

FREDERICTON YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

OPERATIONS REPORT 2024/25



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FYHA AGM August 12,2025





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ANNUAL REPORTS

Executive Director

We kicked off the 2024/25 season with the addition of Mike Gillingham as the FYHA Technical Director. Mike hit the ground running in early August and he never looked back. Mike's extensive hockey knowledge and experience will be a valuable resource for all FYHA members. Welcome onboard Mike!

Online registration for the 2024/25 season kicked off August 18th and closed October 2nd. Total number of players registered was 1101 – broken down as follows: U7 – 190, U9 – 177, U11 – 228, U13 – 189, U15 – 170, U18 – 148. The online registration process was streamlined by offering members the option to pay fees via e-transfer or through the SportsPay app.

Once again, we were able to host a full roster of tournaments and jamborees. The U18 Comp tournament took place in November and featured eight participating teams. The 48th annual Nashwaaksis Lions Club Capital Invitational tournament took place over two weekends in February with a total of 112 teams taking part. Our combined U7/U9 jamboree was held in mid March and featured a total of 58 teams. FYHA applied for and was approved to host the U11 Rec Provincials the weekend of March 28th - sixteen teams gathered that weekend in Fredericton to compete for the title.

FYHA was once again selected to host the NHL/NHLPA First Shift program during the year. The Fall session attracted 45 “new to hockey” children and provided them with an opportunity to get exposed to the great game of hockey. Over the six-week session, participants were exposed to hockey fundamentals by a group of qualified and committed coaches. Finding room to transition these participants into our regular program for the remainder of the season continues to be a challenge. Sixteen individuals were added to U7 teams. The remaining participants were provided with an additional 4 on ice sessions to further enhance their hockey experience.

FYHA is extremely fortunate to have the support of the Fredericton corporate community. Many businesses sponsor jerseys, provide support for equipment, and sponsor tournaments/jamborees. We have many such supporters – to many to individually recognize – so on behalf of everyone at FYHA – THANK YOU! – your support is truly appreciated.

FYHA is also extremely fortunate to have a strong volunteer base – we could not exist without the support of you the volunteer. A thank you is extended to all volunteers – head coaches, assistant coaches, managers, on-ice support staff, timekeepers, tournament/jamboree volunteers, team fund raisers, & board members.

A special thanks is extended to our Operations group. These individuals spend countless hours ensuring that your child can enjoy the great game of hockey. They are on the front line for FYHA and unfortunately receive criticism and complaints far too often. They are committed to making a positive impact and FYHA is very fortunate to have them. Lindsay, Dawn, Serena, Dawne, Gregg, Ross, Eric and Andrew – thank you for your hard work, dedication, commitment and continued support of FYHA.



The 2024/25 season did have its challenges. Ice allocation/scheduling continues to create unnecessary grief/stress for everyone. Efforts are being taken with the City of Fredericton staff to improve this critical process. The player evaluation process and formation of teams is one that we are constantly trying to tweak and improve. Our goal remains to have balanced teams and players playing at the level their skill dictates.

In conclusion, I would like to thank President Kent Brewer and each Board member for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
John O'Toole
Executive Director

Technical Director

The 2024-25 season was the first season in my role as the Technical Director for the FYHA and overall, the season was successful.

Some of the challenges that took place throughout the course of the season were as follows:

- Ice time - working with the city and getting ice in a timely manner for our groups has proven to be a challenge that I did not anticipate, and we will be working closely with them to try and provide scheduling that extends longer than 1-2 weeks. It is a dream of ours to have monthly schedules provided to our members. Fingers crossed we can make some progress in this area.
- District 3 - We are working to gain better communication with District 3 with regards to how league play and provincial play downs work. We had several divisions this past year in which very few of our teams knew how their teams were selected to qualify for provincials. This caused a ton of confusion and last-minute planning for many teams involved. We are working with the district to create documentation that will outline those processes moving forward so that teams are aware of these important dates etc. at the beginning of the season. These were the 2 biggest challenges I would say for us and are points which we will be working on to better serve our members. Some of the positive notes that we felt were strides in the right direction:
- Try-out Process - The first task was to create some consistency with our tryout process as well as to communicate that process to the members. There are some improvements to make but I think the part that was the most important was the communication of the process to the families. We had parent meetings for all players participating in tryouts to address any questions that were had prior to the start of tryouts. All in all tryouts ran fairly smooth for the start of our season.
- Skills sessions - We were able (in the new year) run 7 different groups in the morning throughout the back half of the season. Those clinics included (Goaltending, Developing Defence, Power Skating, & Small Area Skills and Drills). In total we had 98 players attend the various groups. The plan will be to offer this again next year.



