



U13 Competitive End of Season Report

Season Highlights: The 2024/2025 season was somewhat of a mixed bag for the U13 competitive teams, with all teams experiencing varying levels of success.

The U13AA team had a great year, with a total of eleven wins, six losses, and four ties, placing them second overall in the Regular season. The team went on to place third in the Provincial Qualifying Round, with a total of three wins, three losses, and two ties. Our U13AAA team finished in the middle of the pack with an even number of wins and losses overall. The team acquired a total of eleven wins in the Regular Season, along with thirteen losses and six ties. Unfortunately, they lost their Playoff series against Truro. The U13A team finished in seventh place in Regular Season, with five wins, thirteen losses, and three ties. Regular season for our U13B team wrapped up in seventh place with seven wins, eight losses, and five ties under their belts. While both teams did not necessarily end up where they may have liked to, what they did not acquire in wins they took home in increased skill and team development. Both teams played hard and developed throughout the entire season.

In February, the U13AAA team travelled to Quebec for the International Pee-Wee B.S.R. Tournament and our U13AA team travelled to New Hampshire for the President's Day Tournament. The amount of fundraising, sponsorships, commitment and planning that went into both trips to provide what was undoubtedly a wonderful experience for both teams is commendable. From stories I have heard, and photos I have seen, both trips were huge successes. Of course, all teams had the opportunity to travel to tournaments throughout the Maritime provinces, with these weekends often forming the very glue that brings teams together.

Two of our teams ran fundraisers to support others in need. The U13AA's ran a toy drive, and the U13A's ran a bottle drive with proceeds going towards supporting a local family over the Holidays. Kudos to both teams!

Running of the Season: Both sets of tryouts ran smoothly, as did team set up, despite some beginning of the season kinks with respect to expectations around dressing room monitors and minimum attire guidelines. While there were some issues and concerns that came up throughout the year, most were worked through easily. Our U13 Competitive group experienced no disciplinary actions this season – great job! I had a chance to get out to several games throughout the season, with a goal for next season to see more of the U13 B games.

Take Aways: The need for more communication with Team Managers, Treasurers, and Coaches, particularly at the beginning of the season. While we do offer a team manager session, having this happen earlier would be helpful, particularly for the AAA team who is off and running before the rest of the teams are even decided. While the session is helpful, it is not enough, and this year was a testament to the need for more direct conversation. Ice was a perfect example of why we cannot assume that processes are understood. Our ice scheduler did a tremendous job this season in terms of openness and transparency, and I am looking forward to getting more directly involved with team's next season.

Recognitions: Huge recognition needs to be given to the Head coaches and coaching staff of all four teams. The dedication, time, and hours devoted to these players is often not totally seen and appreciated, despite the significant and positive impact it has on the players. On behalf of all players and families, please accept a most sincere and heartfelt thank you. I want to also acknowledge all the time, dedication, and effort put forward by all team volunteers including managers, treasures, dressing room monitors, and all the countless other helper roles that happen throughout the season. So much of this happens “behind the scenes”, requiring hours of time and planning to make things run smoothly. Thank you so much on behalf of all the players and families. I hope to have to opportunity to work with some of you again next season.

As final note, thanks to all of you for your support and patience during my first year as Director. To say this was a learning curve is a massive understatement, and I know I still have more to learn. I have enjoyed this past season immensely, and I look forward to continuing in the 2025-2026 Season.

Donna Benigno

U13 Competitive Director

Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association