



## **FREMANTLE COCKBURN HOCKEY CLUB**

### **JUNIORS PLAYING SENIORS POLICY**

#### **PURPOSE**

This policy sets the guidelines for the involvement of our junior players in Senior competitions. It is applicable to all Juniors who want to play in Senior Competitions.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- To field Junior teams that offer our players good development opportunities.
- To successfully introduce as many older junior players as possible into Senior hockey
- To facilitate the introduction into Senior hockey of players at all levels
- To provide transparency around the selection of junior players into Senior hockey
- To manage expectations of junior players playing Senior hockey

#### **JUNIORS PLAYING SENIOR HOCKEY**

At FCHC, the priority for junior players is to play Junior hockey. If there is a clash between a junior and a senior game, the club will prioritise the junior game. Juniors are expected to attend Junior training in preference to Senior training.

Juniors that are interested are encouraged to further develop their game by playing additional games with Senior teams, at all levels, where:

- their workload permits,
- there is space on a Senior team, and
- they are invited to play.

#### **SELECTION PROCESS**

Prior to the start of the senior season, the Junior VP will invite players in Years 9 to 12 to self-nominate if they are interested in playing seniors. Interested junior players will be required to attend the Senior team selection trials where they will be trialling with senior players. Players wishing to attend the trials must advise the Girls and Boys Junior Coordinators who can act as the liaison to the Men's and Women's VPs.

Selection into senior teams/squads is at the discretion of the appointed Senior club selectors.

**NOTE:** Initial team/squad selections post trials may change throughout the season at the discretion of the relevant Senior coaches.



## **WOMEN'S AND MEN'S –SENIOR SQUAD SELECTION**

At the conclusion of their trials the Women's and Men's Squads will be selected. Where a junior player is selected to be a part of a squad, they will be expected to attend Junior and Senior training, workload permitting. Junior players will be expected to play both Juniors and Seniors. Junior games will remain the priority.

Junior players need to be aware that selection to play occurs on a weekly basis at the discretion of the relevant senior coaches. Senior players will be given preference to juniors in the senior competitions. There is no guaranteed selection or team for junior players.

Juniors must have the skills and maturity to enjoy and improve their hockey in a team selected by the Men's and Women's VPs and coaches.

It is important for both players and parents/ carers to understand that junior players may not get a Senior game every week as opportunities may not be available. Juniors playing Seniors should also be aware that they may not be given equal playing time.

Juniors are expected to train and play with their junior teams and are welcome to train with the appropriate Seniors team if their workload permits.

The allocation of junior players into senior teams each week will be managed by the Women's VP and Men's VP in line with the relevant coaches' requirements.

## **JUNIORS ONLY PLAYING SENIORS**

In very special cases, to be approved by the FCHC President and Junior VP, a junior player may be allowed to only play Seniors. This decision will be evaluated on an individual basis and a compelling case will need to be provided to support this position.

**Please note that Juniors playing in Senior's competitions shall be subject to Hockey WA's Senior By Laws rules and FCHC's Seniors' playing policies.**

## **IDENTIFYING JUNIORS READY TO PLAY SENIOR HOCKEY**

All Year 11 and 12 players will be provided with an opportunity to play Seniors. The Women's and Men's VP will work with the J 11/12 coaches to encourage players to play Seniors and to determine what level each player will find challenging but enjoyable. It is FCHC's objective to have every J 11/12 player play at least one senior game during the winter season. It is an important step in transitioning our Juniors into the Senior competition and ensuring they are not overwhelmed and have made some connections to the Seniors before they leave Juniors.

For players below Year 11 and 12, parents and coaches are able to contact the Women's and Men's VPs throughout the season and ask for players to be provided an opportunity in Seniors when one arises. Junior coaches need to work with the VPs to determine what level is appropriate for each player.



## **AGE GUIDELINES**

FCHC does not set hard age restrictions on Juniors playing Seniors – the rule set by HWA is no-one younger than 12 years of age on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of the winter season can play Seniors – however, older Juniors will be given precedence given that they are closer to transitioning into Seniors.

The exception to this may be elite Juniors where the Club considers that the players' development will be enhanced by involvement in Senior competitions, particularly where the junior players may be playing in a lower Junior grade.

There are many Juniors with the hockey skills to play Seniors, however, as a Club we recognise that this is not enough and junior players need to have:

- emotional maturity,
- resilience, and
- physical presence

to not be overwhelmed in Senior games. We want our junior players to enjoy the experience of playing Seniors, so it is important for parents/ carers and coaches to look at all aspects of the player before asking for a junior player to be provided opportunities in Seniors.

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