



WASP HOCKEY CLUB SELECTION AND TEAM NOMINATION POLICY

OBJECTIVES

Our intention with this policy is to

1. Provide guide lines on the selection process for placing players into teams each year including
 - Criteria to be assessed
 - Process to be followed
 - Identification and appointment of selectors
2. Provide guidelines on how we nominate teams including the number of teams and grades we request from HockeyWA

INTRODUCTION

As our junior club has grown, the nomination of teams with HockeyWA and selection of players for those teams has become a larger and more complicated exercise. The intent of this document is to make it clear for all parents and players of the process followed so there is a general understanding across the club.

Junior Hockey in WA operates within a series of grades and divisions in an effort to make games as competitive and even as possible. In doing this the intention is to bring enjoyment to all, while allowing the more advanced players the opportunity to compete at a higher level. As a large club we attract many players with a variety of skill levels and we aim to nominate teams across different grades to meet their needs.

It is important to note that there is nothing new in the document and it doesn't change the way selections will be carried out. This approach has been followed for a number of years by the Junior Committee. What we are trying to achieve is make the process more transparent to all junior families.

Finally, these are guidelines only and will be followed wherever possible. The junior committee will always have final say on all selections taking into account all known facts.

SELECTION PROCESS

Criteria

- A variety of factors will be taken into account in assessing the selection of teams including
 - Information on the player from previous years eg age groups, teams played in.
 - Discussions with previous coaches
 - Monitoring of players at pre season training and any other selection games or activities held. Some of the factors selectors will be looking at include
 - Individual skill levels (hitting, trapping, tackling, passing, leading)
 - Team skills (positional play, reading the game, interaction with teammates)
 - Attitude
 - Commitment
- For the younger age groups, especially 5/6's, we will always give consideration to, and try and keep friends together in teams. If friends are selected in different teams but want to remain together, then the player in the higher grade may choose to play in the lower grade.



WASP HOCKEY CLUB SELECTION AND TEAM NOMINATION POLICY

- The school year of the player is not one of the factors. If a younger player is assessed higher than an older player, then the younger will be placed in a higher graded team.

Process

- As soon as possible after registrations and taking into account summer sport commitments, pre-season training activities will commence.
- Initial training sessions will be conducted with the entire age group together.
- Selectors will attend training sessions wherever possible, and start assessing players
- Depending on numbers, it may be necessary to have one or more grading games.
- Selectors will attend these games and use them as an additional assessment opportunity.
- Selectors and Year Group Managers will meet and discuss player grading at least 2 weeks prior to the first game of the season and select 'draft' teams
- These teams will be submitted to the Junior Committee for approval.
- Players will continue to closely be monitored over the first 3 to 4 weeks of the season by coaches, selectors and Year Group Managers. Re grading of players may occur.
- After that time, player movements will be limited to covering changes in player availability for whatever reason.

We have found that in Junior teams, especially the younger age groups, team logistics (rosters, umpire payments etc) make it difficult for ongoing movement between teams during the year.

- Any permanent changes after week 4 of the season will need the approval of the Junior Committee.
- As a guide, we will try and have 13-14 players per team.
- If any player or parent has concerns over their selection, please contact the year group manager to discuss.

You should not go direct to the coaches or selectors. One of the main reasons for this is that our coaches are often younger members of our senior club and we feel it is unfair to place undue pressure on them. All coaches and selectors are instructed to refer selection questions to the Year Group Managers.

Identification and appointment of selectors

- Each Year Group Manager will identify selectors to help them with player grading
- Where coaches are already identified, they will be a selector
- There should be at least 1 other experienced hockey player appointed
- Ideally, selectors will not have children in the grades they are selecting, however, this is not always possible. Where there are any conflicts, the selector will not have any input in relation to the grading of their child.



WASP HOCKEY CLUB SELECTION AND TEAM NOMINATION POLICY

TEAM NOMINATIONS

As a club we endeavour to nominate teams in a range of grades to suit players of different abilities.

In the 7/8 age groups and older, HockeyWA uses a player 'Paper grading' process to determine what competition each team plays in. This allocates a points amount for each player based on

- the grade played in during the previous 2 years and
- final ladder positions in those years

The points for each player and team are added and the higher ranked teams/clubs are placed in higher grades.

Player numbers will determine the number of teams nominated and this will change from year to year, however the following general guidelines will be used by the junior committee

- The number of teams to be nominated will be based on 13-14 players per team wherever possible
- If there are 3 or more teams we will always nominate 1 team in the highest grade, and at least 1 in the middle grades (A Reserve/A Promotion) and the regional grades.
- If we only have 2 teams, we will select one stronger and one weaker team. Teams will be nominated in grades the committee feel are appropriate.
- If there is only one team it will be nominated in a grade the committee feel is appropriate.

Final grading of teams is determined by HockeyWA and so while we may nominate for a particular grade, there is no guarantee we will end up there.

For the 5/6 age groups, player history is limited and so final grading is determined by a Grading Carnival. Prior to the season starting, over one day, a number of short games will be played against other teams who have nominated for the same/similar grades. The results of all these games will be used by HockeyWA to place teams in grades.