

Hello,

As you know, the WGHA is always striving to remain innovative and competitive in the world of woman's hockey. Our competitive program has always maintained depth and success from within and we are always looking into innovative means to become even better.

The WGHA has made many changes over the past few years with our program. Some have been very successful while others have proven to be non-beneficial. This is expected when we are always looking to improve. Changes such as timelines of coaching announcements, introduction of a coach and player mentorship program, Defence and Forward only development programs, standard mandatory goalie development for our younger goalies, Major/Minor split at the "A" level, mandatory call up process, etc. have all been contributing factors to our successes over the past few years, but our work here is not done! We are continuously learning and trying to think outside the box. Changes will continue to come and we are excited to see where and what we can achieve.

We have recently concluded our 2017/18 Rep Coaching Process and I would like to thank all who applied and congratulate those successful in the process. We at the WGHA feel strongly that it's an honour to coach within this organization, not a guarantee! The depth and knowledge that presents itself in each and every coaching interview is staggering. We are very fortunate to have such a large wealth of experienced coaches within our organization. Of course, there are applicants, parents, even players who may not be happy with some of the coaching choices but rest assure that these decisions are not easy and very difficult to make. There are many moving parts to this process and many of you may not be aware of situations, reasons, or contingency planning that dictate why certain decisions have to be made for the betterment of our program, but we are confident in our previous decisions and our decisions moving forward.

MAJOR-MINOR "A" LEVEL TEAMS

The WGHA consistently attempts to provide a program that helps players prepare for an opportunity to play at the next level. One strategy we have implemented for the 2017/2018 season is the categorization of Major and Minor age "A" teams at the Peewee, Bantam, and Midget levels. Based on the success of our teams in the 2016/2017 season, our teams are playing at a very high caliber compared to other organizations around the province. Out of 21 rep teams in the association, there were 18 teams that finished in the top 3 in their division, 10 teams participating at LLFHL Championship Weekend, and 19 teams qualifying for provincials. By icing two "A" teams designated by age group it increases the opportunities for players to play at a higher level in both their minor and major years. It will allow more players to play a higher level of hockey, which will stimulate their development.

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT A TRYOUT PROCESS

- **The majority of the tryout process is completed before on-ice tryouts begin.** This should not come as a surprise or a secret! The WGHA started announcing all coaching positions at the same time, earlier in the season for this exact reason. A coach cannot be expected to pick the best team possible, based on 3 ice slots and 60 players on the ice, especially during a stressful time like tryouts!
- **Tryouts officially started the day each coach was announced.** We expect our coaches to begin scouting immediately after their announcement. They are expected to attend practices as well as games, reach out and speak with current year coaches for feedback on players, and begin to put all the pieces together for the upcoming season. Most coaches will/should have a number of “locked” players with 3 or 4 players in mind for each remaining spot(s) before on-ice tryouts begin. This is nothing new, and is common practice among many if not all organizations.
- **Coaches may not pick who YOU think are the best 17 players.** Quite simply put, coaches have to build their teams based on a number of areas including; left vs. right shots, offensive vs. defensive players, speed vs. position stability, creative vs. dependable players, size vs. agility, etc. Other factors may include but not limited to, work ethic, puck desire, coachability, development progression, etc. Finally, the female hockey season is lengthy and team chemistry is an important component for success, so parent/player behaviour/attitude plays an important role in the player selection process. Do not under estimate this!
- **Assisting coaches with the right player selections.** Coaches are expected to pick the best players for the team which they have been selected to coach. Saying that, the WGHA is actively involved in the player selection process. We do not pick the team for the coach, but we will challenge a coaches selection if we feel, based on player assessments via the mentorship program, that a player is being placed on a team without merit.

Please keep in mind,

- **If you are a player** - work hard in games and practices all season long – stand out – do the little things – win your battles – be a great teammate. You never know who is watching.
- **If you are a parent**, BE REALISTIC! Understand and appreciate your daughter’s abilities or lack thereof. DO NOT apply added pressure during this already stressful time. Don’t worry if they miss a pass, fall during a skating drill, lose a race, etc. They are bound to make mistakes at this time, they ALL do! Refrain from rink chatter and discussions about other players abilities. Nobody is interested in your opinions at this time. Don’t become a “parent cut”.

Best of Luck!

Shane Hill
1st VP of Hockey Operations
Whitby Girls Hockey Association

IMPORTANT TRYOUT INFORMATION FOR 2017/18 SEASON

- All returning WGHA Players must register and purchase tryout card prior to tryouts.
- All Non-Resident players must purchase a tryout card at each skate.
- Returning WGHA player Tryout Cards \$20 (for all level tryouts).
- Non WGHA player Tryout Card \$20 (per skate).

- All players trying out will receive a helmet number (sticker) which is unique to that player. This number will follow her throughout the tryout process.
- Successful player selections will be offered online via the WGHA website. Coaches must update the site with returning players within 3hrs of conclusion of current tryout ice slot.
- **NOTE-** Once any player has been offered a spot on a Rep team following tryouts, the player must accept the position (in writing) and provide proof of registration payment within 24hrs of offer. **All registration fees will be 100% non-refundable once position is accepted.**
- Within 2 weeks of a team being selected the coach will arrange their first team meeting. At this meeting a \$250 non-refundable deposit is required for each player (towards overall individual cost per player).
- Parents/Players are NOT permitted to loiter around or near the tryout desks. Taking pictures of players, player profile sheets, or any WGHA tryout documents is prohibited and may result in removal from the process and deemed a member in bad standing.
- All players MUST attend all mandatory scheduled tryout sessions unless released by the coach in question or received prior approval from the Director of Coach and Player Development and 1st VP of Hockey Operations.