



HOCKEY MANITOBA

Manitoba Player Development Model

Information Manual

2008-09 Season



Shayne Wiebe - 2007 Canada Games U-17 Silver Medalists

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INTRODUCTION

The Manitoba Player Development Model Parent Manual is a collaboration involving the stakeholders that include Hockey Manitoba, the Manitoba AAA Midget Hockey League, the Manitoba Junior Hockey League and the Western Hockey League. The Player Development Model is designed to provide reliable and consistent information to parents of young Manitoba players and will answer questions they may have as their children progress through the hockey development system.

As the relationship grows between the partners, the vision to expand our focus to encompass not only on the players and their development, but also officials, coaches and trainers.





HOCKEY MANITOBA

Program of Excellence

Philosophy

The Hockey Manitoba Program of Excellence (POE) for players Under 17 years of age was introduced in 1988 and since that time the program has been instrumental in the development of some of our provinces most promising athletes. The POE or Under 17 program was designed to provide a better understanding of the game as well as to promote the development of quality players, coaches, trainers, officials and administrators. The participants are enriched as individuals and can achieve self-satisfaction and enjoyment as part of the hockey community.

The Program of Excellence promotes a team concept, which encompasses the pursuit of common goals. It is emphasized that every one on the team must pursue their personal goals within the team environment and that no one individual is more important than the team. Team success comes from all team members pooling their talents, skills and energies toward the achievement of the common team's goals.

The Hockey Manitoba Program of Excellence is about respecting the past and tradition. Successes such as the Bronze medal performances at the 1991 Canada Winter Games, first place at the 2004 World Under 17 Hockey Challenge, the Silver medal at the 2007 Canada Winter Games and a bronze medal at the 2008 World Under 17 Hockey Challenge are bench marks to be proud of and can be remembered as remarkable achievements.

The POE team accomplishments have assisted individuals to achieve personal success. It is about players such as Nigel Dawes, Dustin Boyd, Pat Falloon, Marty Murray, Jonathan Toews, Eric Fehr, Jordan Tootoo, and Cam Barker and how they have become great ambassadors of the sport of hockey and Manitoba. These young men, former Hockey Manitoba POE players, are not only great hockey players but are tremendous role models for our province's youth.

Director's Cup and Program of Excellence Selection Process

The Director's Cup Program is designed for all second year male Bantam players in the province of Manitoba. They are all invited to participate in their respective regional camp whereupon each player is given a

fair and equal opportunity to represent their region at the Director's Cup Tournament. The tournament is typically scheduled for the middle of April, where they will compete against teams from the other Manitoba regions.

The current format consists of 12 teams, with each of the 9 rural regions having their own team. Winnipeg has 3 entries – 2 teams selected from the top bantam AAA league and 1 team consisting of players playing in the Winnipeg AA league.

Following this tournament, forty of the top players (twenty-four forwards, twelve defenseman and four goaltenders) are invited to a summer camp. In addition these forty players will be joined by 40 players who have just completed their first year of Midget hockey and have been identified through a POE Spring Evaluation Camp. Following the summer camp, a team of 20 Under 16 aged players will be selected to compete for Team Manitoba at the Western Canadian Championships or Canada Games (every 4th year). 11 Under 17 aged players are also selected to compete with Team West annually at the World Under 17 Hockey Challenge.

Hockey Manitoba operates its High Performance POE Programs according to a cyclical arrangement as outlined by Hockey Canada. The new initiative of Hockey Canada is to sponsor a World Under 17 Hockey Challenge every year where Manitoba joins forces with Saskatchewan to create the Team West entry. Every fourth year Hockey Canada encourages Provinces to participate in the Canada Winter Games, which beginning in the 2011 Canada Winter Games will be an Under 16 competition.

Note: High Performance program re-structuring will occur in 2009-10.



'07 Team Manitoba – Canada Winter Games Silver Finalists

Made in Manitoba Player Development Model

Hockey Canada has invested several years attempting to establish a "Canadian Development Model" for the club system in Canada. This activity has identified considerable regional diversity of club systems and vast philosophical variances in, when and how players should move through a "development" system.