Moving forward:

- We have just opened up registration for our first FYHA Hockey School to be held August 11-15 at the Grant Harvey Centre. We will be running a U11 & U13 division of 30 players each. The camp will consist of on-ice and off-ice activities. The camp will run for 5 days from 8:30am to 4:00pm.
- In season skills sessions will continue to take place. The plan is to have 2 x 8-week sessions. One prior to Christmas and one after Christmas.
- Coach resources. One thing that we will be doing moving forward for U7 & U9 in particular is to provide more coaching resources. Mainly practice plans as well as a few other resources during the season.

This is a snapshot of what was observed in season one for me as Technical Director. There are lots of great things in our association and lots of things we can improve on as well and I look forward to being a part of this with the great group of volunteers we have within the FYHA.

Yours in Hockey,
Mike Gillingham
FYHA Technical Director

U7 Division

I would like to thank all Coaches, Ice Helpers, Board Members, John O'Toole, and Mike Gillingham for a wonderful season! Let's not forget the Volunteers who helped with the Jamboree, and year end Pizza party the list is long and hoping more people will volunteer next year!!

Our season consisted of 10 teams in total this year for U7, we had 6 minor and 4 major teams. We had around 190 players in total, keep in mind that these are numbers after some dropped out and about 13 of them joined us from the first shift program. We had around 54 coaches/Ice helpers divided over 10 teams. Our teams had 2 ice times a week unless there were special events taking place. Our season ran from Oct 15, 2024 – March 30, 2025. We played out of Fredericton rinks (WOR, GRANT, LBR, YORK), also played out of Chipman for 3 ice times due to special events in the city and lack of ice in Fredericton. Only once did one of our teams show up at the rink and the ice was double booked, it was with a first shift team, so they just split the ice!!

I have to say the biggest complainant that I have had this year is not receiving the schedule more in advance and last-minute changes due to the city. My hats off to Mike for all his time working with city, I can't imagine how frustrating this must have been on him receiving last min changes!! Second biggest complaint this year, U7 not having more ice throu the week rather than most on Saturday and Sundays. Our ice schedule this year was normally 1 on Tuesday, 2 on Friday and all other times on Saturday and



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Sunday. Going forward it would be nice to have all U7 teams out once threw the week and once on the weekend. This year U7 only had to give back 2 ice times I believe and 1 of them was due to time change

and coaches decided to cancel. We had no ice times missed due to a scheduling error with U7!! Good Job Mike!!

Our Season was supposed to end with our U7/U9 Jamboree and pizza party, but we were lucky for the season to get extended a couple weeks to make up for any ice that was lost due to special events in the city during the season!! Our Jamboree was Great, and of course the Pizza Party was a hit with a big turn out!

This was my second year as coordinator for U7, I believe it went smoothly! The kids had a great season, they improved on there skills, and all had lots of fun, and at the end of the day that's truly all that matters!! That's a wrap for my U7 Coordinating, Big thanks to John and Mike for answering me whenever I had questions or concerns, truly appreciate it!!

Take care,
Dawn Estey

U9 Division

The U9 season went smoothly for the most part.

There were quite a few new coaches which took some time to get settled but they did a fantastic job at learning the ropes and I am thankful for them stepping up to fill these roles.

The beginning of the season was rocky with the unknown that comes with evaluations, team making and schedules. Once the November tournament rush was over, I think everyone became more comfortable with the season's progression.

