

# YELLOWKNIFE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

### POLICY

Approved: 18 September, 2008

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Association strives to meet the needs of those players who wish to commit more time to hockey. The Development teams are intended to develop player's skills and tactics at the highest possible competitive level. The Association sponsors Development Teams in the following divisions: Pee wee, Bantam, Midget and Senior Female. This statement is intended to:

- Describe the principles which will guide operations of the teams;
- Describe the process for evaluating players and selecting the teams;

#### 2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The operations of the team will be guided by the following principles:

**Players First:** The Association will strive to ensure that all players enjoy a positive and meaningful competitive experience.

**Merit:** Players will be selected for the development teams on the basis of their individual skills, attitude and reflection of Association values.

**Transparency:** the process of evaluating players and selecting the teams shall be apparent to all parties.

**User Pay:** the players selected to play on a development team shall be responsible for costs (ice time, travel expenses, etc.) associated with their participation on that team.

#### 3.0 SCOPE

This statement applies to all Development Teams except the Midget Development Team. Please see a separate statement relating to the Midget Development Team.

#### 4.0 SELECTION OF COACHES

- Coaches will be selected according to the Association policy unless otherwise determined by the Executive Committee due to special circumstances.
- The Head Coach will be selected by 01 September of each year.
- The Head Coach may select his or her own coaching staff subject to approval by the Development Teams Committee. However, any coach that will be on the bench must have a minimum of Level I certification.

#### 5.0 PLAYER APPLICATIONS

Players wishing to try-out must:

- Register for the Development Team as per the registration process for all Association programs.

- Pay the registration fee, in full, at the time of registration.

The registration fee will be refunded (90%) to those players who are not selected for the team.

#### 6.0 EVALUATION OF PLAYERS

- The coaching staff will run a player evaluation process that is consistent with Association policy.
- Players will be evaluated and ranked in accordance with the Association policy and procedures on Player Evaluation.
- The Chair, Development Teams Committee shall oversee the process to ensure that it is consistent with Association policy.
- The Head Coach may be one member of the Evaluation Committee but may not be involved in the evaluation of their own child.
- Upon completion of the evaluations, the Committee shall meet to establish the final rank of the players.
- Individual rating summaries must be completed for each player and the final summaries must be provided to the Chair, Development Teams Committee before the list of players and alternates is announced.

#### 7.0 ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- Any player who meets the age requirements for a division may try out for the Development Team in that division.
- If a player chooses to “play up” a division in the League Program, the player may only try out for the Development Team in that division.
- A player may play on only one Development Team.

#### 8.0 SIZE OF TEAM

- A Development Team shall consist of a maximum of eighteen (18) skaters and two goaltenders.
- No alternate players will be chosen.

#### 9.0 TEAM SELECTION

The coaching staff will select players for the team in accordance with the following considerations:

- The top ten skaters and two goaltenders, as selected by the evaluation committee, are automatically assigned to the team.
- The next two skaters must be selected from the players ranking 11 to 15.
- The next six skaters must be selected from players ranked 11 to 30.
- The 18 skaters and two goaltenders will be guaranteed an opportunity to travel to team tournaments.

## 10.0 PLAYER NOTIFICATION

The coaching staff shall meet with each player individually and inform them of their selection decision. The player must also be provided with a summary of their strengths and weaknesses which resulted in the decision. Upon request, each player is entitled to receive an individual evaluation form within two weeks of the evaluation process.

The meetings with individual players shall occur in a secure area and shall occur in alphabetical order of the players' surnames.

## 11.0 APPEALS

- The selection of players for the team may be appealed only if:
  - The selection process did not conform with Association policy;
  - There is evidence of bias by the coaching staff or selection committee; or
  - Certain decisions are grossly unfair or unreasonable.
- Disagreement over the merits or substance of the selections will not be considered valid grounds for an appeal.
- An appeal must be submitted to the Chair, Development Teams Committee in writing. The appellant must indicate the decision to be contested and the reasons for challenging the decision.
- The appeal will be considered according to the Association process for considering appeals (see Code of Conduct).

## 12.0 SEASONAL PROGRAM

- The Head Coach shall submit a proposed seasonal program of practices and games to the Chair, Development Teams Committee, with the application for the Head Coach position.
- The Head Coach is required to submit a comprehensive program plan, including a proposed travel plan, to the Chair, Development Teams Committee, before 01 November.
- The program plan shall include a list of proposed exhibition games or tournaments, the dates of each, and the projected cost of the proposed program.
- The Development Teams Committee shall approve the proposed program by 15 November and facilitate the identification of game opportunities.
- Each Development Team will be limited to three out-of-town trips to competitions, per season. Two of these trips should occur during the Christmas break, the spring break or post season. If possible, the third trip should occur during a "special event" weekend.

## 13.0 OPERATING COSTS

- Player registration fees are intended to cover the cost of ice time, and on-ice officials for out-of-town tournaments and games.
- Players and parents will be expected to cover the team costs above and beyond the initial registration fees. The Association may provide some relief through sponsorship.

- The proposed seasonal program must include a projected budget and a plan for raising the required funds.
- The team must be prepared to raise any additional funds required to cover the cost of:
  - Team registration in tournaments;
  - Team travel to tournaments;
  - Travel and accommodation costs of the coaching staff
- The plan for funding-raising must conform to the Association policy on sponsorship and fund raising.
- The team players are expected to pay for the operating costs of the development team.