

## 2018-19 Bantam Development Program (BDP)

### Overview of competitive goals, and why WMHA will initiate the Bantam Development Program

WMHA's primary role will always be to deliver safe and fun hockey to any young person who wants to learn and play the game. Having said that, over the last few seasons, it has become abundantly clear to the Board, Convenors and Coaches of the WMHA that, amongst our players, there are more players demanding a higher level of play than the Hockey Yukon and the Mustangs program is able to deliver.

Given the positive feedback and outcomes from both the existing Peewee and Atom Development Programs (PDP and ADP respectively), WMHA is moving to expand the program to the Bantam Division with a pilot year of the Bantam Development Program (BDP)

BDP will strive to provide the opportunity for kids to play safe and fun hockey. The BDP is designed for players who want to play a higher level of hockey and want to improve their overall hockey skills (both individually and as a group). BDP will focus on improving hockey skills, positioning, team play, positive attitudes, respect and having fun.

In the broadest sense our Bantam players fall into one of the following three categories:

1. players still working towards a goal of furthering a hockey career.
2. players who want to become better recreational players,
3. players who are just looking to play in a regular game of hockey.

The Bantam Development Program will support players in category 1 & 2.

A summary of the goals of the pilot program follows:

- Ensure participants have fun, and grow their love for the sport, such that they are able to benefit from a lifetime in the game.
- Allow players to enjoy playing the game of hockey at a higher and faster level.
- Provide a slightly more advanced and competitive level of play to those players who both qualify and choose to participate.
- Allow players to continue to develop individual skills
- Play in a "system" with set plays and structure, as opposed the more "instinctive" and free-wheeling" play that is the norm in our house league.
- Develop players abilities and skills in their chosen or best-suited position.
- Provide participants with the possibility to be able to travel out with the team for a tournament and all of the memories that provides.

### Season Plan for the Bantam Development Program

The PDP will include:

- All players will play Bantam house league.
- An additional ice time per week will be provided to the BDP. This ice time will be used for practices.
- Exhibition games (TBD against someone).
- Split intersquad games.
- The initial BDP roster will include Approx. 15 -18 skaters, with some room for late additions.
- The BDP roster would be selected based on players that:
  - Exhibit the best possible behaviour
  - Are coachable
  - Are a team player
  - Are a leader on their House league team
  - Show focus, dedication and a desire to learn in practice
  - Are respectful of other players within house league
- Players on the BDP will be required to have Whitehorse minor track suits.

Tournaments:

- The BDP may plan to attend up to 2 out of town tournaments, at the discretion of the Coaches

There may be some fundraising opportunities the help offset some of the costs of the BDP to parents.

Schedule:

- A roster of BDP players will be determined based on an application/tryout process commencing in mid to late September,
- There will be a Players/coaches meeting during the first ice time – review rules and expectations.
- Parent/coaches meeting in late September or early October.
- The regularly scheduled program will begin in earnest in late Spetember
- Out of town tournaments will be added at the discretion of the coaches.

Player Evaluation:

The players will be evaluated based on a number of criteria. The Head Coach or coaches will evaluate the players