

2018-19 Pee wee Development Program (PDP)

Overview of competitive goals, and why WMHA run's the Pee wee 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.

Two years ago, WMHA ran the PDP (which became known as the Black Aces) as a pilot program. PDP played a series of exhibition games against the Atom Development team, as well as hosted a Spring Tournament. The program was deemed to be a success, with considerable demand for the program to be run again in following years.

PDP will strive to provide the opportunity for kids to play safe and fun hockey. The PDP 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). PDP will focus on five things: hard work, improving hockey skills, positive attitudes, respect and having fun.

We recognize that it is a goal of many of our players to be a part of the Mustangs program. Many coaches will tell you that the players who are not able to make the Mustangs team often get left further and further behind every year, as they are not able to compete at a high level. As such, their cohort leaves them behind.

Given all of the above, WMHA is going to continue to develop and deliver the "Development" Programs for the 2018-19 season.

A summary of the goals of the 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 develop individual skills that will allow them to compete for spots on the Mustangs roster in subsequent years, should they choose to do so.
- 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 Pee wee Black Aces

The PDP will include:

- All players will play Pee wee house league.
- An additional ice time per week will be provided to the PDP. This ice time will be used for practices.
- Exhibition games (TBD against someone).
- Split intersquad games.
- The initial PDP roster will include Approx. 15 -18 skaters. By Christmas break, PDP will commit to having 18-20 skaters (adding players from Pee wee house, depending on skill level)
- The PDP roster will be dynamic throughout the season and will change (Players may be added or removed from the PDP as the season goes on). The 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 and never belittle those not in the program
- Goalie coaches will be attending practices when available.
- A set of rules will be provided to the players and parents. Players and parents will be expected to sign off on these rules.
- Players on the PDP will be required to have Whitehorse minor track suits.
- The PDP will encourage community involvement such as volunteering and being a good Samaritan to your fellow persons (team volunteering).

Tournaments:

- The PDP will plan to attend 2 out of town tournaments.
- The out of town tournament roster will consist of: 9 forwards, 6 defence and a goalie. It will be selected with as much notice as possible prior to the tournament and will be selected as outlined above.
- All players in the PDP will be invited to play in at least one out of town tournament.
- All PDP 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.

There will be some fundraising opportunities the help offset some of the costs of the PDP to parents.

Schedule:

- Players/coaches meeting first ice time – review rules and expectations.
- Parent/coaches meeting mid to late September.
- Exhibition games will start in October but will be scheduled based on the when the team is ready for games.
- Out of town tournaments will be tentatively scheduled for February and March 2019.

PDP Tryouts:

- There will be up to 2 additional tryout ice times. They will take place after the first WMHA house evaluations. All players who are interested in participating in the Peeewe Development Program will be invited to the first tryout. Players will then be advised after first 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 made available to the parents at the first session. The Head Coach or coaches will evaluate the players with additional help from outside evaluators. In the event that any coaches have players that do not meet the tryout level required to make the program they will be asked to step aside out of fairness to all players. Assistant coaches will be officially named after tryouts are complete and the initial roster has been determined.
 - The drills will include:
 - o Skating Drills – forward, backward,
 - o Stickhandling drills
 - o Passing accuracy
 - o Shooting accuracy
 - o Game play
- The PDP is open to 2006 and 2007 born players.