

Hello Team Navy!

First and foremost welcome to U9 2025-2026 season! :)

We are your 2025/2026 Team Managers, Krista Martell (player - Leo Carmichael) & Meghan Robertson (players - Hughie & Nolan Steele). For our returning athletes and families, welcome back and for our athletes and families that are new to U9, a very big welcome to you all. Looking forward to getting to know everyone better in the coming months!

We apologize in advance for this lengthy first communication but it's important we start the year with everyone informed and ready and this will serve as an on-going reference point as the year progresses.

Important Dates, Parent To-Do List & Reminders

- **Ice Times this week**

- **Practice:** Saturday November 1st 9:15-10:15 AM @ RBC Center (parent meeting also)
- **Practice:** Sunday November 2nd 9-10AM @ RBC Center

Friendly reminder to please update your players availability in the GrayJay app ASAP if you have not already

- **Parent Meeting:** Saturday, November 1st at 9:15am in Team Dressing Room (meeting will take place during practice time to make sure at least 1 parent is able to attend).
- **Player Health Form:** Complete & send back to Team Manager in advance of the Parent Meeting. Link here: [player_med_info_e.pdf](#) . We will also bring copies for anyone that forgets.
- **Team Google Survey:** Complete in advance of the Parent Meeting (including: Player Name, Parent contact, Player's Favourite song, Player top 3 Jersey #, Jersey Name Bar Stock / Ordering.
- **Player Seed Money:** This will be discussed at the Parent Meeting next week and we will ask for you to EMT your players seed money in the coming days. We are asking each player to contribute \$200 for Seed Money and any amounts that are not spent will be reimbursed at the end of the year. Our fundraising efforts will directly impact the amount of reimbursement we can provide each player at the end.
- **Team Bottle Drive:** Sunday, November 9 from 10:15am to 12:30pm – starting at Steele's house on 36 Lethbridge Ave. directly after practice. Please confirm ASAP if you are able to volunteer to help with this fundraiser.
- **Parent Volunteers:** The following people have stepped forward to graciously volunteer their time:

1. **Head Co-Coaches** – Brooke Robinson & John Joyce-Robinson.

2. **Assistant Coaches** – Dan Chiddenton, Jason Carmichael, Jon Pike, Marc Leclair, Mark Painchaud, Matt Simpson, Meghan Robertson
3. **Team Manager(s)** – Krista Martell & Meghan Robertson
(whalersnavy9@gmail.com)
4. **Team Treasurer** – Adam Steele
5. **Jersey Care** – Lindsay Chiddenton & **We are looking for more volunteers to help with jerseys.**

Other volunteer and support opportunities will come up throughout the season, particularly for fundraising and tournaments. Team Managers will reach out as needs arise. We appreciate everyone participating so we can spread the responsibility around.

Detailed Information:

1. Parent Meeting:

DATE: Saturday, November 1st

TIME: 9:15 AM (during the team practice)

LOCATION: RBC Centre – Dartmouth Navy Team Dressing Room

We will be holding a parent meeting to welcome everyone to the team on **Saturday, November 1st at 9:15am in the Dartmouth Navy Team Dressing Room** (will take place during practice to ensure all families can attend). We kindly ask that **at least one parent attend this session** and if you are unable to attend please let me know ASAP so I can pass along important information/materials.

At this meeting the coaches will review their goals and expectations for the year and we will be discussing the schedule (practices, games, tournaments, etc), team budget, player seed money and fundraising, team events, jerseys and name bars, required documents, parent volunteer opportunities, etc. We will also open the floor to parents for a Q&A session.

Please complete the attached **Player Health Form** (print or e-copy accepted) in advance of this meeting. This form is required for all athletes and the provided athlete information will be available for coaches and team staff in the event of an emergency.

In advance of our meeting please also have your athlete complete the (PLAYER SURVEY – ADD link) that Meghan has created to gather Parent Contact information, Player favourite song, Player Top 3 Favourite #s, Name Bar orders, etc.

If you already have Jersey Name Bars at home from a past team or sibling, please let us know in the survey above and bring them in to practice on November 1 next week so we can coordinate sewing them to the jerseys once we are ready to distribute jerseys. We will be ordering the rest of the Name Bars (require 2 per player). Anyone that brings in Name Bar will have their individual player account credited for the value.

2. Tournaments: We will be registering for the following tournaments

- **Bauer MacIsaac Memorial Tournament**
Location: New Glasgow
Date: January 16-18th, 2026
- **Joanne Lenihan Tournament**
Location: Greenfoot Energy Centre – Bedford, NS
Date: February 14-16th, 2026
- **SEDMHA**
Location: RBC Centre, Dartmouth, NS
Date: March 6-8th, 2026

3. Team Communication & GrayJay App:

For team communication, we will be aiming to send out a weekly communication (likely on Sundays) listing the ice times for the week ahead, any key upcoming dates to remember (fundraisers, tournaments, etc.) and any key team information. **NOTE:** The U9 Dartmouth Whalers Navy team email address (whalersnavyu9@gmail.com) is now active and being monitored frequently for our team. Please do not hesitate to either approach us at any practices or games or simply send along your questions via email to the team address and I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

