

U7 Annual Report 2024-2025 season

- U7 was a great success again this season due to the incredible contributions made by our volunteers. U7 Group Managers were instrumental in creating a safe, fun environment for our players to grow in skill and confidence.

Registration up from 106 (last season) to 116 this year. 2 players withdrew. Finished the season with **114 active participants**.

We had **4 groups** ranging from 27-31 players per group. Sizes were **ideal** for **maximizing per player repetitions** and **coach to player development time** ratio.

We had approximately **50 core volunteers** step up this season.

- The **Junior Coaches Leadership Program** had over **50 participants** sign up this year! Including **multiple goalies** who were **able to assist** on the ice by training and encouraging U7 players who were trying the position. This was **very successful** and could be even **more so, if structured intentionally** next season. This year Junior Coaches received extra leadership opportunities. They were given the opportunity to be on the bench with senior coaches during U7 jamborees. They also volunteered at the Chebucto Jamboree helping in the time keepers box, games room, light controls, music and more. Many people commented on how exceptional they were with all the kids.

- **Player development** was **very consistent** due to **Paul Hunt's Leadership** and his high level of **engagement with our Coaches**. We focused on **increasing the pace and compete level** of our groups by increasing **exposure to in game scenarios** through weekly **small area games and scrimmages**. We focused on **passing and teamwork** drills coupled with **power skating and edge work** drills on a **weekly basis**. The **results** were **consistent** and **visible** throughout the season.

Goalies

The new **snap on goalie gear** has been a **great investment**. Almost every player has shown **interest** in trying the position. We have instituted a **rotating schedule for players** to try the gear. It has been **very successful**.

Events

- **U7 Draft** (Jersey distribution event) in the Atlantic Room, healthy snacks and refreshments provided.

- **Christmas Party** (Pancake Breakfast from Kimmie) , family skate and gifts for all players.

- **Mini intersquad tournament** (Chebucto U7 players played against each other in a small 1 day tournament style event. It was very well received and players and coaches enjoyed the experience.

- **End of year party at Jil's World of Fun** indoor playground. Players received Personalized Chebucto Sweaters from Coach Envy, treat bags and medals. Volunteers received Chebucto branded T-Shirts. Head Coaches and managers received gift cards for local restaurants in appreciation for their incredible dedication and sizable time investment this season.

• **Jamborees Attended**

2018 and 2019 born players had the opportunity to attend four Jamborees, three of which came at no extra cost to parents, and one at a cost of \$30 per player or \$300 per team. 2020's had the opportunity to attend three jamborees as they are not eligible to play in the Mooseheads Jamboree.

- **CHEBUCTO EARLY BIRD JAMBOREE** (All players)
- **TIMBITS MOOSEHEADS JAMBOREE** (2019s 2018s only)
- **BEDFORD JAMBOREE** (All players)
- **EASTERN SHORE JAMBOREE** (All players)

Participation was extremely high and players were noticeably engaged. Teams were competitive and even dominant in some cases.

• **CHEBUCTO JAMBOREE**

Our first annual Chebucto Jamboree was very well attended. **28 teams from 7 different organizations** registered @ **\$400 per team totaling \$11,200 in revenue.** The event was **very well received** and players and parents were **very satisfied** with the offering. Lots of **feedback** was received and it was **all very positive.** Most notable was the feedback about our **incredible volunteers** who served the association with grace and good will. They made the event **very special** and kept everything **well organized.** We plan to hold the event **annually going forward.**

• **Fundraising**

- \$40 per player contribution totaling \$4560.00
- Chebucto Jamboree \$5550.99 raised after expenses
- Westjet fundraiser \$9455.00 in funds raised
- Total funds raised - **\$19,565.99.**

- **Off season development opportunities**

- All U7 players will receive **free** summer development sessions during the off season. We plan to include 24 hours of **on and off ice development** sessions with our Technical Director, **Paul Hunt overseeing** the process. As well as some outside training sessions at **Dirty Danglers** indoor hockey training facility or a comparable option.

- U7 is **functioning very well** and has been consistently growing year after year. We feel the **outcomes are favorable** and **next year will be even better based on our current trajectory**.

Special Mention

Group 1 Co-Head Coach, Graham Gilbert passed away in February this year. He was a pillar in U7 and within the Chebucto organization in general. His coaching attributes and love for the game are those we should all aspire to. I believe our Chebucto U7 Jamboree may have been his last time at a tournament and so I propose we officially rename the Jamboree, The Chebucto Graham Gilbert Memorial Jamboree. (Graham Jam for short).

We also support and encourage the Graham Gilbert Coaching Award ceremony to be held annually in his honor.

Thank you to everyone for all the support and encouragement this year. It's been an incredible year for U7.

Yours in hockey,

Jay McKenzie

VP U7 CHEBUCTO