



WEST HOCKEY LEAGUE ADULT DEVELOPMENT TEAM GUIDANCE NOTES

Overview

The West Hockey League allows Clubs to register a team in the lowest Division as an Adult Development Team. The intention is to help encourage participation and provide experience of League hockey.

A Development team status is temporary with the aspiration to establish a competitive League team. A Club must re-apply each season to operate a Development side within their Club.

A Development side will provide team members experience of playing League hockey as well as experience and learning of the administrative requirements to operate a team.

It is hoped that having a side playing regularly Clubs will more easily attract new players and be able to encourage players to play more regularly.

Purpose

To support Clubs in establishing new Adult teams to help increase participation in League hockey. They are a temporary transition to competitive league hockey

To allow teams to play hockey for the fun of it, but in a structured way with regular fixtures

To help the development of young players and support their transition to adult hockey

Key Points

- Development teams can only play in the lowest ranked division of any part of the West Hockey League
- Requests for Development teams must be made by 20th May and will be approved on finalising League structures for the upcoming season
- The intent is that no more than two Development teams can play in any one Division. The number of teams will be confirmed by the ALMC
- The status of Development Team is for the full season. Clubs cannot switch to Development status mid season
- Standard League Regulations will apply with the following variations;
 - No points will be awarded for any matches, this includes matches against other Development teams. However, match statistics and goalscorers, cards etc will be recorded in GMS
 - Development teams cannot be promoted
 - A Development Team must have a minimum of 6 core players i.e., players who have not played for another team in the league on that day (and must have a minimum of 7 players to play the match). **If a team does not expect to be able to meet these criteria for the majority of matches, participation is NOT recommended.**
 - Team selection may be supplemented as follows:
 - Players of any standard doubling up and/or playing down from other teams (of same gender) from that club



NB in the Standard Regulations players should be selected on playing standard and availability. It is therefore expected that all players taking part in the game will play in the “spirit of development” and maintain a friendly competitive environment

- ‘Borrowing’ players from the opposing team for that particular fixture – matches for example can be 9 a side to get a game played
- Development teams must apply for this status each season
- Development teams may cancel fixtures without penalty if they are unable to field a side (normal match cancellation regulations MUST be followed)
- If a Development team fails to fulfil half their fixtures in any 4 week period the ALMC reserve the right to withdraw them from the League
- Non-Development teams in the same Division who cancel fixtures against a Development team will be penalised as per Regulation APPENDIX 6 - STANDARD PENALTIES & TARIFFS OF FINES, i.e. = 1 point deduction.
- All queries should be made with the Divisional Secretary prior to the game
- ALMC reserves the right to exclude any teams that abuse any element of this flexibility.

Specific for 2023 24 Season

- Berkeley Division 3 has been designated a Development League. ie All teams within the Division are Development sides. Therefore, the same guidelines apply except that Match Admin will be the same as in a competitive league
- Team sheets should be completed prior to the game
- Match results should be submitted by 8pm on the day of the game
- Match sheets with goalscorers, umpires and cards should be completed by 8pm on the day after the game
- Points will be awarded as normal regulations, so there will be a winner of the League. However, there will be no promotion from Berkeley 3