



Whitley Bay Ice Hockey Club

Junior Development

Junior Development Policy

WBIHCJD seeks to provide a caring and friendly environment in which members can learn and improve their playing skills and develop to their full ability.

The Club aims to maintain EIHA Division 1 status across all age groups. To achieve this there is a need to balance team requirements with individual development needs.

In support of these aims;

- A Head Coach will be appointed to oversee the Training & Development programme and ensure structured progression between age groups.
- The Head Coach will appoint a suitably qualified Lead Coach per age group to deliver the Programme at team level.
- One or more Assistant Coaches and a Team Manager will support Lead Coaches.
- Registered players may also be called on to provide additional on ice support.
- The Head Coach is responsible for the continued development of all Coaches and assistants.
- Players must demonstrate a reasonable level of skating ability before being allowed to train with Club teams.
- New Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14 players must have attained at least Grade 4 of the rink's 'Learn to Skate' (Rookie) programme.
- New Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14 players are required to fully complete the rink's 'Learn to Skate' (Rookie) programme i.e to Grade 12 after they have joined their age group.
- The relevant Lead Coach will determine the degree of ability required for other age groups.
- Players will be encouraged to work on skating skills in their own time i.e. public sessions in order to ensure maximum progression.
- Players may be invited to train up an age group at the discretion of each Lead Coach, subject to demonstrating commitment to their own age group and an appropriate level of skill and fitness. This privilege may be withdrawn at any time.
- Players may also be requested to train down an age group where it is considered that it will aid overall development.
- Lead Coaches will select teams for games according to players' ability, attitude and attendance record. (Note - players missing training sessions without good cause immediately prior to games will not be eligible for team selection).
- Notice of intended absence from training or games must be given to the Team Manager as soon as possible.
- Teams for league matches will generally be restricted to 3 lines of players and Lead Coaches will make every effort to ensure that selected players receives regular, but not necessarily, equal ice time during games. Being picked for a team does not automatically qualify for ice time during the game.
- Lead Coaches will give priority to own age group players games - players 'training up' will only be selected to play at the higher age group where they are particularly skilful or if the team is short on numbers and their involvement will not prejudice own age group players.
- Players will not be expected to travel to away games where there is no realistic prospect of ice time.
- Reasonable attempts will be made to arrange additional challenge games and tournaments for players not selected for regular season fixtures.
- Lead Coaches will undertake player evaluations and provide constructive feedback to players / parents at periodic intervals.
- The Club will support participation in regional (Conference) teams as a means of development provided it does not prejudice own team needs.