

YHA Men's Hockey Development League

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Dear All,

It has been another excellent season for the Men's Development League with 12 teams involved. Harrogate are once again dominating the North Division currently undefeated and with 37 points followed by City of York on 21 points. Doncaster and Sheffield Hallam are at the top of the South Division.

However it is not all about winning in this league as the development of young players in all teams is so important and it has been great to see this happening. Especial thanks should be given to those club coaches and senior players at your clubs that make sure this happens and for giving the time and hard work to the youngsters. Well done everyone as all your efforts are much appreciated.

Last season we failed to get enough teams interested in a Ladies Development League and those interested entered Development Teams in the ladies main leagues with certain supporting guidelines to allow them to compete as a Development Team.

I need to know which clubs will be entering teams in the Men's Development League this coming season so that I can draw up plans and a schedule of matches. My initial proposals are to run it on the same lines as last season.

MEN'S DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

North **Thirsk & Malton**

City of York

Airedale

Harrogate

Bradford

Huddersfield

(Possible move from South League this season)

Ben Rhydding

(Possible new club)

Bingley Bees

(They entered last year but withdrew)

South **Rotherham**

Lincoln

Doncaster

Wakefield

Sheffield Hallam

Slazengers

(Possible move from North league this season)

Sheffield University Bankers

(Possible New club.)

Kingston upon Hull

(Withdrew last season. I assume not be entering?)

Worksop

(They have advised they would not be involved last season)

Are there any more???

Please confirm whether or not your club will be entering a team this season in the Men's Development League.

If any clubs wish to start a Ladies Development League please let me know.

Please feel free to pass this on to other clubs.

Regards

David Woodward

07774231206

Message to All Clubs

If you have enough young players who are not yet ready or old enough to play in the adult leagues why not consider joining either the Men's Yorkshire Development League or Ladies Yorkshire Development Leagues?

The Men's Development League has been running very successfully for 7 years now and those clubs involved have been delighted with the progress of the young players.

The teams are a mixture of young players and experienced senior players (approximately 7 to 8 young players to 3 to 5 adults). There are some guidelines for participating teams which are given below. Because number of clubs likely to be involved, the Men's league will be regionalised again this coming season but the Ladies league will be Yorkshire wide.

If your club is interested in being part of these leagues please contact David Woodward as soon as possible on 07774231206 or david.woodward@rotherhamhc.org.uk. The fixtures for these leagues will be issued after the Yorkshire League meeting.

GUIDELINES FOR TEAMS IN THE YORKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUES

GENERAL

- The basic principle of the Development League is to provide an opportunity for young players to make an easy transfer from junior hockey to adult hockey alongside and with the support of experienced players and coaches. It was initiated to provide a playing opportunity in a safe environment for young players with potential and in particular those, who due to their age, are not allowed to play in adult teams. Another benefit is to reduce the numbers of players who leave the sport because of lack of playing opportunities as they get older.*
- The clubs entering teams in the Development Leagues adopts the EH policies for the inclusion of young people in sport. Most young people who participate in hockey in Yorkshire do so in a safe and enjoyable manner. However, there have been cases nationally where players have had a bad experience and adopting this document will help to reduce the risk of this happening in the future.*
- Clubs should promote the social side of the Yorkshire Adult League hockey by entertaining the opposition after the match.*

- *All members of the league to support a code of Behaviour for spectators and players to develop good discipline and sportsmanship as well as an appreciation for good hockey.*

TEAM STRUCTURE

- *The teams should comprise 7/8 juniors and 4/5 experienced players/adults. It is recommended that there should be a minimum of 3 adults and 6 juniors on the pitch at any time. Juniors would be under 15 and be those not regularly playing in normal adult teams. Players under 13 years of age will be able to play in these teams.*
- *Adult players in the team should not be restricted from playing for other club teams on the same day but juniors would be restricted.*
- *It is recommended that Clubs use adults who have been CRB checked.*
- *Only clubs that have a Child Welfare/Protection Policy in operation will be allowed to join the league. (Adoption of the England Hockey Proud to Protect Policy is acceptable.)*
- *At least 1 qualified coach and First Aider should be present.*
- *Allow ladies or suitable girls to play in men's development teams as long as the opposition have no objection and maximum of 1 lady and 2 girls. Men and boys over the age of 13 should not play in Ladies development teams.*
- *Umpiring to be done by individual clubs but perhaps encourage the use of junior umpires.*
- *Entry restricted to clubs who wish to have a development teams playing against like-minded development teams within Yorkshire who have the same philosophy of playing by maximising a player's development and keeping their interest in the game. The principle of "opportunity, experience and development" the YYHL philosophy, to be very much the ethos of these leagues.*
- *All other England Hockey rules to apply.*

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- *There should be no automatic promotion from this league to the bottom Yorkshire Leagues. Nor should there be demotion from the bottom league. It is not essential that clubs have other team playing in the league structure.*
- *At the end of the season some clubs may wish their team to join the main adult league and this should be encouraged if it helps the player development at that club.*
- *Clubs to try to always keep a team in the Development League to provide match experience for young players and that players migrate to senior sides and be replaced by new younger ones.*
- *If more than 10 teams want to be involved then we will consider having regionally based sub Leagues N/S/E/W, or combination to give a workable league size N/E and S/W for example, to keep travel and costs to a minimum.*
- *If more than 1 league proposed then we will consider that the last session will be where teams of similar position in respective Regional Leagues play cross over games to give a Yorkshire County feel about the competition, and the notion of a County Champion at this level of play.*