



Mustangs A Program Overview 2024-2025

Mustangs A Program Overview

***For the upcoming season WMHA will have Mustangs A Teams in U13, U15 and U18.**

***U11 Jr. Mustangs and Mustangs B teams will have their own program overview.**

These teams will be called the Whitehorse Mustangs A and will be operated with guidance from the VP of High Performance and the President of WMHA.

The Mustangs A teams are competitive teams with heavy travel schedules and sizable operating budgets.

The Mustangs A teams practice and play home games in Whitehorse but will travel outside of Whitehorse up to 5 times per season to attend outside tournaments.

These tournament weekends will entail players (and chaperones) being away from Whitehorse usually Thursday-Monday (dependent on flight schedules and other circumstances).

Players on Mustangs A teams will practice with their team 2x per week and play games and practice with a house league team in their respective divisions.

Players will be expected to manage their time and their schoolwork in order to attend all scheduled team activities, there is a high expectation on commitment level for the Whitehorse Mustangs.

Mustangs A Weekly Schedule

Mustangs A teams have a focus on skill development and training towards the competitive side of hockey. Below you will find a basic outline of a weekly player schedule, which will give you an understanding of the commitment level of the Mustangs A teams.

Sample weekly schedule for the Mustangs A:

- 2 practices with Mustangs A team
- 1 game with house team
- 1 practice with house team
- Dryland (dependent on team, could be with an outside provider, could be with coach)
- Morning skills 2-3 times/month
- Exhibition games when scheduled
- Mustangs Weekends when scheduled



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A sponsorship program may be initiated on a per division basis depending on approval to help offset the cost of the program. The fundraising initiatives are dependent on parent volunteers and team desire to fundraise.

Parent participation will be expected for duties on the team such as finding sponsors, fundraising, time-keeping/penalty box staff, 50/50, manager, treasurer, equipment manager, etc.

Mustangs team expenses might include:

- Mustangs A initial fee (\$1,000)
- Administration fees
- Tournament registration fees
- Personalized jerseys (name and numbered, kept by player), sponsor bars and practice jerseys
- Pant shells, team socks, team hockey bags
- Team apparel
- Ice and referee costs
- Dryland fees
- Skills sessions
- Team Supplies (first aid kit, Teamsnap, coaching tools, etc)
- Team meals
- Team building events
- Team and individual photos
- Team staff expenses while travelling (airfare, hotels, transportation)

Player fees to play for a Mustangs A team vary based on fundraising initiatives, sponsors, and number of tournaments attended. Player fees do not include player accommodations, parent travel or rental cars which are all paid out of pocket by parents. Player costs can be offset by team and individual sponsorship, travel grants and fundraising.



Team Travel

Mustangs A teams will travel out of town for tournaments and perhaps game series play. Travel protocol is outlined below.

Flights

Team managers will block book team flights (usually **20** spots to accommodate **players and team staff**) with Air North at a group rate.

There is no longer a block of seats set aside for parents/chaperones. Parents will be able to book at the group rate, but seats will not be able to be blocked by team managers for parent travel. Please note the following with respect parent bookings:

- ONLY 1 parent/chaperone will be eligible to book on the hockey group rate per tournament.
- The rate for the parent/chaperone will be the same group hockey fare as the players.
- The team managers will send a list of parents that will be eligible to book under the group rate.
- Flights will be booked through the regular reservation line at Air North (must be done by phone and not online) - make sure they know you are booking under the hockey rate and which team it is being booked for so they can confirm you are on the booking eligibility list.
- Parents/chaperones can use flight credits towards booking these flights.
- If a parent/chaperone has to cancel their flight for whatever reason, the flight will be credited to their personal Air North account.
- Don't wait to book flights since they will be first come first serve after the players are booked. If the flight is sold out, the parent/chaperone will not be able to travel with the team.

All players and up to 3 team staff flights (see further info) will be covered by the player's accounts. All other flights will be covered by the individual travelling (parent, grandparent, siblings, etc).



Ground Transportation

The team may choose to secure ground transportation via coach, rental cars, or other modes. This decision will be left to the team coach and manger based on

- 1) Safety and risk issues; i.e. distance from airport to hotel, distance from hotel to arena, number of parents attending, number of trips needed, etc.);
- 2) Affordability (with the increased price of coach bookings, rental cars may be more affordable. If the team decides to go with rental cars, individuals are responsible for booking their own rental cars.

Hotels

Team managers will block book the accommodations for tournaments and pass the information on to individual parents to secure and pay for their rooms. Should a parent not be travelling with their player, it is up to the parent to secure a chaperone/guardian for their player. It is not up to WMHA or the team staff to supervise players during off-ice hours while on tournament weekends.

Team staff may plan team events during tournament weekends i.e. team building, meals, activities. These events will be mandatory for the players to attend, however coaches will keep in mind the importance of downtime, family time and other recreation pursuits.

Team Staff Travel

The team player accounts will cover the cost of team staff in the manner below:

- Team staff travel expenses includes flights, ground transportation and accommodations.
- 3 team staff travel will be covered by the team including flights, ground transportation and accommodations. If there is more than three team staff travelling, it will be split as follows:
 - a The head coach and manager travel expenses will be covered 100 percent.
 - b Non-parent assistant coach travel expenses will be covered 100 percent.
 - c Parent assistant coaches will have their flight covered.
- Non-parent coaching staff will receive \$60/day per diem to cover the cost of food for each day of travel. Parent coaching staff food will not be covered.
- There will be an expectation that assistant coaches are present and engaged during team practices, games and other events.

Investment

Upon placement on a Mustangs A team, a \$1000 payment must be made to Whitehorse Minor Hockey via Etransfer. (Instructions will come from your team manager). **Your player account**



must remain in the positive throughout the season. You will be informed by your team treasurer or manager should your player's account require a top up. No one will travel outside of Yukon if they do not have the funds to cover their trips in their player accounts. WMHA will not front player's/team's travel expenses.

Sponsorship

Each Mustangs A player will be able to acquire \$1000 in corporate sponsorship. They will have 2 weeks to do this before sponsor bars are ordered by the team manager. This can be one \$1000 payment (both jerseys) or split in two \$500 sponsorships (one bar per jersey). This will be done on your own, not through WMHA, however a letter and a receipt can be provided by your team manager or treasurer.

Team Naming Sponsor and other team sponsorship

Your team may acquire a naming sponsor for the minimum amount of \$5,000. Your team may acquire other sponsors UP TO the maximum of outlined below- **Your team can NOT acquire more than \$15,000 in team sponsorship per season.**

It is up to the team to recognize their sponsors, support them and inform the office of requirements ie) website recognition etc.

Example of Team Corporate Sponsorships

Team Sponsor #1 – Naming Sponsor	\$5,000
Team Sponsor #2 – Pant Shell Sponsor	\$4,000
Team Sponsor #3- Team Bus	\$4,000
Team Sponsor #4- Tournament Fees	\$1,500

Commitment

In order to have a successful integrated season, player commitment is essential. All players are required to attend all scheduled activities. The Mustangs A head coaches will be in constant contact with the house league coaches; they will work together on practice planning, systems, discipline and other on and off ice development.

All Mustangs players must attend their house league games and practices.