



U9 and below 2022-23 Executive Report, VP Lauren Caringi

The focus of U9 and under programming has remained consistent the last several seasons: improve player development, provide coach volunteers with support and assistance and ensure we are offering programs that are accessible to ALL - most importantly new players and families.

This season we launched a new brand of U9 and under programming. Attempting to streamline our offerings into two categories: 'new' to hockey and recreational cross-ice hockey. The category of 'new' to hockey has been expanding, partly due to the slump in registrations COVID created, and the changing demographic in Oakville. In an effort to make hockey accessible and FUN for all, we have a beginner program and a rec/development program.

The Jr. Ranger Development League was created to provide returning Ranger's the opportunity to play and develop in a FUN and positive athletic environment. This program provides professional development from P3 Hockey and is guided by our long list of enthusiastic helpful volunteer coaches. We continued the seasonal structure providing a 'pre-season' which was run by professional coaching and focusing on development, before moving into league play. This allows us to comply with the U9 player pathway set out by the OHF and OMHA, and also maximize development ahead of team play. Sessions were divided by skill level, also allowing us plenty of opportunity to create balanced teams.

Future Prospects was created to ensure NEW players to the game of hockey were provided with adequate support to guarantee they develop a positive and enthusiastic attitude towards hockey. Usually joining us with little to zero skating experience, these players are coached by Phil Simeon and his coaches from Northern Freeze. This program has been a huge success, creating the retention we are aiming for.

We also introduced a new program: The Jr. Ranger Leadership Program. This program was made up of about 50 Ranger's (rep and HL) 15 and over. This program was able to provide between 2-4 additional volunteers to every hour of U9 programming. A huge success, and something we will continue to build on.

As always, we concluded our season with our annual GALA DAY! It was enjoyed by all the players, parents, and volunteers.