

North East Female Hockey

Guidelines and Policies

Hockey Winnipeg offers a tiered program for female hockey consisting of teams Novice to Midget at the “A” level and for the Pee wee, Bantam, and Midget teams at the “AA” level. In 2012 the combined Area Associations (River East minor Hockey Association hereafter referred to as RE and Lord Selkirk Minor Hockey Association hereafter referred to as LS) agreed to rebrand the female hockey program to differentiate and create the Eagles (A Hockey) and the Predators (AA Hockey) using the Nashville Predators colors and cresting was designed to reflect.

The Female Hockey Directors/Vice Presidents of RE & LS will be charged with the primary responsibility for the operating administration of the teams with the overview of the Presidents of the Associations included in the group. This will include all female teams regardless where the team may be hosted.

The Female representatives will co-ordinate with their respective Area Associations & AA male sub committee’s where there are development opportunities for players to potentially capitalize on economies of scale, contracting ice etc.

Team Structure

Team formation will fall within the Hockey Winnipeg program charts and at AA level the objective will be 15 skaters minimum and 2 goaltenders. At the A level, numbers will depend on registration numbers and the number of teams being entered in the category.

Coaching staff is expected to consist of three to four individuals plus a Manager and a non rostered Parent Representative. All rostered staff must complete Manitoba Child Registry searches and Police Checks.

Coaches Selection will be conducted by a panel of the Female representatives and the Presidents of RE & LS or their designate. In all instances the representatives will act in concert on **ALL** coaching decisions regardless where the team is hosted. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any or all applicants and coaches may be appointed after team selection. Coaches are expected to lead by example and must ensure their conduct and leadership sets a good example for the players and is a credit to the North East Female Hockey program.

2.

Coaches Selection objective for the AA program will be the appointment of a non parent applicant however should circumstances indicate this choice would not be in the best interest of the program, a parents may be appointed. In this instance the evaluation process would be conducted exclusive of the coach until the team selected. If a parent coach is appointed prior to final cuts the coach would be allowed to collaborate on the last pick or two however in all instances where consensus is not reached, the evaluator's decision will be **final**. Further, it will be the objective where possible and subject to the availability of a suitable candidate to not allow a coaching staff more than 2 years in the same group.

Coaches Selection criteria for the A program will be selection of the best candidate, parent or not.

Team Colours

North East Female teams, Eagles and Predators, will wear the colours of the Nashville Predators with the designated cresting.

At the AA Predator level players will wear black pants and helmets.

At the A level we encourage the same dress.

Rules for conflict of jersey colours are outlined in the Hockey Winnipeg hand book.

Team colours will be worn for all league, playoff, exhibition games. Players will wear the approved North East Female stockings. *(In NO instance will wearing one white sock & one dark sock be tolerated)*

Sweater numbers are restricted from 1 through 99 (except 69) and must be the same on both home & away jerseys. *See appendix A attached for Jersey and Sock Replacement Policy.*

Team Selection Process

Evaluations will take place within the Hockey Winnipeg designated dates. The programs will consist of independent evaluations for all parent coached teams and an overview process may be utilized at the AA level.

Player cuts in the selection process are to be made in groups of not less than three individuals.

Players must participate in tryouts unless an injury has occurred that prevents and must be supported by a doctor's note if they are to miss the entire tryout. In these instances the ratings from the previous year would be considered in placing the player. In NO instance should a player not participating in tryouts be considered for a higher level team than that played the previous season.

Team rules may apply however must be reasonable and suitable for the age of the participants. Players selected are the players to be played and all are expected to be given the opportunities to take part in special team play at least initially although discretion late in a game or in playoffs would be considered acceptable.

Tournaments

Major trips (over 500 km's) are restricted to ONE trip per season and must be approved by the Female Director's and the parents of the players. In this instance travel must be by bus. The team will make a commitment for the length of their stay when travelling by bus regardless that the team may be eliminated from competition.

There is no restriction on nearby tournaments.

Seat allocation on bus trips is to ensure at least one parent accompanies each child and extra seats then may be sold to those other members that wish to attend with parents having first choice over siblings, other relatives etc. In the event a family decides no parent will go with their child, they are not allowed to sell their seat. All funds from the sale of extra seats will be for credit of the team account.

Teams will be responsible for the cost of rooms and a per diem of \$40. for meals for coaching staff EXCEPT in the case of a parent coach or assistant etc.

