



# Junior Development

## Play/Train up into a higher grade Point Streak, Bylaws & Club Process

Junior Development is the highest priority as it secures the future of ice hockey and maintains the viability and competitiveness of State and National Teams. IHA Development Director Ryan O'Hanley outlined and discussed IIHF and IHA research on countries (eg: Sweden) with the most successful junior development programs with WA clubs and parents. The major principle of skill development is to maximize the number of hours on ice, Ryan also identified skating as the priority in Australia, and due to our lack of outdoor cheap ice, it is important to extend training and ice time by whatever means possible.

Playing-up into a higher grade is the primary source of Junior development in WA, as it gives an extra hour of training and an extra game per week at a lower fee and is also at a higher, more challenging skill level and speed.

### **The Constraints on this are WAIHA Bylaws:**

1. No under 16yr olds are permitted to play games in adult teams. (but they can club train) Only 'exceptionally talented' players will be exempted and the club must apply to PUP on their behalf.
2. 16yr olds can train & play with Senior teams, (decided internally by clubs)
3. All players in their last year of a league (especially 17yolds) are encouraged to train and play with the next league up (in appropriately skill matched teams) in preparation for their transition the next year.
4. All juniors must have appropriate documentation & Registration –
  - Signed Play/Train up Forms with approvals by both teams coaches, parents and clubs executive and these are submitted to WAIHAs Play up Panel (PUP) via Club secretary. Updated team sheets submitted to WAIHA Secretary by club secretary.
  - All play up players (playing games) must register and pay the Point Streak rego gap for the highest grade before being able to play.

### **CLUB PROCESS for PLAYUPS**

Discussion regarding development needs and play/train up suitability (maturity, skills, size etc) of the player to be had by the Team coach, in consultation with the Coaching Director, Jn Rep and parents.

It must be clearly understood by the parents and the player that the next grade up will be more physical, faster and a much higher risk of injury or perceived intimidation (Junior Rep will facilitate)

### **If AGREED:**

For under 16yrs the junior coaches decide the best team matchup by consensus.

For all 16yr & 17yrs, the Coaching Director & or Jun Rep will discuss with the Secretary/Registrar potential teams (based on team numbers and makeup) and the coaches of the next league up to be contacted and asked re the play up.

### **If APPROVED:**

1. Junior Rep & Secretary ensures Parents & Team Managers are fully informed and knowledgeable & supervises the collection of all the appropriate Documentation, and then the Senior Rep and the Committee are notified.
2. Secretary or Registrar informs the Treasurer (further fees to be invoiced), the Jersey Coordinator (for another jersey and number) and prepares a new team Sheet for both teams Managers. Ensures correct registration is completed, Documentation is sent to WAIHA and the Point Streak person notified.
3. Preferably this is in the preseason and teams are settled by season start.
4. In July/August this can be reviewed with the aim of preparing players (who are not currently playing up) in their last year, for transition to the next league by at the very least training up.
5. If the player is an 'exceptional player' and agreed by coaches & Coaching Director to play 2 leagues up then the Jn Rep/Coaching Director must present a strong case for a Play up Submission to the full committee for approval and if agreed the Club submit it to the PUP/WAIHA for approval.



# Senior Development

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Programs and processes for Senior Development is very important in WA as the majority of players start the sport at a much older age than in the Northern Hemisphere, and most without prior skating ability. Post clinic development opportunities therefore need to be available for adults and older teenagers to be able to further develop their personal skills and enjoyment of the sport. Likewise many competitive young seniors look for extra development in preparation for Brown State Team, AJIHL & Thunder.

As with Juniors the best method for development is the Play up/train up System whereby a player can be approved to play in 2 different Leagues, providing extra training & a game per week at a lower fee and is also at a higher, more challenging skill level and speed.

There are several different pathways and options for development:

- Train Only Div2 – clinic players deemed ready by the Clinic and accepted by Club coaches can train but not play with Div2 Teams (1 training per week only)
- Train only Div 1 or SL – approved players can train only in the next level up. (one game and 2 trainings per week)
- Play up – approved players can play and train in 2 Training teams. (2 training sessions and 2 games)
- Play up – approved players have a training team and a non training team (therefore have one training session but 2 games.)

### **IHWA Bylaws:**

- Players can only play up one division – therefore no Div2 player can play SL or vice versa.
- Players can only play in 1 team in a division/League.
- Players can not play 3 games in a weekend unless it's a scheduled double header. (pretty much an impossibility but it is a Bylaw with heavy suspensions)
- Core Players - All play up players listed as Core players must play that team in the event of a schedule conflict.
- Players must have the correct Point Streak Registration completed before playing (train-only changing to Playing requires extra fees)
- No Women can *play* in any Checking League (e.g. SL) Train-Only with Club approval only.

### **Hawks Bylaws**

- Full Fee Paying Players (FFPP) get first preference for team placement

### **CLUB PROCESS for PLAYUPS**

**Preseason:** Player wanting to Play/train should list this on the club registration form, and are expected to try out for both the leagues they are interested in and inform the tryout coaches of that.

In the process of completing their Team selection the team coaches of both those leagues, in consultation with the Coaching Director decide what they think the best solution for that player is (taking into account the teams FFPP – Registrar). The player is then processed as a normal player on the initial game sheet.

**In season:** The Coaching Director can recommend a Play up Player or a Player can request to play up to the Club Secretary/registrar. The Registrar, taking into account the FFPP and various team's needs, will consult with Coaching Director and potential Teams coach/s, who will select best suited team for the player. Senior Rep and Both TM's will be notified.

1. Secretary or Registrar informs the Treasurer (further fees to be invoiced), the Jersey Coordinator (for another jersey and number) and prepares a new team Sheet for both teams Managers. Ensures correct registration is completed, Documentation is sent to WAIHA and the Point Streak person notified.
2. Preferably this is in the preseason and teams are settled by season start.
3. Unusual situations agreed on by coaches & Coaching Director must be presented as a strong case for a Play up Submission to the full committee for approval and if agreed and required the Club submits it to the PUP/IHWA for approval.

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