

U7 Director's Report – 2025/26 Season  
Redcliff Minor Hockey Association  
Submitted by Janae Ulrich, U7 Director

The 2025/26 season was another exciting and rewarding year for the U7 division, with 29 registrants participating throughout the season. It was wonderful to see the continued growth, enthusiasm, and development of our youngest players both on and off the ice.

This season, the U7 program was divided into two separate teams, allowing players and families the opportunity to build strong team identities while continuing to foster an overall sense of community within Redcliff Minor Hockey. Both teams operated independently for practices, games, and team activities, while still coming together for a shared tournament experience and association events throughout the year.

Player development remained a key focus throughout the season. Athletes showed tremendous progress in skating ability, puck control, confidence, teamwork, and overall understanding of the game. Many first-year players entered the season learning the fundamentals of balance and movement on the ice and finished the year skating confidently and participating fully in gameplay situations. The cross-ice format continued to provide meaningful puck touches, increased engagement, and valuable opportunities for skill development in a fun and inclusive environment.

This year, our teams participated in two away tournaments, travelling to Irvine and Coaldale. These tournaments provided players with exciting opportunities to experience team travel, game play against other associations, and memorable moments with teammates and families. The shared tournament experience between both teams was a highlight of the season and helped strengthen relationships across the entire U7 division.

While tournament weekends were overall very successful, one area identified for growth moving forward is volunteer coordination and communication surrounding parent shift commitments. We recognize the importance of ensuring tournament responsibilities are clearly communicated early and consistently to families in order to better support our volunteers and create a smooth experience for everyone involved. The willingness of parents and families to contribute their time continues to be an important part of making these events possible, and we look forward to building on this collaboratively in future seasons.

A sincere thank-you goes out to all of our volunteer coaches and team staff for their dedication, patience, and commitment throughout the season. Their leadership created a positive and encouraging environment where players could learn, build confidence, and develop a genuine love for the game. The coaches did an exceptional job supporting player growth while emphasizing teamwork, sportsmanship, inclusion, and effort both on and off the ice.

Off the ice, families and players continued to build meaningful friendships and connections through team activities, fundraising efforts, and community involvement throughout the season.

These experiences remain an important part of creating a strong hockey culture and positive memories for our young athletes.

Looking ahead to the 2026/27 season, we are excited to continue building a strong foundation for our youngest players by fostering a fun, supportive, and development-focused environment. We also look forward to welcoming new families into the association and continuing to strengthen community involvement within Redcliff Minor Hockey.

#### U7 Blue

- Most Valuable Player – Koehn Ulrich
- Hardest Working Player – Lane Ibottson
- Most Improved Player – Maeve Church
- Sportsmanship Excellence – Bennett Sleeking
- Leadership & Dedication – Waylon Robinson
- Best Teammate – Wesley Skagen

#### U7 White

- Most Valuable Player – Holden Burton
- Hardest Working Player – Adeline Hunt
- Most Improved Player – Leo Lafferty
- Sportsmanship Excellence – Zade Dawson
- Leadership & Dedication – Carter Gaetz
- Best Teammate – Levi Lacasse

A number of our players will now be graduating to the U9 division, and we wish them the very best as they continue their hockey journeys. We are incredibly proud of the growth they demonstrated this season and know they will continue to thrive at the next level.

Thank you to all of the players, families, coaches, volunteers, and board members who contributed to another successful U7 season. It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated individuals who care deeply about creating positive experiences for our young athletes.

In kindness,  
Janae Ulrich  
U7 Director  
Redcliff Minor Hockey Association