

Female Development Program Overview



- It is complicated given the low numbers, geographical separation, different player/parent goals, and competing opportunities (Coed Mustangs, players leaving the territory etc.).
- We need to continue to provide opportunities for girls to train/play together in Yukon.
- Whatever the program, it needs strong direction, planning, management and coaching.

As such, this is what is the Female Development Program is proposed to look like in 2019/20:

- 2.5 ice times per weekend plus potential for off-ice. Practice, skills each weekend and an exhibition game added every other weekend. Alternating the games weekends will allow for community kids to plan/join for weekends with 3 events. Without the community girls, we would struggle to have enough players for games. Games will be sought with the appropriate level of competition.
- Strong coaching will be sought for this group. Coaches will work with the program framework and will work closely with the WMHA Female Coordinator and program managers to ensure that the program is properly designed and implemented.
- Entry into the program will be based on interest and evaluation of level of play. It is mainly designed for bantam and midget aged players, but open to high level peewees with evaluation. Some lower level bantams may be better served to play with the peewee age group. The key will be a commitment in being competitive, learning and growing as a player.
- Players are encouraged to play in co-ed league (e.g. house) and try out for the Arctic Winter Games team.
- Tournament teams are formed at various levels and teams are selected based on the level of the tournament (tournament level [Bantam and Midget] and tier). A plan for tournaments will be developed by the WMHA Female Coordinator/management/coach group early in the season and will be communicated to the parents and players.
- As with all programs, communication will be a key component. Given the dynamic nature of this program, it will be even more critical that communication is clear, and all players/parents understand how the program works and how they fit in.
- Community training weekends will be planned with at least one trip to each community from which we have players from.
- Players will be expected to help with the grass-roots ice time for female tykes and novices.
- The program will evolve with time. It is possible that it could revert to a team approach in the future with increased numbers of players. An annual review of the program will be completed following each season.
- The female development program will be rebranded with team name that can be shared by all the female teams (Atom to Midget). A rebrand is considered important to properly distinguish the girl's teams in Yukon.

In summary, a new approach to the older girl's program is required given the current situation. The successful implementation of this program will continue to develop the current group of girls that remain in the territory and ultimately build momentum for the program. Strong planning, management and coaching is essential to the program and with this plan there is a strong foundation from which to build from.

*Participation in the Female Development program will come at an additional cost to cover additional ice, tournament entries and player/parent travel. Families will be given the opportunity to fundraise in an attempt to offset these costs. *All development players are expected to have a WMHA tracksuit*