We were granted an early start to full ice games. We found this was fantastic for the intermediates groups and brought challenges to the development groups. The development coaches took the extra time to help ease their teams into this transition at a slower pace which was affective for the kids how to play full ice games. Many teams took advantage of the out-of-town Jamboree's or games, while a few chose to keep it local.

All coaches and managers engaged in active open communication throughout the season which helped ease any of the unknown issues that may arise.

I had very few concerns from parents but provided the ones I did get with the same open communication at the same time, taking their notes on ways to improve the season. I feel the overall outcome of this U9 season was a success and look forward to what will come next season.

Respectfully submitted,
Serena Bragdon

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U13 Division



I was thrilled to be selected to be the U13 Coordinator for the 2024-2025 FYHA Minor Hockey season.

PRESEASON

The timing of preseason was good with respect to AAA tryouts as decisions were made and rosters set in advance of AA and A comp tryouts. It was a quick turnaround, but we were able to keep up with the changes and impact that AAA had on FYHA's plans for evaluations & tryouts.

This year, changes were made to the eligibility of female players wishing to play competitive hockey this season. Female players wishing to play at the competitive level must try out and play at their own age bracket. Female players on a case-by-case basis who wished to play down a level in the FYHA recreational league were considered and granted that opportunity. This change meant that there was very little impact on the Central Female Competitive tryouts, versus our own.

COMP TRYOUTS

- FYHA had 117 Registrants for U13 Competitive Tryouts
- 15 Goaltenders, 38 Defence, 64 Forwards.
- 2 AA, and 3 A Teams were Rostered.
- Evaluations began on Monday 23 Sept, and concluded on Sunday 29 Sept. Evaluations included a non-evaluated skills and drills session to get players comfortable with the drills they would see during their evaluated session. It also included an Evaluated skills and drills session and 3 exhibition games against 3 other teams.
- Evaluation Groups were balanced over a group of eight (8) teams. Each Group having between 12-13 Skaters and 2 Goaltenders.
- Independent Evaluators from the STU Team, as well as a group of coaches were utilized for all sessions, a total of 8-10 evaluators were on hand for all but 1 evaluation.
- Draft was held over a 2-day period between 2-3 October. This was deliberately done to give the coaches time to prepare for the draft for the A teams. Rosters for the AA teams were posted on the FYHA website immediately concluding the AA draft.
- The AA Draft saw 2 coaches draw a puck to determine draft order, and then held a snake draft of each position until each team had 2 Goaltenders, 6 Defence, and 9 Forwards. This draft was extremely smooth and both coaches were satisfied upon its conclusion.
- The A Draft saw 3 coaches draw a puck to determine draft order. Each coach was given the opportunity to draft a position first. Again, a snake draft was held for each position until the teams were full.

REC EVALS

- FYHA had 104 Players including 7 Goaltenders evaluated for Recreational Teams.
- Rec Evaluations began Friday 11 Oct, and concluded Sunday 13 Oct.
- Teams were similarly broken down into 8 groups of players, with 1 goaltender skating with 2 teams.



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- Evaluations included one Unevaluated and One Evaluated Skills and Drills session, along with a single Evaluated Game.
 - The Goal was to create 6 equally balanced and locally competitive rosters.
- A decision was made to increase the roster size to the final rostered clubs, and to shrink the pool of teams from 7 to 6 for this season. This yielded positive results for both team balance, as well as scheduling management.
- Ultimately, 102 players were rostered on six teams including 7 goaltenders.

Weekly Practices and Exhibition games for Competitive teams began on Monday Oct 7th.
Weekly Practices for Recreational teams began on 21 Oct.

DISTRICT 3 PRE-SEASON MEETING

- Virtually attended District 3s pre-season meeting to discuss plans for the upcoming season.
- Per usual, FYHA U13 rec will be scheduled in-house with the winner of the December Holiday tournament advancing to play a best of 3 against the top ranked team in all of District 3 for the opportunity to represent the District at Zones. *This did not occur as
- planned, instead the FYHA holiday winner was granted immediate entry into the Zone A Tournament.
- U13 AA joined District 5 league play (SNBMHL).

