

Vice President of Technical Area Report October 23rd, 2023

Scheduling

This season, we mandated the use of TeamSnap Mobile App for all Bengal teams. This was a great addition to the league as it made my scheduling life much easier. Not only did it make my life easier, but it also made the lives of our coaches, managers, and parents easier by having the team's schedule and communication readily available in the palms of everyone's hands.

Shawna Dolman and Jen Pate needed to be recognized for all of their hard work managing the apps.

Now that I have two children playing rep lacrosse, as well as my busy refereeing schedule, I really do not have the time to manage the scheduling role. If someone is willing to take on the role of scheduler, I will gladly see that they have a smooth transition into their new role.

Equipment

This year, I believe we only had to purchase a few items for our goalies in the U13/U15 age groups. After quickly putting the gear away in our storage locker at the end of the season, I can tell that we'll need to purchase some more rep-level gear for the younger age groups. We'll be able to tell more after a full inventory has been taken.

Once again, used Play it Again Sports to sanitize our equipment after the season.

A new shot clock was also purchased during the season and we'll likely need to purchase another in 2024 as some of them are very past their prime. Replacement parts for the older models are near impossible to get so unfortunately, this forces us to purchase newer models.

House League Program

This year, the HLA continued its focus on the rebuilding of the House League program.

After only running a Paperweight, U9, and U11 in 2022, we were able to offer our "Next Level Development Program" for U13 and U15 age groups. Players who were unsuccessful in making a Bengal team or who had no desire to play travel lacrosse were able to stay local and develop their skills. We had several pro players drop in throughout the season to provide instruction, but the bulk of the programming was run by President Greg Gillis. From the feedback that I have heard, the program was a huge success.

The U9 and U11 age groups grew drastically this year. After forcing Bengal players to play within the house league during the previous season, this year we did not have to do that. In fact, the U9 age group expanded to six teams, and the U11 age group had 4 full teams. This, along with the addition of the "Next Level Program" forced us to add a third rink for the first time in years.

For the U5/U7 age group, we employed the services of U17 Bengals coach, Mike Bottosso to run the instruction on both Mondays and Wednesday nights. Mike who is an elementary school teacher by day, was the perfect person to run this age group. He made it fun and welcoming for everyone

For the advanced players in the U7 age group, we were able to offer a modified Bengal team for the first time since Covid. 18 players were chosen to play on the team. The boys competed in exhibition games, two "Fun Days" and one invitational tournament at the Toronto Rock Athletic Centre in Oakville. This was a real eye-opener for the parents who got to see just how big the sport of lacrosse is around the province. Our U9 Bengal team will be that much better next season as a result of these boys getting that rep-level experience.

Joel Firmin