

U9 RMHA Director Report, Year End 2025/26 Season

The 2025/26 season saw the U9 age group have 28 players registered to start the season (including 3 overage players). The U9 Grizzlies were split into 2 teams right off the start this season. The U9 Blue team rostered 13 players and played in the Medicine Hat A division and the U9 white team rostered 15 players and played in the Medicine Hat B division. The entire U9 division ran joint practices every second Tuesday, and then the teams played games or practiced on their own ice slots for the Saturday and Sunday ice slots (some of these became shared ice practices due to lack of ice). Challenges that came up this season:

- Game scheduling was a challenge this year due to Medicine Hat losing their scheduler several times throughout the season
- Ice availability, specifically in January
 - This was a one off as we had to host multiple association tournaments in January, which meant no weekend availability for the younger age groups
 - If this happens again in the future I suggest we still practice or play from 7 am to 8 am before the tournament games start. U7 could go on Saturday and U9 could go on Sunday. At least then they wouldn't go weeks without ice.

Throughout the season while playing against the Medicine Hat U9 A and B teams the Grizzlies played games at home and in Medicine Hat. They also battled the Irvine Bulldogs for some games both at home and in Irvine. The U9 blue team also played exhibition games against Duchess, and in Maple Creek, and finished their season with an exhibition game in Shaunavon.

The U9 teams co-hosted their home tournament February 6-8th. Teams from Calgary (x5), Shaunavon, Great Falls (x2), attended. Thanks to the tournament sponsors and volunteers, the tournament was a huge success!

The U9A Blue team participated in 4 tournaments this season; a Brooks tournament November 8-9th (half ice), their home tournament, a tournament in Irvine January 3-4th, and their final tournament of the season was in Springbank Feb 27-March 1st. All of the tournaments excluding Brooks were full ice, with no offsides called, and buzzers for line changes.

The U9B White team participated in 3 tournaments this season; Duchess (full ice) tournament Jan 9-11, their home tournament, and a tournament in Indus (half ice) to end their season, held March 20-22nd.

The U9 division had 5 female players in the 2025/26 season. All 5 players attended the association's third annual "Redcliff Grizzlies Girls Night Out" on March 4th. The girls each received a "Girls Night Out" hoodie, and Harlow won the Toronto Sceptres PWHL Jersey for the u9 player draw. The girls shared a pizza supper with all the other girls in the association as well as players from the SAHA Women's hockey team and the Medicine Hat College Rattlers Women's Hockey team. After supper the girls heard the hockey stories of several SAHA and

Rattler women as well as a couple of Grizzlies. This year the girls were fortunate to build bracelets with the SAHA girls. After the speeches the girls went on the ice for drills with the two women's program teams and finished the night off with a shootout celly competition.

End of season awards for the U9 division were awarded to the following players:

U9A Blue:

Hardest Working Player - Easton Eisenbarth

Most Improved Player - Audrina Bressler

Sportsmanship Excellence - Nolan Skagen

Leadership & Dedication - Ashton McCrea

Most Valuable Player - Jordyn Sawchuk

Best Teammate - Emmett Green

U9B White:

Hardest Working Player - Wade Anderson

Most Improved Player - Jake Wuitchik

Sportsmanship Excellence - Deegan Kurtz

Leadership & Dedication - Greyson Barnes

Most Valuable Player - Jocelyn Wallin

Best Teammate - Marek Dyck

The U9 division will graduate 18 players to U11 in the 2026/27 season. I wish all of these players the best of luck as they progress to full ice and full rules next season! Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Rectangle next season!

Thanks,
Corey McCrea
U9 Director, RMHA