Improve practice quality and pace
- High player engagement and attendance
- Positive parent feedback
- Increased player confidence and competitiveness
- Continued advancement opportunities for players
- Strong representation at tournaments and events
- Positive team cultures across multiple divisions



Introduction to the Chebucto Minor Hockey

Tryout Flow Charts

At Chebucto Minor Hockey, we are committed to providing a fair, transparent, and athlete-centered evaluation process. To help players and families better understand how our tryout process works, we have developed detailed flow charts outlining each stage of evaluations and team selection.

These flow charts are designed to clearly communicate the pathways available to players throughout the tryout process, including evaluation groups, advancement opportunities, and roster selection timelines. By visually mapping out the process, we aim to reduce uncertainty, improve communication, and ensure all participants understand what to expect at each stage.

Benefits of Using Tryout Flow Charts

- **Transparency:** Provides players and families with a clear understanding of how decisions are made and how athletes progress through evaluations.
- **Consistency:** Ensures a standardized process is followed across all age divisions and teams.
- **Improved Communication:** Reduces confusion by clearly outlining timelines, evaluation stages, and potential outcomes.
- **Player-Focused Experience:** Helps athletes focus on their performance by understanding the process ahead of time.
- **Accountability:** Demonstrates Chebucto Minor Hockey's commitment to fairness, organization, and best practices in player evaluations.
- **Confidence for Families:** Gives parents a visual reference that makes navigating the tryout process easier and more understandable.

Our goal is to create an evaluation environment that is organized, transparent, and supportive of player development. These flow charts are another step toward ensuring every player has a positive experience while providing clarity and confidence throughout the tryout process.



Challenges & Areas for Improvement

While the season was highly successful overall, several areas have been identified for continued improvement moving forward.

Areas of focus include:

- Continued recruitment and retention of volunteer coaches
- Additional goalie-specific development opportunities
- Increased access to development ice
- More coach mentorship opportunities (Evaluated practices & bench management)
- Continued standardization of development models across divisions
- Enhanced communication between teams and Technical Director
- Expanding off-season development opportunities

These areas will remain priorities as we continue to strengthen our programming.

Goals for Next Season

Looking ahead, the association aims to continue building on this season's momentum.

Key goals for next season include:

Player Development Goals

- Continue improving skating, puck skill development and hockey IQ at younger ages
- Expand development sessions and specialty clinics
- Increase player puck touches and skill repetitions during practices
- Continue emphasizing small-area games and decision-making
- Support long-term athlete development principles
- Increase player confidence and enjoyment of the game



Coach Development Goals

- Expand coach mentorship opportunities
- Continue providing practice resources and planning support
- Improve consistency across divisions
- Increase coach education participation
- Strengthen communication and collaboration between coaches
- Continue promoting positive coaching environments

Acknowledgements

The success of our player and coach development initiatives would not be possible without the dedication and support of many individuals.

We would like to thank:

- All volunteer coaches and team staff
- Development staff and mentors
- Association leadership and board members
- Parents and families for their ongoing support
- Our players for their effort, commitment, and passion for the game

Your contributions continue to help create a positive hockey experience for everyone involved in our association.



Closing Remarks

This season demonstrated continued progress in both player and coach development throughout our association. The commitment shown by our volunteers, families, and players has helped establish a strong foundation for future growth.

By continuing to prioritize development, education, positivity, and community, we are confident that our association will continue to provide a rewarding and impactful hockey experience for all participants.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a successful season.