As a result, it has become the mandate of the Hockey Manitoba, the Manitoba AAA Midget Hockey League, the Manitoba Junior Hockey League and the Western Hockey League to collaboratively develop a player development system that will serve as the model in Manitoba.

Mission Statement

It is the intention of Hockey Manitoba, in partnership with the Manitoba AAA Midget Hockey League, the Manitoba Junior Hockey League and the Western Hockey League to develop and maintain a Manitoba "Athlete Centered Focus" Player Development Program.



***Jason Bowles
Waywayseecappo Wolverines
MJHL***

Objectives

1. To create and validate a letter of understanding/agreement between the partners to outline operational, policy development and appeal mechanisms.
2. To design a club system, that provides for the smooth transition of players through the system and targets their movement to play at the highest level appropriate for their ability and circumstances.
3. To ensure that all of the partners in the system agree to provide appropriate assessment and direction on an individual player's potential and to make a responsible decision on a player's capability to play at a given level. This information is to be shared when necessary through the Hockey Manitoba Player Development Committee Council.
4. To ensure the partners encourage players to play at the highest possible level within the system. The Partners agree to exercise patience in setting the pace at which players advance through the system and to act in the best interest of the players overall development. The partners agree that players should play within the Canadian system as the initial option. The partners agree that the best interest of the player may be to keep open all his avenues of opportunity.
5. To encourage players that possess extraordinary skill combined with the necessary physical and mental maturity, to advance to an appropriate level provided the opportunity is available to play on a regular basis. Should the circumstances not be favorable to the player's best interest, the player and parent/guardian will be consulted on the situation and advised of options on an appropriate career path.
6. To structure the system to ensure the top player in Manitoba remain in Manitoba and participate in the Canadian Development System. It is our goal to design a structure that meets the needs of all Manitoba players and increase the number of players who choose each year to participate in the Canadian system. However, the players maintain the right to consider alternatives outside of the Canadian model.
7. To ensure that the partners cooperatively structure all future agreements, regulations, player recruitment practices and scholarship opportunities in such a way to encourage our top players to remain in the Canadian System.
8. To create similar Manitoba development models for Coaches and Officials including Mentoring Programs, to advance through the club system in accordance with their capabilities to perform at the next level.

Questions Players Might Ask

1. What are the ramifications of signing a Hockey Canada Player Registration Card?

Once a player signs a Hockey Canada player registration certificate or roster with a Midget AAA or Junior Team, he will remain a member of that team until such time as he is released by that team or becomes too old for the age division.

2. Should you require in writing any understandings arrived at before signing a card?

Yes, it is always advisable that any commitments given to you before signing a player registration certificate or roster be committed in writing and signed by an authorized person at that time.

3. How much ice-time can the player expect?

*Midget AAA, Junior and Major Junior is not "Equal Time" hockey. The amount of ice time a player receives at these levels will be determined by his abilities. **DO NOT** ask for assurance that you will be guaranteed to play on the first two lines, top four defenseman or specialty teams. No team can make such a commitment over the long term.*

4. What is your team policy regarding releases?

Each team has its own release policy, ensure you know this information up front. All three leagues have league wide release policies.

5. What are the expectations of the player from the team?

Players would be expected to arrive at training camp mentally and physically prepared. Expect to earn every opportunity available to you based on your performance and attitude. Carry yourself in all aspects of your life like you intend to be a player at the appropriate level.

6. What are the expectations of the team from the player?

The player should expect that the relationship will be handled in a professional manner. There will be communication between the player and team as required to ensure both parties are aware of the status of the relationship. Players should expect that the relationship represents a sincere belief on the part of the team that the player is a legitimate candidate to play for the team. Players should expect a safe environment for hockey and for living situation.

7. How does your team maintain contact with Scouts at various levels?
At the Midget AAA Level teams managers and/or coaches will be responsible for initiating and maintaining communication with players. At the Junior Level, depending upon the staff structure of the team, communication may be initiated by a Head Scout/Director of Player Personnel with a General Manager/Head Coach also joining in the process. All of these individuals maintain communication with their peers at every level of the game.