REGULAR SEASON

- Gameplay began on 26 Oct 24 for “AA” teams in the Fall season with SNBMHL.
 - This Season saw 6 teams competing approximately 10 games each prior to the Christmas stand down.
 - A decision point meeting was held around Christmas time, which included the entry for the A team from Edmundson to move up to AA competition with the SNBMHL.
 - A Provincial Qualifying season began on 4 Jan 25, where 7 teams played a Home&Home series against each of the other teams.
 - League Play concluded on 2 Mar 25.
- Gameplay began on 10 Nov 24 for “A” teams in the D3 League.
 - Each team played 18 games, three against each other D3 “A” Team.
 - A decision point meeting was held around Christmas time, which included the decision for the York North team to potentially move to the AA Circuit. Ultimately it was decided that the team from YN would continue to play within the D3 League.
 - League Play Concluded 12 Feb 25
- Gameplay began on 26 Oct 24 for “C” Teams in the FYHA League.
 - Each Team played 15 League games, 3 against each other FYHA “C” Team.



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- Each Team was awarded at a minimum one full ice practice, as well as one exhibition game against a D3 “C” opponent.
- League play concluded on 24 Feb 25.

RECREATIONAL HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

- **Throughout the Holiday Season, all U13 C participated in an in-house tournament.** Regular season play was suspended, resuming in January 2025. Teams were divided into two divisions (A & B), with each team playing 3 round robin games, where the top two from each division advanced to crossovers and finals. The winner of the U13 Rec City Holiday Tournament automatically advanced to the Zone A Tournament later in the season.
- The tournament began on Monday, December 23rd. Crossovers were played in the first week of January 2025 with finals taking place on January 8th, 2025.
- The Consolation game was played on Sunday, January 5th between The Travel Makes Memories Jets & The TG Ventilation Moose. The Jets came out on top with a score of 5-2.
- The Bronze game was played on Monday, January 7th, between the Northumberland Vikings and the Eastern Trenchless Dragons. The **VIKINGS took 3rd Place/Bronze** over the dragons (4-3) in a riveting matchup that concluded in a 5-round shootout.
- The Gold medal game was played on Tuesday, January 8th, between the Leons Brute Force, and the Jean Coutu Fire.

The **FIRE took 1st Place/Gold** over the Brute Force (3-0) in a tight defensive game that focused on the defensive skills of each team over any flashy goalscoring.

- The **Jean Coutu Fire** moved on to represent FYHA at Zones for District 3 in March.

END-OF-REG-SEASON

- League play concluded for “AA” on 2 Mar 25. The Coastal Graphics Ice Dogs finished in First Place, and the DQ Blizzards finished in 5th place overall in the SNB League.
- League play concluded for “A” on 12 Feb 25. The St Mary’s Blues Finished 2nd Overall, while the Mitsubishi Outlanders and the Swifty’s Capitals finished 5th and 6th respectively.
- League Play concluded for “C” on 24 Feb 25.

STANDINGS								
TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	PIM
Jean Coutu - Fire	15	9	3	3	21	65	25	92
Eastern Trenchless - The Dragons	15	9	4	2	20	59	47	52
Travel Makes Memories - The Jets	15	8	6	1	17	53	52	60
Leons - Brute Force	15	7	7	1	15	63	60	56
Northumberland - The Vikings	15	5	8	2	12	57	52	40
TG Ventilation - The Moose	15	2	12	1	5	24	83	70

PLAYOFFS



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- Crossover Games for the SNB League took place on 11 March 25 where the Coastal Graphics Ice Dogs secured a victory over the KV hawks, securing them a spot in the SNB Day of Champions, which was held on Saturday, 15 March. The Ice dogs played their season rival the Sussex Rangers and ultimately lost the match.
- Playoffs began for “A” teams on 17 Feb and concluded on 17 March. The St Mary’s Blues placed 2nd in the group and played a best of 3 series against the York North Coyotes in late March. The Coyotes ultimately won this series.
- Playoffs began for “C” teams on 10 March and was run identical to the holiday tournament that took place in December.
- Crossovers took place 25-26 March, and Champions day took place on Sunday, March 30th.
- A Consolation game was played between The Travel Makes Memories Jets & The TG Ventilation Moose. The Jets came out on top with a score of 9-0.
- The Bronze medal game was played between the Leons Brute Force, and the Jean Coutu Fire. The **FIRE took 3rd Place/Bronze** over the Brute Force (6-1).
- The Gold game was played on between the Northumberland Vikings and the Eastern Trenchless Dragons. The **DRAGONS took 1st Place/Gold** over the Vikings (4-1).

