



Norfolk Hockey Association

Junior Development League

Sponsored by Empresa

The Framework

2021/22



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, collaboration 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 no more than 6 games over the course of a season for an adult team.
- 1.4 All junior players must be under 15 on the 1st of September 2021
- 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 may play in the Development League.
- 1.7 No more than two players from the present season U14 Academy Centre squad may be included in the Development League match day squad.
- 1.8 No U15 Academy Centre player from the present season may 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.

2. Over-age Players:

- 2.1 An over-age player is a player who is over the age of exit from the league
- 2.2 A player who has limited previous hockey experience when joining the squad as an over-age player and would not be safe in an adult league.
- 2.3 Is physically too small to be safe in an adult league. (e.g. a goalkeeper)
- 2.4 An over-age player is the same as an actual junior development player and subject to all the same playing rules.
- 2.5 No over age player may play for more than two years as an over age player or up to the age of 17.
- 2.6 An over-age player should be progressed through the Club selection system as quickly but as safely as possible.

3. Adult Players:

- 3.1 An adult player is 18 or over.
- 3.2 An adult player must understand and show empathy with the role of the adult as mentor and coach on the pitch.
- 3.3 An adult player is a player who can add to the spirit of the game and not dominate it.

- 3.4 No more than 3 adult players may be included on the team sheet.
- 3.5 No more than 2 adult players may play on the pitch at any one time.
- 3.6 No adult can score a goal. If this happens, a free hit will be awarded on the 16m line.
- 3.7 No adult is allowed in the opposition's "D" at any time. If this happens, a free hit will be awarded from the 16m line.
- 3.8 Only one adult may be involved in defending a penalty corner and this adult cannot act as "the flyer".
- 3.9 No adult may play in goal unless this is agreed prior to the game.
- 3.10 It is recommended that only one adult plays as a defender.

4. Teams

- 4.1 There is no promotion for teams participating in the Development League.
- 4.2 The number of teams taking part in the development league will vary from year to year.
- 4.3 At the end of the season, a trophy will be awarded to the winners of the league
- 4.4 At the end of the season, teams will be asked to vote for the "Fair Play Team of the Season".

5. Captains/Team Managers

- 5.1 It is the Team Manager's/Captain's responsibility to make the Umpires aware of the differences in the playing rules.
- 5.2 Team Managers/Captains are responsible for promoting a friendly atmosphere and should defuse any unpleasant situations both on and off the pitch.
- 5.3 Team Managers/Captains must encourage all players to thank the Umpire and to shake hands with their opponents at the end of the game.
- 5.4 Captains/Team Managers must 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.
- 5.5 When the goal difference becomes greater than 5, the adults should be substituted first and remain off the pitch.

6. Umpires:

- 6.1 A Club Umpire (EH Grade C) may umpire in the Development League.
- 6.2 Junior Umpires should be encouraged to umpire but be partnered with a Club Umpire (EH Grade B)
- 6.3 An Umpire Candidate who has been successful in their written paper, may umpire in the Junior Development League for a period of two years.
- 6.4 Umpires should be encouraged to explain their decisions to the players to support the players in their understanding of the game.
- 6.5 Clubs should support each other in finding two appropriate umpires for the match. Where reciprocal agreements for finding two umpires are not an option, the Club needing the umpire must pay the umpire fee.

7. Scoring, Postponements, Re-arrangements & Conceded Matches:

- 7.1 Three points will be awarded for a win; one point will be awarded for a draw.
- 7.2 Matches may be postponed because of inclement weather or where a team has difficulty in raising eleven players.
- 7.3 The match must be re-arranged for the first slip date or at the earliest opportunity suitable to both Clubs.
- 7.4 Where a game is conceded, a score of 5-0 will be awarded and three points to the opposing team.
- 7.5 When a team has conceded **six matches**, they may continue to play in the league BUT all further matches will be played as "conceded matches". All points will become null and void from previously fulfilled fixtures.

7.6 Actual scores will be recorded on the team sheet and text to the league administrator, they will then adjust the score to show a difference of no more than five goals for the published leagues.

7.7 Clubs should only publish results with a score difference of 5 goals in line with the league ethos. Advise club members and people associated with the club to refrain from posting inappropriate scores.

8. Administration of Fixtures:

8.1 Games will consist of 4 quarters of 15 minutes.

8.2 All development league games will be played on astroturf.

8.3 Team sheets must be completed and handed to Umpire before the start of the game

8.4 Team sheets should be scanned and e-mailed to the league administrator to arrive by Midnight Wednesday following the game.

8.5 Where games are postponed or conceded, the Club must inform league administrator

8.6 Where a game is re-arranged, the Club must inform league administrator.

9. Welfare and Safeguarding

9.1 It is highly recommended that adult players are Criminal Record Bureau (DBS) checked and understand and follow the principles and procedures of the NHA Child Protection policy and that of their own Club's Child Protection Policy.

9.2 It is highly recommended that car drivers are Criminal Record Bureau (DBS) checked and understand and follow the principles and procedures of the NHA Child Protection policy and that of their own Club's Child Protection Policy.

9.3 It is highly recommended that all adults should have completed EH on-line safe guarding course.

9.4 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.

9.5 It is highly recommended that a driver's car insurance is checked as up to date and appropriate for transporting children.

9.6 No photographs of a match or of individuals may be taken without the permission of the opposing team adult in charge.

9.7 No photographs, with or without names, should be displayed in the press or on social media without permission of the parent/guardian and the opposition adult in charge.

9.8 Only positive comments should be made about teams, players, officials and umpires. This concerns both open and closed social media platforms.

9.9 No data may be held without a record of permission from the parent/guardian.

9.10 It is highly recommended that each team has an official with a first aid certificate and an up-to-date medical bag.

9.11 Please help to keep our players safe!

10. Pitch Side Conduct

10.1 The Development League will abide by the EH Respect Code of Behaviour.

10.2 Captains/Team Managers are responsible for the behaviour of their players, their officials and their spectators.

11. NHA Rules:

Where clubs fail to uphold the ethos of the Junior Development League, the Junior Committee will act under the following:

11.1 The Committee will make their decisions:

- (a) according to the evidence presented
- (b) with fairness and equity

11.2 Where teams break the rules, the Junior Committee has the option to impose any of the following penalties as appropriate:

- (a) The loss of 3 points per match. (The opposition to be awarded the 3 points.)
- (b) The loss of a match by 0-5. (The opposition to be awarded the match 5-0).
- (e) A penalty or sanction the Committee sees fit to impose.

11.3 The Club will be officially informed of the outcome by the Junior Committee Secretary.