8. How do I register with a team?

Within Hockey Manitoba all players at the Midget AAA, Junior B and Junior A level are registered with HOCKEY MANITOBA. When teams wish to register a player with HOCKEY MANITOBA players will be asked to sign a registration certificate or team roster.

Questions Parents Might Ask

1. How are parents involved in fundraising?

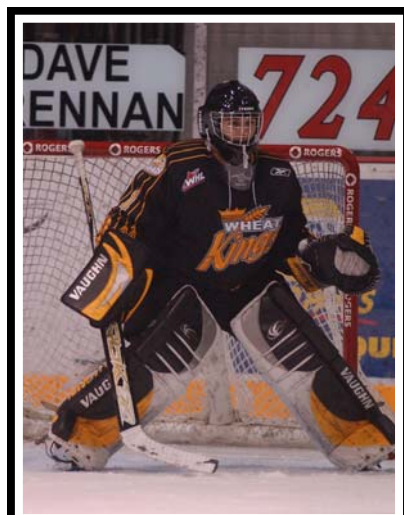
Depending on the level of hockey, parents may be asked to assist in, and contribute to fundraising initiatives.

2. What is the rate of coach turnover?

Depending upon the level of hockey, coaches may simply be volunteers appointed by Minor Hockey Associations/Junior teams or they may be part or full-time salaried coaches who are working on contracts in varying lengths.

3. If a player is unhappy where he has signed, and has been denied a release, what can a parent do?

Discuss the situation with the General Manager/Manager. Generally an unhappy player is not a positive asset to the team and action can be taken to rectify the situation. At the Junior level there is a listing/draft process and players are asked to respect that process.



*Joe Caligiuri
Brandon Wheat Kings - WHL*

4. What are the expectations of Parents to Team?
Respect, fairness, opportunity, safe living situation and a safe environment for hockey.
5. What are the expectations of Teams to Parents?
Support the player and respect the hockey personnel that the player is being treated in a fair and reasonable manner.
6. What is the position of the team in providing educational assistance programs, e.g. tutors?
Teams may provide an educational advisor to assist players educational needs and those in school are expected to be committed to attending school and completing the necessary work.
7. What are the curfews set by a team, guardians, host family?
Curfews are reasonable for the age involved and each team will have rules which may be superseded by billet rules.
8. How much practice time per week does the team provide?
Depending upon the team and the league, players can expect to practice up to one or two hours per day in addition to dry land training and meetings.
9. Does the team assist in finding/screening billets?
There is limited billeting at the AAA level and billeting is mostly confined to Junior hockey and at those league teams are responsible for finding and screening billets.
10. What is the teams position on Initiation Rituals/Hazing and how do they communicate this position to the team?
Leagues have "no tolerance" rules to this and either league employees or team personnel will speak to each team annually on the topic.
11. At what age can we expect our son to play in the MMHL, MJHL or WHL?
The age qualifications for Midget AAA hockey is 15 to 17 years of age. As each team in the MMHL can register and dress 20 players there are 240 plus players per year registered in the year.
- The age qualification for Junior Hockey is 20 years of age and younger. Elite sixteen and seventeen year old players are eligible to play in the MJHL on a full time basis. Sixteen year olds must sign the Midget Junior Agreement in order to be eligible to play junior hockey.*

In the hockey season immediately following the WHL Bantam Draft, players (who would be considered to be 15 years olds) are eligible to play up to five games as "Special Affiliated Players" and can join their WHL team following the completion of their own team's season. As sixteen year olds, players become eligible to play in the WHL on a full time basis. WHL regulations specify that sixteen year olds should play a equivalent of 40 games in that season to ensure the player continues his development. The majority of first year players in any WHL season are seventeen years old.

