

2018-19 Atom Development Program (ADP)

Overview of competitive goals, and why WMHA run's the Atom Development Program

Whitehorse Minor Hockey Association's (WMHA) primary goal is to deliver safe and fun hockey to any young person who wants to learn and play the game. With that being said, over the last few seasons it has become abundantly clear to the Board, Convenors, and Coaches of WMHA that there are more players demanding a higher level of play beyond what Hockey Yukon and the Mustangs program is able to deliver. WMHA is going to continue to develop and deliver the "Development" Programs for the 2018-19 season.

ADP will strive to provide the opportunity for kids to play safe and fun hockey. The ADP is designed for players who want to play hockey at a higher level and want to improve their overall hockey skills (both individually and as a group). ADP will focus on five things:

- hard work
- improving hockey skills
- positive attitudes
- respect
- having fun

Summary of the ADP program:

- All players will play on an atom house league team.
- An additional ice time per week will be provided to the ADP. This ice time will be used for practices or exhibition games. This will be an additional cost to the parents of the players
- The initial ADP roster will include approximately 16 skaters and 2 goalies depending on the outcome of evaluations.
- By Christmas break, ADP will commit to having 18-20 skaters (adding players from atom house, depending on skill level and improvement). This allows for player improvement throughout the season, not just during the initial evaluation sessions.
- The ADP roster will be dynamic throughout the season, and will change (players may be added or removed from the ADP as the season goes on). The coaches of the ADP will select the most **deserving** kids from the ADP roster to play in the exhibition games and any tournaments approved by WMHA. The players will be chosen from the larger ADP roster for both.
- The roster would be selected based on players that:
 - Exhibit the best possible behaviour
 - Are coachable
 - Are a team player

- Show leadership on their House League team
- Show focus, dedication and a desire to learn in practice
- Are respectful of other players within house league, and never belittle those not in ADP
- Atom Development players will be invited by the ADP coaches to play exhibition games against teams from the peewee house league.
- Goalie coaches will be attending practices when available.
- A set of rules and expectations will be provided to the players and parents. Players and parents will be expected to sign off that they understand the rules and expectations of the ADP.
- Players on the ADP will be required to have Whitehorse Minor Hockey track suits.
- The ADP will encourage community involvement such as team volunteering and being a good person on and off the ice.

Parents will be made aware that there will be additional costs to participate in the ADP (extra ice times, tournaments, etc.). Parents will also be advised that players in the ADP will not play in all of the exhibition games. There will be an opportunity to fundraise to help offset the costs of ADP to parents. Tournament rosters will be determined by the coaches, which will be supported by WMHA.

Tournaments:

- The ADP will plan to attend two out of town tournaments.
- The out of town tournament roster will consist of: 9 forwards, 6 defence and one or two goalies.
- The tournament roster will be selected prior to the tournament with as much notice as possible, but also being practical in order to bring the most deserving players leading up to the tournaments.
- All players in the ADP will be invited to play in one out of town tournament.
- All ADP goalies will have an opportunity play in the tournaments, however, the starting goalie position will be based on the goalie performance in practices and exhibition games leading up to the tournaments.

Schedule:

- Players/coaches meeting at the first ice time – review rules and expectations.
- Parent/coaches meeting will be held in early to mid September after tryouts are complete and the initial ADP roster has been chosen.
- Exhibition games should start in late September but will be scheduled based on when the team is ready for games.
- The plan will be for one tournament before Christmas Break and one in February.

ADP Tryouts:

- There will be up to three additional tryout ice times. They will take place after the first WMHA house evaluation. The dates will be between September 4th and 9th. Any player who has selected the Atom development option at registration will be

invited to the first tryout. Players will then be advised after each session if they are invited to the next tryout session.

- The players will be evaluated based on a number of criteria, and this will be available to the parents at the first session.
- The Head Coach(es) will evaluate the players with additional help from outside evaluator(s). In the event that any coaches have players that do not meet the tryout level required, they will be asked to step aside out of fairness to all players.
- Assistant coaches will be named after tryouts are complete and the initial roster has been determined.
- The drills will include:
 - Skating Drills – forward and backward
 - Stickhandling drills
 - Passing accuracy
 - Shooting accuracy
 - Game play
- The ADP is open to 2008 and 2009 born players.