



## Otonabee Wolves Mid-Season Survey- Summary

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### OVERALL FEEDBACK

#### Positive Feedback:

- Communication from the organization was appreciated, with a noticeable improvement in effectiveness.
- Executive members are seen putting in significant effort to enhance the experience.
- Managers' meeting at the beginning of the year was helpful; participants would appreciate more defined roles for bench staff, and manager roles and collaboration
- Goalie development was well received.
- The Speak Out Coordinator provided strong support throughout the season.
- Teams that were successful this season focused on fun, helped players grow and develop, and fostered a positive atmosphere. They maintained a strong connection to small-town hockey values.
- The executive team was readily available to assist with conflicts or challenges related to coaching, bench staff, players, and families.

#### Areas for Improvement:

- **Skill Development:**
  - More skill development opportunities for both players and goalies.
  - Reduce the number of players on the ice during practice to ensure more focused development.
  - More frequent skill development sessions are needed.
- **Ice Time:**
  - Provide more ice time for REP teams.
  - Late-night practice times were particularly challenging for younger players.

- **Shared Practices:**
  - Feedback indicates coaches, families and players would prefer full-ice sessions with only one team on the ice at a time.
- **Supervision and Behavior:**
  - Increased supervision is needed, particularly regarding language and negative behavior in the dressing room.
  - Clear consequences for poor behavior on the bench and during games are necessary.
- **Communication:**
  - Earlier communication about teams and season intentions (e.g., REP, LEO) is essential for planning and preparation.
  - Executive members should not hold multiple positions, as this could impact their ability to effectively manage their roles.
- **Role Clarity and Support:**
  - Clearer communication regarding roles, particularly bench staff and team responsibilities, is required.
  - Teams should establish supervision expectations during the first parent meeting.
  - Executive support should continue for coaches when disciplinary actions are needed.
- **Community Engagement and Promotion:**
  - More effort should be put into promoting the organization to draw new players.
  - Greater community involvement and a focus on providing positive experiences for players and families.

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## GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Fundraising and Sponsorships:** Focus on organizing effective fundraising efforts and acquiring sponsorships.
- **Trophy Case/Display:** Consider installing a trophy case or display in the lobby.
- **Volunteers:** Encourage volunteer participation, particularly for roles like timekeeping, and consider using teenagers for volunteer hours.
- **Community Involvement:** Organize more team-building events and community activities.
- **Coaching Certification:** Provide clear information on how to become a certified coach
- **Spring Start UP:** Earlier registration and the announcement of teams would help streamline the process. Consider hosting the AGM earlier. Host spring tryouts for MD and rep

- **Team Sizes and Organization:** Larger teams may be beneficial in some cases, and there is a need for better organization at the start of the season. Coaches need a list of players who will be on the ice for tryouts, a sign in process would be helpful.
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## COACH FEEDBACK

### Positive:

**Knowledge & Skills :**Coaches were appreciated for their dedication, knowledge, and effectiveness.

**Player Improvement:**The players showed significant improvement, with many enjoying their experience and becoming more engaged.

**Team Building & Reinforcing Positive Team Culture:** Dryland training was positively received.

**Bench Staff Teamwork:**The coaching staff worked well as a team, with good communication.

**Player Knowledge & Growth:** Players have a better understanding of their positions and are learning to play as a team.

**Clear Expectations & Follow Through:**The importance of discussing and reviewing the code of conduct with players was emphasized and upheld. Issues that arose were dealt with at the moment.

**Coach Feedback:** Coaches suggested the creation of an *induction program and mentorship opportunities for all coaching pathways. It would be helpful to have the code of conduct for coaches, players, parents displayed in arena*

**FUN:** The players were excited to go to the rink!

### Areas Of Improvement:

**Ice Practice Format:** The shared ice practice format was not ideal for running drills, leading to time overlap and less effective practice sessions.

**Limited Player Development Feedback:** There was a desire for more feedback on player development to be communicated to parents, ensuring they are informed of their child's progress.