12. What happens if my son makes the team in September but is released during the season?

The circumstances related to the player's release may determine his future status regardless of which league he plays on.

a) If he is released based on his own request, he will be eligible to play at a lower level of hockey. ie: Midget AAA - Midget AA or A, Junior A - Junior B, or if eligible Midget AAA Major Junior - Junior A, B, or if eligible, Midget AAA. Leagues do however have the right to temporarily restrict a player moving from league to league if they perceive the request is initiated by outside sources.

b) If the player seeks a release to play for another team in the same league, there are specific league rules regarding the movement of players, player lists, tampering penalties, etc.

c) In the event that the player is displaced due to player movements, an injury, or similar circumstances, he may be granted an outright release. In these circumstances the player would be counseled as to his options and assistance would be provided by the teams in reassigning him to the appropriate situation.

13. What happens to my son's education if my son has to leave the province to play hockey and then wants to return after the season is over?

Whether a player moves within the province, or outside of it, to play hockey while still attending school, each of the junior leagues and their member teams have Educational Consultants/Advisors who will work with the player. Most players choose to return home to finish their school year and the Educational Consultants/Advisors will work with the players home school to ensure a smooth transition occurs. Midget aged players (17 years of age and younger) can only play outside the province within the Western Hockey League.

Manitoba AAA Midget Hockey League

Mandate

The mandate of the Manitoba AAA Midget Hockey League (MMHL) is to provide an opportunity for each and every player to be successful on and off the ice. The programs are designed to guide and develop each player's physical, academic and social experiences so they will have immediate as well as future success. Knowledge of the game is provided by managers, coaches and qualified leaders of the community.

The MMHL is comprised of 11 teams based in ten regions across the province and one team from Northern Ontario. Each team is comprised of players primarily within the their own region.

Player Eligibility

For a player to be eligible to play in the MMHL (Eligible 15-17 year olds), the player's parent(s) must reside in the province of Manitoba as their principle residence. Each player will be a committed member of a MMHL organization by signing a HOCKEY MANITOBA "Player Roster" which must be registered with the HOCKEY MANITOBA in order to activate a player's membership benefits.



*Andrew Clark
Brandon Wheat Kings - WHL*



Player Releases/Transfers

The MMHL has developed league regulations concerning releases that all teams must abide by. The wording of these regulations within the League Constitution is as follows:

1. A 16 or 17 year old aged player who attends the training camp of a AAA Midget team and, is released by that team, is eligible to try out for another AAA midget team. Under these circumstances, a release is required but cannot be withheld.
2. Any 2nd or 3rd year (16 – 17 year olds) Midget aged player who tries out for his regions AAA Midget team, by attending the regional try-out camp and is not carded by the Regional team on its 20 man roster by the commencement of the league, is free to try out for another AAA midget team. Any player who has been requested to sign on to a roster by his AAA home region and refuses, is ineligible to transfer out of his region. Transfer to play in another region is only valid for AAA Midget Hockey. Failure to make that team requires the player to return to the home region.
3. Only 3rd year midget players who have been released under (no. 2) and have played outside his region the past season, shall have the option of trying out for the regional team he played with last season, or with the region in which he resides. Should he not make the team, he is free to try out with another region under (no. 2).
4. Any 16/17 year old midget aged player who misses his regional training camp due to attendance at a junior camp and returns to his region, and his regional team does not wish to sign him, he may try out with another regional team.

Affiliation of Players to MMHL Teams

- Each MMHL team has an affiliation list consisting of a maximum nineteen (19) players (seventeen (17) skaters plus two (2) goal-tenders.
- Each affiliated player and his parents will be asked to sign a letter of consent with the team that wishes to name him as an affiliate.
- MMHL teams may only affiliate players from teams registered in their respective Regions Minor Hockey Association.
- These players are restricted to a maximum of five league or HOCKEY MANITOBA playoff games after January 10. Any player who participates in their sixth game as an "AP" must remain with the higher categorized/division team.

Financial Obligations

Each MMHL team will determine their registration fee annually. Presently fees vary between \$2,000 and \$5,000 per player. Tournament fees as well as play-off expenses may or may not be included in the registration fee.