Teams will be responsible for mileage of a coach's vehicle to out of town tournaments or exhibition games at a rate of .40 cents per km. unless the coach is a parent.

Travel Permits / Exemptions from schedules are the responsibility of the coach and team manager to arrange within the guidelines of Hockey Winnipeg and Hockey Manitoba.

Team Finances

Teams will require money for supplies, practice ice, tournaments etc. and funds may be raised in a variety of manners including parent assessments, socials, raffles etc. Any fund raising activity that utilizes the name of the North East teams must be approved by the Female Directors.

Sponsorships for the team may be accepted and acknowledgement provided the sponsor by way of crest or name bar as follows:

AA Teams (Predators):

- a crest of not more than 4 inches in diameter placed on the sleeve, shoulder, or sweater tail for a donation of \$100.
- a band on the sweater tail with the advertisers name in letters 3 inches or less in consideration of a donation of \$200.

4.

A Teams (Eagles):

- a crest of not more than 4 inches in diameter placed on the sleeve, shoulder, or sweater tail for a donation of \$50.
- a band on the sweater tail with the advertisers name in letters 3 inches or less in consideration of a donation of \$100.

In those instances where the team has acquired practice ice outside the normal boundaries of the North East Female area's, non parent coaches will be entitled to a fee of \$20. From team funds to cover driving costs for one vehicle. The Coaches are encouraged to car pool however if use of 2 or more vehicles considered more convenient, they will need to split the fee.

It is the responsibility of the Manager of each team to open a bank account for collection of fees from parents, fund raising activities and payment of all bills. The account **MUST** be **TWO To SIGN**, usually the Manager and Parent rep but **NEVER** two members of the same household.

The manager is to provide a statement each month to the team members for the team and their individual accounts. Any arrears situation is to be brought up to date immediately or it is the obligation of the Manager to advise the Female Director/VP of their Area of the situation. Team assessments will not be subsidized and suitable arrangement for arrears must be made in a timely fashion or playing privileges for any player will be withdrawn.

Team Apparel

Team jackets are not supplied but are required for all **AA Predator** teams. Team jackets will be ordered when final selection has been completed. Teams will be responsible for the AA coach's jackets provided the coaches do not have a current model of the jacket. Should they have the jacket, a wind suit in either nylon or cotton may be acquired for practice etc.

Team jackets are not mandatory for all **A Eagles** teams however we strongly encourage our players to acquire a jacket of the approved model & colors that distinguishes them as a member of the North East Female Hockey program.

Team Pictures

Team pictures are to be taken and it will be the responsibility of the Manager and Coaches to set aside a portion of a practice time to accomplish. The cost of the pictures is not included in the fees of either the Predator or Eagles team budgets.

Registration – A Hockey and AA Tryouts

All players will register through the Hockey Canada registration system, including registration for AA tryouts.

The **A Hockey** registration fees that all players are required to play initially include the costs for Hockey Manitoba fees, Hockey Winnipeg fees, try-outs, game ice and game officials for their league and playoff games. These fees DO NOT include the costs of sweaters, socks, practice ice, team apparel, team pictures etc.

Each Area will be responsible for tryout ice, evaluators etc. and costs for all tryouts hosted and the Areas will complete an accounting of fees between the Areas so no participant need obtain refunds and then pay a fee to the other Area. (e.g. PW evaluations hosted at LS – RE pays the \$80. per PW player registered at RE to LS etc.)

REMHA will maintain a separate bank account as a “female special” to house monies that the two Areas have determined is to be collected for AA Banquet costs, AA Awards, and Reserve Funds allocation established for all female hockey to reward championship winners at both the AA and A levels. Particulars of these funding arrangements are set out below.

Players who are successful in making the AA teams will have their initial A hockey fees allocated to the Area hosting the team as part of their AA fees rather than issuing refunds and needlessly circulating funds.

AA teams will be presented with a budget to cover costs over and above the cost of the A program as well as items such as the AA banquet, ring reserve, coaches honorariums, pucks, etc. These funds will be due in two installments – Nov. 1 & Dec. 1. Payment will be made to the host Area.

See General Policies below with respect to tryout ice times.

AA Hockey Year End Banquet

A banquet will be hosted for the AA teams at the end of each year and tickets will be made available for sale to parents that wish to attend. The costs for the players, coaches and executive members will be included in the AA budgets.