ZONES

- No Zone Tournament was held for “AA” Teams. The Ice Dogs and Oromocto Eagles finished First and Second respectively and were awarded the opportunity to represent at Provincials
- The St. Mary’s Blues competed in a 4 Team Zone Tournament that took place in Grand Lake, where the sole winner would have the opportunity to play in “A” Provincials along with the other “Zone A” Host team. The Blues won that opportunity!
- FYHA Teams were not selected to take part in “B” Zones.
- The Jean Coutu Fire took part in a 6 Team Zone Tournament where the top 4 teams would be granted the opportunity to play at provincials. The Fire completed the tournament in 4th place and won that opportunity!

PROVINCIALS

- The Coastal Graphics Ice Dogs represented well and finished second, once again, to their season rivals, the Sussex Rangers, at the U13 AA Provincials in Shippigan.
- The St Mary’s Blues represented well at the “A” Provincials in Grand Falls, but ultimately fell short of any of the medal games.
- The Jean Coutu Fire also represented well at the “C” Provincials in Tracadie. They too ultimately fell short of any medal games.
- **Provincial results are as follows:**
- **U13 AA – Sussex Rangers;**
- **U13 A – Grand Sault Jr Cats;**
- **U13 B – Chaleur Titan;**
- **U13 C – Edmundston Blizzards.**

SEDMHA

- No U13 FYHA Team Represented at SEDMHA this season.



SPECIAL EVENTS

- A Special “All-Star” game took place this year on 29 March 25. 5 out of the 6 U13 Recreational teams were asked to select their Top 4 Forwards, and Top 2 Defense to take part in a charity “All-Star” game. The Jean Coutu Fire were representing at provincials and were not available to take part in the event.
- Teammates were split apart based on skill and given an opportunity for best on best at the “C” level.
- The game was a great success, raising over \$330 in cash in support of the Brendon Oreto foundation, along with a SUV full of perishable items that were donated to Greener village and their food bank.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT SEASON

- **Sustain – Large roster sizes.** This season saw only 6 teams at the “C” level. Each with up to 17 skaters plus a goaltender. These inflated rosters, while still under the HNB cap led to a better-balanced group of teams, where the skill level between each team was negligible for the most part.
- **Sustain – 2 Day draft for Competitive Teams.**
- **Sustain – All Star game.** This event was viewed by all involved as a success. The Coaches and teams all rallied behind their teammates.
- **Sustain – FYHA Recreational League.**
- **Sustain – Recreational Holiday Tournament.** However, Emphasis needs to be made at the onset that ANY team who signs up for a different tournament during this period will be made ineligible, and therefore relinquish their chance at participating at the zone level.
- **Improve – Cap Competitive Evaluation groups at 2 Lines Max.** However, this will likely lead to at least 10 groups to be managed and will certainly lead to more ice being required.
- **A cut needs to occur during the evaluations to allow for a better evaluation of the kids on the bubble of A to AA.** Suggestion would be an Up Cut, where half of the AA roster is cut from evaluations and guaranteed a spot at the draft on the AA rosters. If possible, this should occur between games 1&2 if evaluations are done the same way.
- **Improve – Affiliate Player program – In 25/26, it is suggested that the U13 Competitive group pilots a new way of thinking surrounding affiliate players.** The Affiliate player program as it is written states that a team can affiliate up to 5 players and a goaltender to their squad. It is suggested that this is not a suggestion, but rather part of the plan. This would see a team select 3 affiliates at the draft based on the skill set of the players that did not make the cut, leaving 2 affiliate positions for the team to come from the level down team of the same skill level, or a player that is unknown at the time of the draft.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregg Smith



U15 Division

Reflecting on FYHA's 2024–2025 U15 Campaign

Both the Recreational and Competitive divisions experienced pivotal moments throughout the season—some celebrated, others more instructive. Feedback from coaches, parents, players, and volunteers made it clear that while there were real strides in development, there are also critical areas requiring attention moving forward.