Equipment

Each MMHL team provides each registered player with, jerseys and socks for each player. Some clubs will provide additional equipment that may include helmets and gloves

Travel To and From Home

All travel to and from home is the responsibility of the parents other than travel associated with Team Functions.

Member Clubs

- Brandon Wheat Kings
- Central Plains Capitals
- Eastman Selects
- Interlake Lightning
- Kenora Thistles
- Norman North Stars
- Parkland Rangers
- Pembina Valley Hawks
- South West Cougars
- Winnipeg Thrashers
- Winnipeg Wild
- Yellowhead Chiefs



Manitoba Junior Hockey League



Mandate

The mission statement of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL) is “To provide each player with an elite hockey development experience with a strong emphasis on education and citizenship.” The MJHL provides wonderful opportunities for young men who are interested in developing as hockey players while pursuing educational and hockey dreams. The MJHL develops players for advancement to higher levels of hockey. When a player decides to play for a MJHL team he will be joining an impressive group of young men who have played in the League and gone on to greatness in the NHL and in other careers. Former MJHL players who have starred or are currently playing in the NHL include Bob Clarke, Reg Leach, Tyler Arnason, Mike Ridley, Ed Belfour, Travis Zajac, Jordin Tootoo, Duvie Westcott, Shane Hnidy and others.

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League has a rich tradition and the League members work hard every year to keep building upon its successes. The MJHL is the oldest Junior A League in Canada. The first year of operation was the 1918 – 1919 season. That year there were nine teams in two divisions.

As of the 2007 – 2008 season there are eleven (11) member teams in the MJHL and the league has enjoyed great success over the past several years. The theme in the recent past has been “parity”. The League has developed into a tough, competitively balanced league. This has created some tremendous playoff series to the delight of the MJHL’s loyal fans. The ANAVET Cup playoff series between the MJHL/SJHL has been a saw off with the MJHL champion winning three (3) of the last six years. MJHL teams hosted international competition in 2006 with Dauphin, Winkler and Neepawa taking on Russia, Germany and Belarus respectively in World Junior A Challenge pre-tournament games. The Winkler Flyers hosted the CJHL Prospects Game in December, 2007.

Player and Team Responsibilities

All MJHL member clubs and players enter into agreements to ensure that both parties understand their responsibilities in order to achieve a positive and productive relationship. The hockey club commits to providing the player with excellent development opportunities in the

player's role as a student, an athlete and a socially responsible individual. In return, the MJHL and the member club anticipate that the players will conduct themselves in a positive and productive manner while fulfilling all team operating policies and procedures. Players will also represent themselves, the MJHL and their hockey club in a mature and constructive manner in all public activities.

Education

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League is one of only two Junior A hockey leagues in Canada (the other is the AJHL) that owns and controls its own League Scholarship Fund. The MJHL Scholarship Fund exists through a contractual agreement with the Winnipeg Foundation. The Winnipeg Foundation is a collection of endowment funds established by donors with a common interest in helping others (future MJHL players) and strengthening the community (the MJHL). The MJHL Scholarship Fund is endowed and the revenue earned annually is used to support the distribution of scholarships to MJHL player recipients selected by the Scholarship Committee. In April 2007 the first set of scholarships were announced with three players (Joel Mateika, Swan Valley; Dustin Kimber, Southeast and Bryce Macek, Winnipeg South Blues) each receiving an award of \$1,000.

The MJHL has plans for the Fund to grow by encouraging donors to donate to the endowment pool of funds. With the continued growth of the Fund, MJHL players will have a fantastic opportunity each year to receive a scholarship toward their educational career. The long term goal is to have the Fund be able to provide a quantity of 25 (or more) \$1,000 scholarships per season. The MJHL views the Scholarship Fund as an attractive recruitment tool that other Leagues (except Alberta) are not able to match.

The MJHL is committed to providing an environment that is safe for players so that they can attempt to achieve the goals they set for themselves. The overall goal of the MJHL is to develop players as productive citizens within society during and after their Junior A careers.