**Coaching Development:** Coaches expressed the need for more structured coaching development, including a clear induction program and access to effective drills and activities.

**Code of Conduct:** There were concerns about the need for a more consistent application of the code of conduct, specifically in terms of posting and reviewing it with players. As well as coaches following a code of conduct in terms of their aggressive language towards players

**Coaching Teamwork:** Some coaches noted the importance of ensuring that coaching staff work more cohesively as a team.

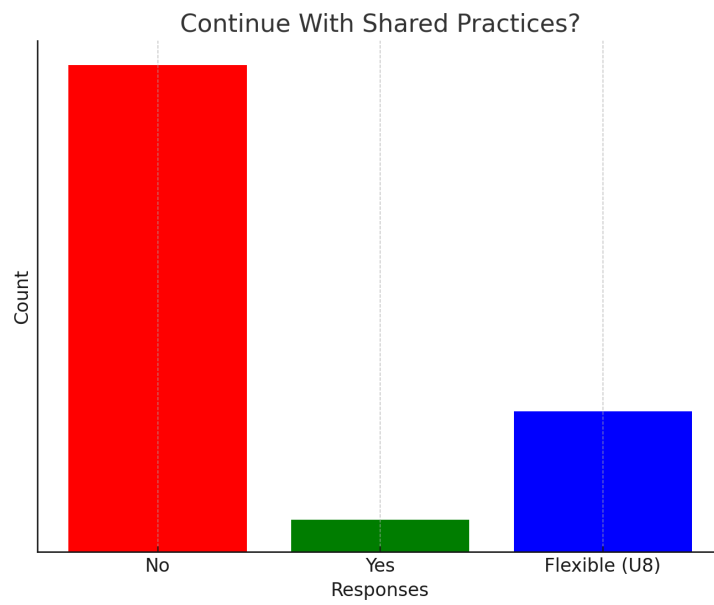
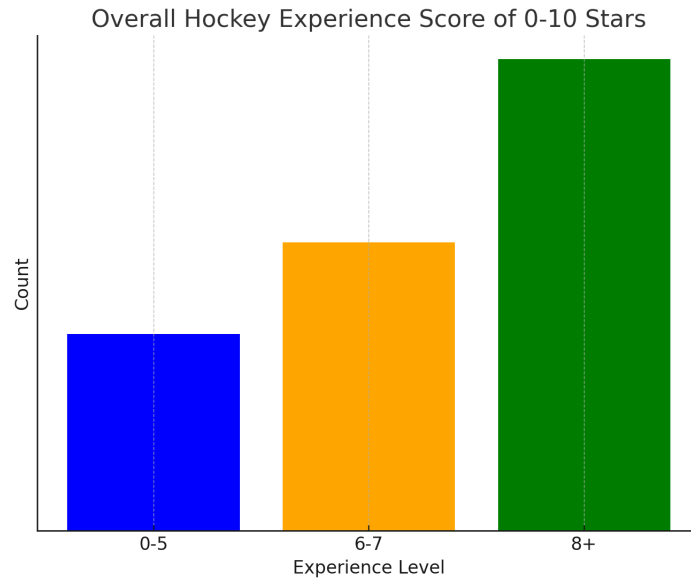
**Lack of Equal Ice Time:** There were concerns about equal ice time not being enforced (specific to 2 teams in the whole organization).