Team Formation and Parity

In the Recreational division, the most consistent feedback centered on the process of team formation. The current selection system often led to unbalanced rosters, with some teams consistently outmatching others. Many participants pointed to the past success of a draft-style format and suggested its return. Coaches expressed a strong desire to be more involved in team creation—not only to ensure fairness, but also to avoid personality conflicts and foster team cohesion from day one. On the Competitive side, the decision to reduce the number of U15 teams from four to three was largely viewed as a success. The result was more evenly matched games, a higher level of play, and overall strong performances from FYHA teams. One trade-off, however, was increased travel for the AA team due to limited local competition at that level.

Scheduling Issues and Ice-Time Gaps

Across both divisions, scheduling and ice-time allocation emerged as major challenges. For Rec teams, late communication around practice slots and seasonal plans made it difficult for families to plan and for coaches to organize effective sessions. Shared practices were the norm, which many coaches felt limited opportunities for development. A strong preference emerged for fewer—but higher-quality—full-ice practices. Competitive teams faced similar frustrations. Unreliable scheduling, last-minute cancellations, and inconsistent communication from the city led to frequent disruptions. The AA Lions, in particular, were allocated only a weekly 60-minute slot, falling short of the 75-minute standard expected for that level. On November 20, U15 District Director Frank Collins sent an email detailing the ice usage of other competitive teams, highlighting disparities and raising further concerns around scheduling fairness and transparency. Coaches, players, and rink staff all echoed a common sentiment: better coordination with ice providers is urgently needed.

District Play: A Mixed Bag

Whether to play exclusively within FYHA or incorporate more district-level games was another topic that divided opinion.

For many, district play offered valuable variety and stronger competition—especially on weekends when local ice was limited. Tiering allowed teams to find an appropriate level of competition, helping prevent lopsided matchups.

However, others noted the challenges of district play, including travel demands, inconsistent attendance for away games, and widely varying coaching standards—particularly around sportsmanship and fair play. In some cases, district opponents were significantly stronger, leading to discouraging outcomes. This is an area that will require careful consideration moving forward.



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Coaching, Fair Play, and the Volunteer Gap

Fair play remains a sensitive topic, particularly in Rec. Coaches and parents reported frequent instances of short benches and unequal playtime—issues that were seen in district games. There was a clear desire for stronger enforcement of fair play standards.

In Competitive, the challenge was different: annually we face a persistent shortage of volunteer coaches and team managers. Two potential solutions were suggested. First, offering a small registration discount for the children of coaches, managers, and coordinators—an incentive that could help with recruitment. Second, investing in coaching development by hosting annual clinics led by experienced coaches to share drills, insights, and best practices. Such initiatives could go a long way in boosting both competence and confidence behind the bench.

Team Management and Starting Strong

Another theme that emerged was the need for more streamlined and proactive support for team management. Managers expressed the need for clearer guidance early in the season—covering everything from TeamSnap maintenance to organizing exhibition games and arranging travel permits. Families and coaches alike emphasized that naming coaches and finalizing rosters earlier in the year would lead to better planning, stronger team cohesion, and fairer access to tournaments.

Player Attendance and Goalie Strain

In Rec, inconsistent player attendance was a recurring issue. Teams often struggled with chemistry, especially when players frequently missed practices — and games which were most commonly for out-

of-town matchups. Coaches acknowledged that attendance issues were often out of the players' control, making accountability difficult to enforce.

In the Competitive division, the strain was most keenly felt among goaltenders. With each A-level team carrying just one goalie, the physical and mental pressure—particularly during busy tournament weekends—was significant for players, coaches, and families alike.