Safety and Performance Policy

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League is the first and only Junior A hockey league in Canada with a League wide policy concerning substance use. As the name suggests, the policy focuses on the safety and performance of the players, but also applies to coaches, general managers and support staff.

The Safety and Performance Policy focuses on the following areas:

1. Substance use, misuse and abuse
2. Player education and information
3. Player support mechanisms
4. Assessment including surveys
5. Player testing

The Safety and Performance Policy (SPP) implementation plan is to educate players and staff about the pros and cons of substances. Player knowledge will be assessed through seminars, meetings and surveys, as well as random drug testing. On an annual basis the results of the processes above will be used to re-calibrate the aspects of the policy to ensure it is always relevant.

Player Eligibility

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League uses a dual system of acquiring players. The MJHL uses a 50 Player Protected List (PPL) and a Draft of 15 year old Manitoba players for its teams to acquire players.

The 50 Player Protected List is used by the Manitoba Junior Hockey League as a way to organize and control the rights to players who reside in and outside of Manitoba. It is important to have an organized and controlled system to provide order to the acquisition of players by MJHL teams. A team is allowed to add up to 50 players between the ages of 15 and 20 onto its PPL.

The MJHL Draft of 15 year old players occurs on the first weekend in June each year. The draft order is based on the final standings from the previous year. The lowest team in the standings gets the first draft pick and so on per round. The Draft consists of five rounds and draft picks can be traded between the member teams. MJHL teams are also allowed to protect five players from their region who are not eligible to be drafted. Other than that the draft is open meaning that players can be drafted from anywhere in the province. Players who are drafted by a MJHL team do not have to be added to the team's PPL right away. The MJHL team must add a drafted player to its PPL prior to or on the player's 16th birthday. If this is not done by the MJHL team, the player would become a free agent within the MJHL.

For a MJHL team to be successful on the ice they have to build a strong core of players. Often this is done by blending some older more experienced players with younger players who have the potential to be great Junior A players. All players on a team's roster must also be on the team's 50 PPL. At various times throughout the season the MJHL roster limits are 25 (up to Dec. 1) and down to 23 (at Jan 10). The PPL is made up of 25/23 roster players for the current season and 25/27 non-roster players. The non-roster players on the PPL are viewed as potential players in future years.

MJHL teams must make careful and prudent decisions about the listing and drafting of players. Only the best players available are added to a team's PPL. The teams in the MJHL all utilize a staff of Scouts who provide input and intelligence into the additions and deletions of players to and from a team's PPL. The quality of decisions made by a team in this area will have a direct effect on its success today and in the future.

Throughout the course of a season and off-season a player could be added to or deleted from the list of several teams. Other player's names may stay on the list of one team for the entire lifetime of their Junior hockey eligibility.

Any player listed by a MJHL club may not play for or attend the training camp of any other MJHL club. In Canada, Junior A hockey teams sign or register players to cards. This gives the Junior A team playing rights to the player and this is recognized nationally. The roster of 25 (Dec. 1) or 23 (Jan. 10) means that 25 or 23 players have signed valid cards to be registered with that Junior A team.

A player who is 18 or older and is on the PPL of a MJHL team may attend the camp of another team outside of Manitoba as long as he has not been signed or registered to a Junior A card by the MJHL team.

Comparison to Western Junior A Leagues

Midget aged players are not eligible to be transferred from Manitoba to another province for the purposes of playing Junior A hockey.

- BCHL - There is no "listing process" or "protected" areas, etc. There is open recruitment of players.
- AJHL - Utilize a thirty-five (35) man white card system.
- SJHL - Utilize a fifty (50) player protection list similar to Manitoba.

MJHL - A team may list up to a maximum of fifty (50) players on their protected lists as per the following; all carded players, affiliated players, a free listing of all other players who must have reached his fifteenth (15th) birthday. Players who are automatically protected by MJHL teams include; all players under the age of 17 in each member team centre, Midget aged players from each team centre who are playing Midget AAA and Players who were formerly carded by a MJHL team, but now play Major Junior and who have eligibility remaining.

