



2022 President's Report, Alberta Junior Rugby Association

It has been my honor to step into the AJRA President role this year. I would like to thank my board of directors, sub unions, clubs and Rugby Alberta for their support of the junior programs across Alberta.

The AJRA has now “completed” four years of our Rookie Rugby plan, which was first presented at the 2018 AGM. The pandemic and difficulty finding a suitable replacement for the founding Rookie Rugby Manager were setbacks in the projected development of the program but the positive growth is undeniable. Through a determined effort and sustained adaptability we were still able to make strides this past year. In 2022, the AJRA were able to hire an “interim” Rookie Rugby Manager for the Spring and Summer months, who offered programming to over 7,500 youth across the province. We hired 5 summer students this year and had them working in Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, and Lethbridge. The Rookie Rugby program has been a huge success wherever the sessions have been run and we will continue to focus our attention on this programming. The board has recently hired a long-term replacement in the role of Rookie Rugby Manager that will build upon the success of previous years.

U18 and under junior rugby, numbers across the province grew from the approximately 1700 athletes registered in 2021 to about 2500. This is still well below our pre-pandemic numbers but it is positive to see the numbers growing.

This being my first full year as president, it has become very evident to both myself and the board that after 2 years of the pandemic, it is time for us to refocus on our strategic plan to ensure our programs are running concurrently and effectively across the province with the sub-unions to ensure all clubs, schools and communities have the abilities and resources to increase junior involvement in the game.

As we look forward into our 2023 junior rugby season, we are committed to delivering excellence in our programs and transparency from our board.

Sincerely,

Ultan Peters

President, Alberta Junior Rugby Association