GrayJay App – Dartmouth Whalers uses GrayJay for communication and schedules. Please ensure you have downloaded the app, enable email notifications and are able to see our team on the app. For more detailed instructions, please refer to the following guide: [GrayJay Teams User Guide - Google Docs](#). **Please ensure you are logging in to GrayJay and updating your player's availability by Wednesday the week of practice / games. This is really important for coaches when planning of practices and making lines for games.**

4. Fundraising:

We know that everyone's favourite part of youth sports is... fundraising right?! I guess the silver lining here is we are all in this together! Our goal as a team is to get out of the gate fundraising quickly this season for two main reasons 1) it doesn't hurt if we are out fundraising in the community before many other athletes and organizations start and 2) the faster we hit our team fundraising goal the sooner we can put fundraising behind us for the season. I would note (all humour aside) while fundraising is not everyone's favourite activity it is crucial that we all work together to hit our individual and team fundraising goals to ensure the team is able to participate in all tournaments and events and have the best season yet. If you have any additional fundraising ideas outside of the ones listed below or you would like to help with fundraising initiatives please feel free to reach out!

1. BOTTLE DRIVE:

DATE: Sunday, Nov 9th

TIME: 10:15 – 12:30PM (directly after practice)

LOCATION:

Please meet at Coach Meghan's house (address: 36 Lethbridge Ave, Dartmouth) to start the day and we will divide the team into smaller groups who will work together to collect bottles in the Montebello/Keystone area. Please bring along any bottles you may already have from home or from your friends/family or local neighbours. All money raised will be credited to the participating athletes individual fundraising account and the total will be deducted from your expected fundraising goal (this will be discussed in further detail at the Parent Meeting on Saturday of this week). Please note we have a Team account set up at **Canadian Recycling** (located at 365 Portland Street in Dartmouth)..

*****IMPORTANT:** For the bottle drive to run smoothly we need parent volunteers to walk and drive with the groups of athletes and we will also need parent volunteers with trucks, trailers or larger vehicles willing to help with transporting the bottles to Canadian Recycling on Portland Street - please let me know before Saturday morning if you are able to help with any of the above!

2. FLIPGIVE.COM - Account is Live for Holiday Shopping!!

FlipGive is an easy way for our team to raise money as families, friends & extended family shop online. [Click on the link](#) to see our Team Account and then click on "Join Team". You can then use our **team code Q3BLSK**. create a user account to be able to earn cashback for our team when you shop at participating brands online (Under Armour, Sephora, Lululemon, Old Navy, Gap, Crocs, Expedia, Amazon, Walmart, Wayfair, and more!!!! The funds will be pooled to cover team expenses. The account will be active until end of March 2026. <https://www.flipgive.com/c/494622>

3. GIFT-CARD RAFFLE:

DATE: November/December

LOCATION: TBD (hoping we can do this at Superstore/Sobeys and/or Pro Hockey Life in Dartmouth Crossing)

More information to come. We will not be looking for gift cards from parents – we will use the seed money to cover. **We are looking for parents and kids to volunteer to help.**

4. PRODUCT SALE (TBD – EXAMPLES ARE CAPE BRETON FUDGE / PIZZA KIT / BAKE SALE):

DATE: TBD (aiming for November/December with the goal for product delivery in time for Valentines Day)

More information to come.

5. SPONSORSHIPS:

We will be looking for sponsorships to support our team. Supporting businesses will be promoted on our team banner which will be set-up for all games (home/away) and all tournaments and events. We will provide a Sponsorship letter once it is available that can be provided to local businesses or companies you are connected with. More details regarding sponsorships to follow very soon.

5. Team Events:

We are planning to host a variety of team building events for the players throughout the season (exact date/time and details TBD). We are always open to team building ideas if you/your child have had any stand out team building events in previous years or sports teams please send your ideas along! More info to follow soon.

6. Team Photos:

More information to come.

7. Parent Volunteers:

As we gear up for another busy season, I want to emphasize that we are a team both on and off the ice. Each family will play a vital role in our success, whether it's managing game jerseys, controlling the time clock, helping with fundraising, serving as our Sponsorship banner rep, etc. We all play an important role in this team family and your involvement is crucial and it strengthens our spirit as a team. Together, we can create an enjoyable and supportive environment for our youth athletes. If you have specific skills or interests, please let me know—we'd love to find a role that fits!

Currently, we are looking for the following volunteer positions to be filled. Please let me know if you are interested in any of the following:

- 1-2 Jersey Coordinators (Home and Away jerseys)
- Fundraising coordinators and volunteers
- Sponsorship Banner rep (transport and set-up/tear-down at games)
- We may require additional parent volunteers throughout the season to support various fundraising and team events - let me know if you are interested!

Last but not least... Thank YOU to all of the parents in advance for your support this season and for taking the time to read this very long and info packed email. Please feel free to reach out to me or the coaches with any questions you may have. We are all here and happy to help! :)

Here's to an amazing (and fun) 2025-2026 Hockey season - see you all at the rink! :)

Thanks,

Krista & Meghan

U9 Whalers Intermediate Navy Team Manager s