



Manual of Operations

Title: Development Stream	Number: MO-08-03
Source: LMC	
Approved By: WGHA Board	Date Approved: June 2014 Date Last Reviewed: June 2016; May 2024

Development Stream (DS) is a subset of the House League Program, not another level of hockey, offering a tryout-based, enhanced opportunity for House League players who are:

- Looking for a development bridge to competitive hockey or
- Do not wish to make the commitment, in time or cost, to competitive hockey but are seeking more competition and skill development that is not afforded by house league alone.

WGHA DEVELOPMENT STREAM (DS) PROGRAM:

WGHA will run a DS team in the U11, U13, U15 and U18 division if the minimum requirements for fielding a DS team are met and there is sufficient interest. If there is not sufficient interest, that DS division will be cancelled for the season.

The Director of House League will maintain a House League Handbook to cover the DS Program for Head Coaches and Players to aid as an additional guide to ensure the program runs successfully. The Director of House League will conduct a Coaching Meeting at the start of each season.

WGHA DS Fee: The registration fee set by WGHA for each DS team for the upcoming season. WGHA will set this DS fee which will be in addition to Basic Registration Fees, this DS fee will include all ice time for the DS Program and cover OWHHA fees. Each WGHA DS Program Fee will include:

- 4 home exhibition games
- 10 hours of practice ice
- 3 tryout hours (if less ice is used the remaining will convert to practice ice)
- OWHHA and WGHA fees

DS Registration Fee: DS Budget and DS Team Fee Collection: DS Budgets must be approved after the team is formed. The proposed budget should be reviewed by the Director of House League prior to the Team Meeting. The cost will be divided by all the players on the team and those costs must be clear in the



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budget before it is presented. Note: There may be different set fees for full-time and practice-only players.

Each DS team will create a budget which will include:

- WGHA DS Fee
- Cost of DS Tournaments
- Cost of any additional ice hours added. This would be ice added in addition to the WGHA DS program provided allotment. Note that the OWHA DS Rules restrict the number of games and practices a DS team can have. Refer to the current OWHA Handbook.
- Non-parent Head Coach travel and hotel costs for away games and tournaments only. Refer to the applicable Manual of Operations section.
- Breakdown of costs per player. This may consist of full-time and practice-only player fees. There should be a set fee for:
 - DS Player Registration Fee
 - DS Player Registration Fee, Practice-only (if applicable)
 - Custom budgets and fees are permitted with approval by the Director of House League.
- Any additional costs approved by the team, such as team sweaters, can be added to the budget but the fee will be excluded from the DS Team Fee.
- Any fundraising or sponsorship will need to be approved through the Director of Sponsorships. Refer to the applicable Manual Of Operations section.

Team Meeting: The DS Head Coach must conduct a player and parent meeting at the conclusion of tryouts, before team activities begin, to approve the budget. This meeting should be conducted prior to December 1st. A WGHA director must be present for budget approval.

DS Team Formation: WGHA will conduct tryouts for DS teams in November. Sign-up for DS will be done starting late October, early November. Tryouts will be conducted by the selected DS Head Coach with support from the Director of House League and House League Convenor, if needed and not in conflict.



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The DS Head Coach and WGHA will form DS team rosters by the end of November.

There are unique rules for DS teams and therefore rosters are usually not straightforward. The following applies to DS roster formation:

- WGHA DS teams must take, at a minimum, 15 skaters and 2 goalies. Taking less players must be approved by WGHA's League Management Committee (LMC). DS is about development, not winning, and this means taking less players than a full team must be due to safety concerns, lack of players, or a large skill gap that would cause problems at practice.
- The following roster scenarios can be used to navigate OWSA Rule: DS teams may only play 17 players in a game but may roster up to and including 25 players.
 - WGHA DS teams may add additional rostered players to be used as alternate players when a full-time player is absent. These alternate players would not pay a team fee and would not attend DS practices.
 - DS teams may add practice players that pay a set DS team "Practice-only" fee to attend all DS practices. These rostered players can be used as alternate players and would attend all DS practices. This is a way to supplement the costs for all players and to increase the development of more HL players.
 - WGHA DS teams may take additional full-time players, up to the 25-player limit, and create a schedule of games and tournaments to rotate through the roster fairly. All players would attend practices, rotate through games as evenly as possible, and pay the same fee.
- DS teams will be limited to a maximum of 3 DS Tournaments with 2 DS Tournaments recommended by the WGHA.

DS Players Responsibilities: Playing DS is a privilege. WGHA House League players may be removed or restricted from playing on a DS team if:

- The player has discipline issues with their House League Team.



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- The player is not attending practices with their House League Team.

DS Head Coaches Responsibilities: The DS Head Coach is responsible for the team, following all OWHA rules, and may be suspended by WGHA if they are found to have violated any rules. The DS Head Coach:

- Must be familiar with the OWHA Handbook, OWHA Development Stream (DS) Program Policy, and House League Handbook.
- Book DS Tournaments for the season and request payment for DS Tournament from WGHA, Director of House League and Treasurer.
- Be familiar with any tournament rules the team participates in.
- Conduct tryouts using non-parent evaluators.
- Prepare the team budget and have it reviewed by the Director of House League prior to the Team Meeting.
- If applicable, track non-parent mileage and hotel fees for away games and tournaments only. WGHA will reimburse the coach up to the set budget amount approved by the team. Any less will be returned to the players.