Finishing Strong, Looking Ahead

While there were some challenges, the season ended on a high note. Competitive teams all achieved meaningful success, with each squad capturing tournament banners and two securing provincial championships.

In Rec, three of the seven teams reached tournament finals, with two coming away with banners. While there were growing pains—especially around team formation, scheduling, and communication—tiering and district play allowed all teams to end the year playing meaningful hockey.

Final Thoughts

The 2024–2025 season was one of transition and growth. With clearer structures, stronger communication, and a continued focus on fairness and development, FYHA is well-positioned to take meaningful steps in the right direction. To ensure the best interests of our FYHA stakeholders, a full examination must be conducted to determine whether continuing participation in play with District 3 is the most beneficial path forward.

Regards,
Ross Hache



U18 Division

Overall, the U18 season was a success with enough enrollment for five (5) recreational teams and our two traditional competitive teams. We had the luxury of having 12 goalies and after the departure of a two competitive goaltender, we still had enough to support two for each competitive team and two of the Rec teams had a tandem pair.

U18C evaluations were the last to take place on the FYHA Fall schedule – candidates were dispersed over six teams and played two games each. Players were ranked and disbursed among four teams, at first, but with the addition of a 5th coach – re-distributed over five teams. Due to the late start and the district’s early start – FYHA teams had only one practice before playing meaningful games.

We had three established and two new coaches take the reins of the five Rec teams. The district was comprised of 13 teams and as a result, it was a busy Fall with 24 qualifying games to be played (Home/Away against each team over 10 weeks). The Canadiens, Flyers & Blue Jackets qualified for Pool A and had a shot at being the District Champion while the Panthers and Rangers were assigned to Pool B. None of the FYHA teams advanced to a banner series (Best of 3 between the first and second seeds in their respective pools). All of the teams participated in the FYHA Capital Invitational, and the Canadiens advanced to finals but lost to Grand Lake.

Due to limited ice opportunities provided to the FYHA from the City and the huge ‘ask’, by all levels, it was not possible to schedule weekly practice. Instead, unused Fri/Sat/Sun ice-times were offered to teams with limited success as most teams were busy with games on weekends.

On the competitive side we had new coaching staffs for both teams; The AA Lions did not advance to Provincials in Saint John, but despite a poor 3-15-3 record they were competitive and suffered ten (10) 1-goal loses. With a core of returning players and a bid to host the 2026 U18 Competitive Provincials next season – the team looks to be on an up-swing. The Blues were moved to the ‘B’ level this season and had a record of 9-10-1 and qualified for Provincials. They ended the round-robin stage tied for 3rd with Oromocto and Tri-County with a 1-3-1 record but did not advance to the finals – a good result for a young team; only 3 returning players, nine first-year players from U15 comp and eight players who played Rec the previous year. The team’s average age was 15.5 versus 16.1 for the AA’s.

Eric Drummie, U18 Coordinator

2026 Actions

- Start U18C evaluations sooner
 - o Quicker team development and more pre-season practices
 - o Coaches can start looking for tournaments sooner (avoid being boxed out)
- Mandate a weekday evening ice-time following a U15C session for a ‘double header’
 - o Easier to find officials (less chance of cancellations)
 - o Reduces how many games teams play on weekends
- Mandate a weekday evening shared practice
 - o Assign a pair of teams each week (rotational bases)
 - o Could be used for games later in the season
- Mandate a weekend afternoon session (Saturday or Sunday)
 - o Support exhibition games with northern Zone A teams
 - o Reduce the number of evening games

Team	R1	R2	Bo3	Total Games	PPD	Practice	Total Sessions
FYHA Blue Jackets	20	9	2	31	0	2	33



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FYHA Canadiens	21	10	3	34	0	2	36
FYHA Flyers	20	9	3	32	1	1	33
FYHA Panthers	17	11	0	28	3	2	30
FYHA Rangers	16	11	2	29	2	3	32

	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>Bo3</u>	<u>Total Games</u>	<u>PPD</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Total Sessions</u>
AA Lions	9	21	0	30	1	28	58
A Blues	9	20	3	32	0	33	65

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Drummie