At the AA Banquet there will be recognition of players from each team for their outstanding contributions as selected by the coaching staff. The categories are as follows and the coaches in their presentations will provide a commentary for the selection :

Most Sportsman Like Player

Hardest Working Player

Most Valuable Player

Championship Team Recognition / Reserves

North East Female Hockey has decided to establish a reserve fund for the acknowledgement of championship teams. Traditionally, "AA" teams purchase championship rings and a portion of these reserve funds will be allocated to a winning AA team to assist in the purchase. "A" level teams would most usually recognize the event with the purchase of windbreakers, having their existing team apparel crested, or allocate funds towards a team celebration. North East Female Hockey will maintain a "championship reserve" to assist in these costs by implementing a \$10. per participant surcharge. Payout of these funds will be made on the basis of \$1,000. maximum towards any one AA team or a proportionate share of said amount if more than one winner in a single season and a payment of \$250. to a maximum of \$500. to A teams thus restricting an annual payout to a total of \$1,500. per season. The representatives for the program will monitor these funds on an annual basis and adjust as may be deemed prudent.

General Policies

School is to remain a priority and scheduling of events that require players to miss class should be kept to a minimum.

The jersey replacement policy is outlined at Schedule A attached as we anticipate replacement every second year is sufficient.

Pucks (100) may be supplied to the AA teams and the cost included in their fees.

Each AA team will be responsible for acquiring a first aid kit.

At the A level, 50 pucks and first aid kits as may be supplied will be costed to the account of each individual team.

Team formation will be hosted commencing mid September. At the AA level 5 skates will be scheduled with the last being an exhibition game which the cost of officials will be covered by the Association. Participants are guaranteed 3 opportunities as first cuts will take place after the 3rd and subsequent skates. In all instances cuts will be done in groups and in no circumstances is one player to be cut from a session.

Team formation for A hockey – dependent on numbers 3 evaluations may be sufficient for A1 tryouts assuming only two teams in the category. Each player is guaranteed 2 opportunities as cuts will take place after the second skate. In the event of registration sufficient for three teams, a fourth ice slot should be scheduled. At A2 only one slot required if no A3 team or two slots allocated to split the A2/3 group.

AA evaluations – 3 independent evaluators (\$28. per skate) will evaluate team formation in the event of a parent coach. If the coach selected is a non parent without any parent assistants nor a conflict to the age group, then 2 evaluators will suffice with the coach to provide equal input.

7.

A evaluations – 3 independent evaluators (\$28. per skate) will evaluate team formation in the event of a PARENT coach. As above, this may be reduced to 2 evaluators if a non parent coach has been selected.

On ice personnel (\$28. per skate) – numbers will be established by North East based on the size of the groups.

Female All Star Day – all players and coaches selected to the event are expected to attend and participate. No tournament / request for exemption is allowed any North East teams on this date.

Honorariums for AA Coaches (\$1,800.00. per season to be allocated among the coaching staff by the coach) will be paid in equal proportions at Xmas break and end of season after submission & verification of the team financial statement and parent accounts has been verified by the representatives of North East.

Honorarium for AA Manager of \$100.00 will be paid at end of season after submission & verification of the team financial statement and parent accounts has been completed by the representatives for North East.

Each Area (RE & LS) will host teams on a loosely based formula of one team for every 15 players in the program. Based on current registration numbers displayed from each area it is logical that the Novice team be hosted in RE . At the Atom level if a category is mostly LS area players, they should be hosted at LS.

AA teams will be placed as follows subject to registration numbers etc.

Peewee AA and Midget AA – RE

Bantam AA - LS

A teams will be reviewed annually in conjunction with above for placement.

North East teams will conduct surveys of the parent group for all teams to gather feedback on any variety of issues with respect to the program. Two surveys will be conducted for the 2016-17 season and reviewed annually by the Area representatives for content, frequency etc.

The Association has determined Skill Development Programs be implemented for the North East female program commencing 2016-17.

- At the AA level this will be scheduled over the course of the season (8 sessions this season) and costed in the AA team budgets.
- At the A level, the Associations will provide a “FREE” session for all age groups and then develop schedules based on interest expressed as costs for subsequent sessions will be borne by the team(s).

(Updated June 19/17)