1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Association strives to meet the needs of those players who wish to commit more time to hockey. The Development teams are intended to develop player’s knowledge, skills and tactics at a high performance and competitive level. The Association sponsors annual Development Teams in the following divisions: Novice, Atom, Peewee, Bantam, Midget. This statement is intended to describe the principles which will guide operations of the teams.

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The operations of the development teams will be guided by the following principles:

**Players First:** The Association will strive to ensure that all players enjoy a positive, meaningful, competitive experience and are provided with quality development opportunities.

**Merit:** Players will be selected for the development teams on the basis of their individual commitment, knowledge of the game, technical skills, competitiveness, attitude and reflection of Association values.

**Transparency**: the process of evaluating players and selecting the teams may have some flexibility but shall be communicated, apparent to all parties and support YKMHA policy.

**User Pay**: those players selected to play on a development team will occur additional expenses. Selected players and their families shall be responsible for additional costs that include but not be limited to additional ice time, travel expenses, tournament fees and team clothing.

1. SCOPE

This statement applies to all Development Teams except the Midget Development Team. Please see a separate statement relating to the Midget Development Team.

1. PLAYER APPLICATIONS

Players wishing to try-out must:

* Register for the Development Team as per the registration process for all Association programs.
* Pay the tryout fee, in full, at the time of registration.
* Additional development fee to be paid in full by December 15th. If payment is not received, player may not be removed from roster and unable to travel or participate in YKMHA activities until payment is received in full.
1. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS
* Any player who meets the age requirements for a division may try out for the Development Team in that division. If a player chooses to “play up” a division, the player may only try out for the Development Team in that division, (player must rank in the top 25% of players trying out to be placed on the roster, or be an affiliate) they are NOT eligible to play up in house league unless otherwise approved by the Executive Committee due to special circumstances.
* A player may play on only one Development Team and may not drop down to his/her age appropriate age division or play on a House League team unless just reason is provided to the Executive Committee and approved; unless playing on a Hybrid Team.
* A development team player may affiliate with the next Division’s higher development team. Both coaches shall work together with the Director of Development teams to coordinate schedules and to avoid conflicts.

6.0. SIZE OF TEAM

* A Development Team shall consist of an equal proportionate number of players per team for that division. For example, a division has 62 players registered for 4 teams (includes Development team), the Development Team must have 15-16 players.
* Head Coach may request to the Association’s Executive Committee to increase or decrease the number of players as long as there is good reason.
* A Development Team shall consist of a maximum of eighteen (18) skaters and two (2) goaltenders,

7.0 SEASONAL PROGRAM

* The Head Coach shall submit a proposed seasonal program of practices, tournaments, and general skills, tactics and strategies to be included with the application for the Head Coach position.
* The Head Coach is required to submit a comprehensive program plan, including proposed tournament and travel plans with supporting a fundraising plan, to the Director of Development Teams before 01 November.
* The YKMHA Director of Development Teams shall approve the proposed program by 15 November.

8.0 PARTICIPATION IN YKMHA TOURNAMENTS, DIVISIONAL CUPS AND DIVISION ABOVE.

YKMHA Tournaments: All Development team’s eligibility to participate in the YKMHA tournament must be confirmed at least 4 weeks prior to the tournament start date. The director of League Programs, the Director of Development teams and all coaches (Development and League teams) will meet at minimum 4 weeks prior to the tournament to determine if the Development team are competitive within their division and if they are eligible to participate in the home tournament.

Development A teams will play in the division above, a review of the Development A team’s competitiveness within the Division above will be assessed at the Christmas break. A meeting is to be held with the Director of League Programs, Director of Development Teams, the coach of the Development team and league team coaches that the Development A team competes against.

If it is determined that the Development A team is not competitive at this point of the season, then they will be removed from playing games it the division above and it will be up to the head coach of the Development A team to find and arrange alternate competition. Examples of this could be as follows:

* Inter squad games.
* Playing the Development B team from the division above.
* Playing the Development A team from the division above.
* Playing a game against a league team from 2 divisions above, i.e, Peewee Development A team can arrange a game against a midget house league team.

If a Development A team is removed from the division above, then they will also automatically be removed from the home tournament and divisional championships at the end of the season.

If a development A team is deemed to be competitive within the division above at the Christmas break, then they will remain in that division for the remainder of the season, and they will also compete in the divisional championships at the end of the year.

8.0 OPERATING COSTS

* Initial registration fees for players are intended to cover the cost of regular associated scheduled program ice time and on-ice officials for association.
* Players will be expected to cover the team costs above and beyond the initial registration fees. The Association or the Team may provide some relief through sponsorship and/or approval of fundraising opportunities.
* The proposed seasonal program must include a projected budget and a draft plan for fundraising. The plan for fund-raising must conform to the Association policy.
* Players must be prepared to pay for or where possible organize and raise any additional funds required to cover the cost of:
	+ Extra ice;
	+ Team registration for tournaments;
	+ Team travel and logistics to tournaments; and
	+ Travel and accommodation costs of YKMHA approved coaching staff.
* Players are expected to pay for any agreed upon development team clothing.

9.0 REQUIRED INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

* By December 1 of each year, player selected for the development team (including affiliates) must possess:
* black helmet
* primarily black hockey gloves
* primarily black hockey pants
* Individual name bars are NOT permitted on Development Team jerseys.
* Jerseys and socks will be provided by YKMHA on payment of the approved uniform fees. These will be collected back at the end of the year. These can only be worn at approved activity.

10.0 TIERED HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS

* It is expected that YKMHA Development A Teams will enter AAA, AA, Tier I or Tier II level tournaments; and any secondary development teams i.e. “B Team and Travel Teams” will enter A, B, or Tier 3-4 level tournaments.