

2022 AGM: Bengals Report

The 2022 Hamilton Bengal Rep program had a successful year after a two year break due to COVID. Tryouts for the season began in April, later than anticipated, due to limited arena availability (ice still in). We saw larger tryout numbers in the U15 and U13 age groups driven in part by a lack of house league for this age group. U9 & U17 experienced challenges in getting players out this season. The lack of a formal house league due to COVID impacted U9 recruitment. U17 was impacted by lack of a rep programming over the last two years to keep players engaged in lacrosse. COVID also impacted ordering team apparel this season as supply constraints and the late arrival of gear delayed players receiving most items. Jerseys for the season were on time as they were ordered pre-pandemic in early 2020. A formal fitting & spirit night did not occur this season in part due to supply issues and players were sent directly to THQ over a three-day window to get fitted. All jerseys from 2022 have been inventoried and the information has been built in for the estimated 2023 order.

IPADS for all Bengal game sheets was utilized this year. The use of IPADS was a great success and many efficiencies were recognized. Through trial and error we were able to work through early glitches and things seemed to run smooth throughout. It is our hopes to continue the use of IPADS in 2023. We will wait for final direction from the OLA and should receive information after their AGM in November.

On the floor there were many new players and coaches, especially in the younger age groups. We were able to field a team in each age group (many centres were unable to do this) and had 2 teams in the U13 and U15 divisions. The U9 & U11 teams played both house league & rep in order to ensure healthy numbers for our HL program as well as competitive play. Our U13 2 team was comprised of largely players who had hoped to play house league, but opted to play a modified rep schedule. These players and families enjoyed success at the Bengals level coming in just behind the U13 1 team in league standings. Due to the late timing of try outs & strains on our executive resources, we did not hold an official coaches meeting. This led to some questions and concerns at the beginning of the season that were quickly addressed. A manager's training session was held to help get all the new volunteers in this position off to a solid start. Overall, the Bengals teams had a successful seasons with Hamilton winning 5 Zone Championships (U9, U11, U13, U15 (1) and U15 (2)) and 1 Silver Medal in Provincials (U 11).

Opportunities for 2023:

For 2023 we are looking to have coaching applications posted in early December with applications due by the end of the year. We are also looking to book floor time at Eastwood Arena earlier and have earlier try outs as there is no ice in the arena this year. This will allow us to have coaches/managers meetings in a timely fashion to discuss the year and go over Code of Conducts, etc. There will be off season focus on developing new resources for Bengals teams including an operations manual and manager resources. These new resources will be created with the collaboration of several stake holders, with the goals of ensuring the smooth operations of Bengals teams in 2023. Jersey orders will be placed in October once inventory is finalized, and the Team Fitting/Spirit Wear night will return in 2023. Lastly there will be an assessment of estimated registrations of our U15/U17 teams as we may have enough players to field two teams in 2023.