Trades

All trades between MJHL clubs involving the playing rights and/or list rights of players must be approved by the MJHL Commissioner. The MJHL has a trade moratorium that prohibits trades during the Christmas period. All Inter-Branch player transactions (i.e. trades between MJHL teams and teams from other Junior A Leagues) must be approved by both Junior A League Commissioner/President. Until the approval is granted players are not eligible to play for their new team(s). Trades cannot be made between the dates of January 11 and the final date of the national Junior A championship (RBC Royal Bank Cup).

Player Cards Approved by Hockey Manitoba

- Each team has the ability to register forty-five (45) players through the electronic registration process.
- A team cannot have more than 25 player registrations at any one time up to December 1st of the playing season.
- As of December 1st annually, each team must cut down to twenty-five (25) registration cards in total (active and open).
- As of January 10th annually, each team must further cut down to twenty-three (23) registration cards in total (active and open).
- The final date for a player to be released and still be eligible to be registered with another team is January 10th.
- The final date for registration is February 10th.
- Junior A teams receive their registration privileges annually (for the upcoming season) following the Hockey Canada AGM (approximately May 20th). Between February 10th and May 20th players may not be signed to new registration cards.
- Once a Junior A team has signed a player to a card the registration is not official until the card is approved by the Executive Director of Hockey Manitoba.
- An Import is defined as a player who was not registered in the Hockey Manitoba Branch in the previous season.

- A player would not be considered an Import if he is a Major Junior player who is transferring back to the MJHL within one calendar year from the date of his initial transfer approval
- A Junior team may have no more than eight (8) Imports signed to active player registrations at any one time.

Number of 20 year old Players

A Junior A team may have no more than nine (9) 20 year old players dressed per game. Teams are allowed to have more than nine (9) registered/carded within their allotment of active player cards.

Released Players from the WHL

- Any Manitoba player who has been registered/signed in the WHL, for any team in any province/state and released back to the MJHL is not considered an Import.
- That player must report to the MJHL team, which has him listed on their Player Protected List (PPL). If a player began his Junior hockey career with a MJHL team prior to moving to the WHL, the MJHL team who he was registered with would retain his "protected" rights.

Affiliation List

The purpose of affiliation is to provide an opportunity for higher Category (Junior A) teams to dress the maximum number of players allowable for a game in accordance with the Playing Rules. Affiliation also allows lower Category players a great hockey development opportunity by playing games with the higher Category club.

- Each MJHL club has an affiliation list consisting of a maximum of nineteen (19) players (17 skaters and 2 goaltenders).
- The affiliate players can be registered with any lower Category team (Junior B, C, D or Midget team) within Hockey Manitoba.
- Affiliated players must be on the MJHL team's Player Protected List to be eligible to play as an affiliate player.
- Affiliate Players Lists must be filed by the MJHL team and forwarded to Hockey Manitoba by December 15th.
- The Final Affiliate Players Lists must be submitted to Hockey Manitoba by January 10th. "Permanent" affiliation of players is not permitted. Affiliate players can play no more than ten (10) games all season as an affiliate player. Once the team they are registered with have completed their season, they may play with their affiliated team for the remainder of that team's season.

Financial Responsibilities/Equipment

When a player makes a MJHL team, all training and living expenses are covered by the team (unless the team has a policy of not covering these expenses). This includes billeting costs and living expenses when the club is on a road trip. All other equipment including pants, gloves, helmet, visor and hockey sticks are also provided for the player by the MJHL team. The player is responsible for returning all of the equipment given to him to the hockey club when requested (the conclusion of the season).

Member Clubs

- Dauphin Kings
- Neepawa Natives
- OCN Blizzard
- Portage Terriers
- Swan Valley Stampeders
- Beausejour Blades
- Selkirk Steelers
- Waywayseecappo Wolverines
- Winkler Flyers
- Winnipeg Saints
- Winnipeg South Blues



*Brett Chartier
Winnipeg Saints - MJHL*



Western Hockey League

Mission Statement

To remain the World's premiere Major Junior Hockey League by continuing to provide the best player development and educational opportunities while enhancing the entertainment value of the game for our fan base.