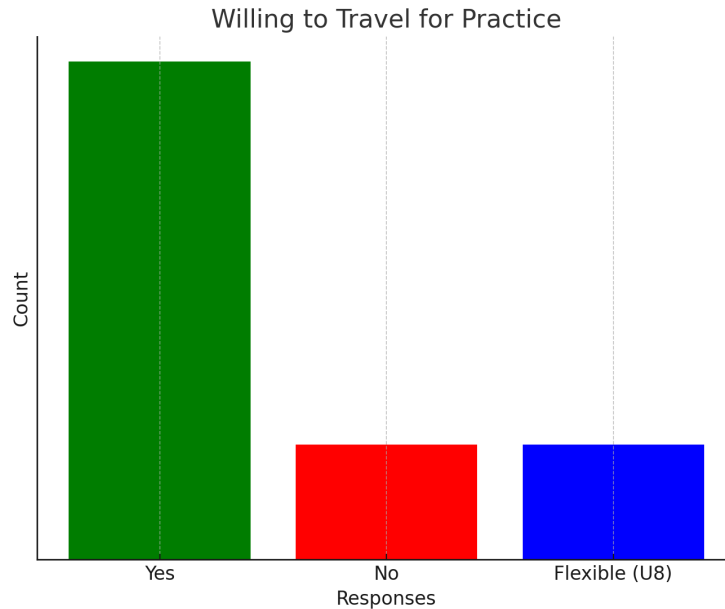
**Player Engagement and Coaching Communication:** Some families wanted more team-building opportunities and clearer communication among the coaching staff to foster better player engagement and excitement.

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## SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- A suggestion was made to create a tailored **Otonabee Wolves Development Program U8-U18** to ensure consistent skill growth.
- Limited development sessions in the past season were not enough to drive overall improvement.
- More power skating, smaller practice groups, and additional ice time were highly requested.
- Players expressed a need for focused training on power play, penalty kill, and positional skill development (e.g., defense, forwards, and goalies).
- More training in skating and passing drills would benefit the players.
- The importance of dryland training, variety in skill development sessions, and partnerships with external development programs like NXT was highlighted.
- More goalie skill development sessions and incentives for goalies were also suggested.
- Skating clinics and other fitness-related sessions should be incorporated more regularly.





## **Action Items Summary**

### **1. Skill Development:**

- Increase skill development sessions for both players and goalies.
- Reduce the number of players per session to allow more focused development.
- Ensure more frequent development opportunities.

### **2. Ice Time:**

- Provide more ice time for REP teams.
- Address concerns about late-night practice times for younger players.
- Fair ice time for players

### **3. Shared Practices:**

- Organize full-ice practices with only one team on the ice at a time.
- Address concerns about shared-ice practices

### **4. Supervision and Behavior:**

- Increase supervision, especially in the dressing room.
- Implement consequences for poor behavior on the bench and during games.
- Clarify roles and expectations for supervision in the first parent meeting.

### **5. Communication:**

- Provide earlier communication about teams and season intentions (e.g., REP, LEO).
- Announce season intentions as early as possible.
- Encourage transparent communication from the executive.
- Post Code of Conduct in the Dressing Rooms (Coach, Players)

### **6. Volunteer Roles:**

Limit the number of roles held by executive members to ensure full investment in each position.

- Reach out to parents willing to volunteer for next season.

7. **Coaching Support:**
  - Continue supporting coaches in disciplinary actions (e.g., Speak Out, behavior issues).
  - Provide a coaching induction program with clear activities and drills. **Otonabee Wolves Development Program U8-U18**
8. **Community Engagement and Promotion:**

Increase promotion of the organization to attract more players.

  - Engage in more community events and team-building activities.
9. **Team Organization and Scheduling:**
  - Provide team managers with season deadlines, guidelines, and a season layout.
  - Schedule monthly parent emails regarding upcoming events, meetings, and deadlines.
10. **Role Clarity:**
  - Clearly define and communicate roles and responsibilities of bench staff, manager, executive roles, parents.
  - Encourage open communication within bench staff.
  - Ensure equal ice time for all players and clear ice time allocation for REP teams.
11. **Goalie Development:**
  - Continue working with NXT (or other programs) to offer more goalie development sessions.
  - Explore additional development options during slower periods of the season (e.g., Christmas Break).
12. **Jersey Selection and Sizing:**
  - Ensure proper jersey sizing aligns with age groups and consider allowing players to purchase their own jerseys if needed.
13. **Fundraising and Sponsorship:**
  - Organize fundraising efforts and acquire sponsorships for the organization.  
Should this be one person's role on the executive?
14. **Volunteers and Community Involvement:**
  - Recruit volunteers for timekeeping and other roles; consider teen volunteers for service hours.
  - Increase community involvement and team-building events.