



Norfolk Hockey Association

Junior Development League

Sponsored by Empresa

The Framework

2018/19

The Ethos:

The aim of the Norfolk Development League is to develop the potential of young players through regular, organised hockey games. By limiting the number of adult players, the focus will be to encourage young players to take a full and active part in the game. The presence of adult players will be to assist in the acquisition of skills, knowledge and understanding of the game in an atmosphere of co-operation and mutual respect.

The ethos can be summed up as “...taking part is more important than winning”.

The Framework:

1. Junior Players:

1.1 No player who is under 13 may play in the senior leagues.

1.2 All under 13 players are eligible for Development League

1.3 Players over 13 who regularly play in an adult team must withdraw from the Development League. A player may play 6 games over the whole season for an adult team.

1.4 All junior players must be under 15 on the 1st of January 2019

1.5 At the discretion of the League Administrator and with the agreement of the two teams, U16 “beginners” will be allowed to play as part of the Development squad and not deemed to be an adult. There will be a maximum of two players per game.

1.6 No Performance Centre player can play in the Development League.

1.7 No more than two players from the previous season U14 Academy Centre squad are allowed to be included in the Development League squad.

1.8 No U15 Academy Centre player from the previous season can play in the Development League.

1.9 Development League players over the age of 13 may play for other teams but it is recommended that they play no more than one Club game per day at the weekends.

An over-age player is: -

1.10 A player over the age of exit from the league

1.11 Has limited previous hockey experience when joining the squad as an over-age player.

1.12 Is physically too small to be safe in an adult league. (e.g. a goalkeeper)

The over-age player may remain with the team: -

1.13 Until his/her skills are at a level where the player may play safely in an adult league.

1.14 Where the player has grown sufficiently to play safely in an adult league.

1.15 An over-age player should be progressed through the Club selection system as quickly but as safely as possible.

1.16 No over age player may play for more than two years as an over age player or up to the age of 17.

1.17 An over-age player is considered to be the same as an actual junior development player and subject to all the same playing rules.

2. Adult Players:

2.1 An adult player is 18 or over.

2.2 A player who understands the role of the adult as mentor and coach on the pitch.

2.3 A player who can add to the spirit of the game and not dominate it.

- 2.4 No more than 3 adult players can be included on the team sheet.
- 2.5 No more than 2 adult players can play on the pitch at any one time.
- 2.6 No adult can score a goal. If this happens, a free hit will be awarded on the 15m line.
- 2.7 Adults are not allowed in the opposition's "D" at any time. If this happens, a free hit will be awarded from the 15m line.
- 2.8 Only one adult can be involved in a defending penalty corner and this adult cannot act as "the flyer".
- 2.9 No adult may play in goal unless this is agreed prior to the game.
- 2.10 It is recommended that only one adult plays as a defender.

3. Teams

Where Clubs are entering more than one team: -

- 3.1 Teams must be selected by ability, but they must be clearly identifiable as different teams.
- 3.2 Eight players from the A team will be identified after the third league game and will only be permitted to play for this team until January 2019 when coaches will be able to revise the eight players.
- 3.3 These eight players will be notified to the JD Division Secretary before the fourth league game. All changes made in January will be notified to the JD Division Secretary before the re-start of the league in January. This will be done by e-mail.
- 3.4 These eight players will be known as starred players and their starring will be highlighted on the team sheet by a star next to the number.
- 3.5 No starred player may play down.
- 3.6 No non-starred player may play more than the equivalent of one full junior development game on a fixture date or a re-arranged fixture date.
- 3.7 The number of teams taking part in the development league will vary from year to year.
- 3.8 There will be no promotion for teams participating in the Development League.
- 3.9 A trophy will be awarded at the end of the season for the winning team and individual trophies will be awarded to the highest goal scorers.
- 3.10 Teams will play each other on a home and away basis.

4. Captains/Team Managers

- 4.1 It is the Team Managers/Captain's responsibility to make the Umpires aware of the differences in the playing rules.
- 4.2 Team Managers/Captains are responsible for promoting a friendly atmosphere and should defuse any unpleasant situations both on and off the pitch.
- 4.3 Team Managers/Captains must encourage all players to thank the Umpire and to shake hands with their opponents at the end of the game.
- 4.4 It is recommended that Captains/Team Managers address the composition of their team if the goal difference becomes greater than 5 goals. In the spirit of the league, no team should win by more than 5 goals.
- 4.5 When the goal difference becomes greater than 5, the adults should be substituted first.

5. Umpires:

- 5.1 A Club Umpire (EH Grade C) may umpire in the Development League.
- 5.2 Junior Umpires should be encouraged to umpire but be partnered with a Club Umpire (EH Grade B)
- 5.3 An Umpire Candidate who has been successful in their written paper, may umpire in the Junior Development League for a period of two years.
- 5.4 Umpires should be encouraged to explain their decisions to the players in order to support the players in their understanding of the game.

6. Scoring:

- 6.1 Three points will be awarded for a win; one point will be awarded for a draw.
- 6.2 Where a game is conceded, a score of 5-0 will be awarded and three points to the opposing team.
- 6.3 Where multiple games have been conceded, the League Committee will agree the final League positions.
- 6.4 All goals scored will count towards the end of season individual player's total.
- 6.5 In the spirit of the League, actual scores will be recorded on the team sheet and submitted to the Hon. Results Co-ordinator for adjustment to a difference of no more than five goals.

7. Administration of Fixtures:

- 7.1 Girls games will consist of 4 quarters of 15 minutes.
- 7.2 Boys games will consist of 4 quarters of 15 minutes up to the 31st December. 35 minute halves will be played for the remainder of the season.
- 7.3 All development league games should be played on astroturf.
- 7.3 Team sheets must be completed and handed to Umpire before the start of the game
- 7.4 Team sheets should be posted or scanned and e-mailed to the Boys/Girls Development League Secretary.
- 7.5 Results should be text to the Hon. Results Co-ordinator as soon as the game is finished.
- 7.6 Where games are postponed or conceded, the Club must inform both the league Secretary and the Hon. Results Co-ordinator.
- 7.7 Where a game is re-arranged, the Club must inform both the league Secretary and the Hon. Results Co-ordinator.
- 7.8 The first named team will play the third fixture as a home fixture.

8. Welfare and Safeguarding

- 8.1 It is highly recommended that adult players are Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checked and understand and follow the principles and procedures of the NHA Child Protection policy and that of their own Club Child Protection Policy.
- 8.2 It is highly recommended that car drivers are Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checked and understand and follow the principles and procedures of the NHA Child Protection policy and that of their own Club Child Protection Policy.
- 8.3 It is highly recommended that all cars transporting children are checked for seat belts and that travellers in the car match the number of seat belts.
- 8.4 It is highly recommended that driver's car insurance is checked as up to date and appropriate for transporting children.

9. Pitch Side Conduct

- 9.1 The Development League strongly supports the Norfolk League Rules for pitch side conduct and the principles of the EH Respect campaign
- 9.2 Captains/Team Managers are responsible for the behaviour of their players, their officials and their spectators.

10 Affiliation Fee:

Teams will pay the NHA an affiliation fee as set out at the AGM.

11. NHA Rules:

All other rules will follow the rules agreed at the League AGM.

Where Clubs fail to uphold the ethos of the Junior Development League, The League Management Committee will take action.