The Western Hockey League (WHL) commitment to each player is based on these fundamental principles: ensure the player receives every opportunity to achieve their academic goals and to enable players benefits from a variety of positive life skill experiences.

Players who reside in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming are protected for the WHL and are eligible to be listed by WHL Clubs through regular WHL listing procedures.

All Canadian and U.S. players from the WHL Territory are eligible for the WHL Bantam Draft in the calendar year that they turn 15.

WHL Bantam Draft

The WHL Bantam Draft is normally held on the first Thursday in May. When a player is drafted, he is notified by the club and is invited to either a spring/summer camp or to the team's rookie camp in the fall. Players who are not drafted can be invited to a team's rookie camp in the fall, or can be listed by a WHL club at any time after the WHL Bantam Draft.



*Scott Glennie
Brandon Wheat Kings - WHL*

WHL Player Protected List

The Player Protected List is used by the Western Hockey League to ensure there is a method of organization and control in the League for the rights to players.

Each WHL team is permitted to place a maximum of 50 players between the ages of 15 and 20 on their List. A player may not be added to a WHL List until he has been eligible for the WHL Bantam Draft. All players on a WHL team's roster are required to be on the Player Protected List, so if a WHL team is carrying 23 players, this leaves only 27 spots available for future prospects. The 50 Player Protected List is constantly changing as teams evaluate their players and make adjustments. Teams are permitted to make changes to their 50 Player List throughout the entire year. With only 50 available spots, this means that decisions must be made carefully so as to ensure the team's future viability. Depending on circumstances, a player may be added or removed from a team's List at any time.

Although many players are added to WHL team Lists during the Bantam Draft, there are also numerous situations where players develop later and are listed at that time. The following stars were not selected in the WHL Bantam Draft but were added to a WHL team's list at a later date: Jerome Iginla, Darcy Tucker, Jeff Friesen, Dan Hamhuis, Cory Sarich, Scottie Upshall, Joffrey Lupul, Jeff Woywitka, and Shane Doan.

A player who is on a WHL team's List may not play for another WHL team, or attend another WHL team's training camp or rookie camp. However, being a member of a WHL team's 50 Player Protected List does not restrict a player from playing for, or attending a camp of a non-WHL team. The 50 Player Protected List is used strictly to determine which WHL team holds the player's rights. The WHL, along with the Ontario Hockey League and the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League comprise the Canadian Hockey League. Territorial Regulations are in place to govern player movement. Players must play in the territory they reside within.

Players

A WHL team is permitted to have a maximum of 25 players on their roster on January 10. Most clubs carry 23 players.

Definition of an Import

An import in the WHL is any Non-North American player registered on a member Club roster.

Trades

WHL teams are permitted to trade players. There is a trade moratorium over the Christmas break each season. The final trade deadline is January 10th of each year. All trades must be approved by the WHL Office before being completed.

20 Year Old List

WHL Clubs may play a maximum of three 20 year olds in exhibition, regular season and playoff games. Special regulations may apply. Clubs must transfer 20 year olds to the 50 Player List prior to them playing a game.

Affiliated Players

A WHL team is permitted to name a maximum of 19 Specially Affiliated Players, who can play WHL games with the permission of their club team. These 19 Specially Affiliated Players must appear on the teams 50 Player List. A Specially Affiliated Player will not be eligible for educational benefits unless he is signed to the WHL Standard Player Agreement.

Commitments and Expectations

Member WHL Clubs and Players enter into formal agreements to ensure that both parties understand their responsibilities in achieving a positive and productive relationship. The Club commits to providing the player with excellent developmental opportunities as a student, an athlete and a socially responsible individual.

In return the WHL and the member Club anticipate that the players will respond in a positive and productive manner to all operating policies and procedures. Players will also represent themselves, the WHL and their Club in a mature, constructive manner in all public activities.

Financial Responsibilities/Equipment

When a player makes a WHL team, all training and living costs are covered by the team. This includes billeting costs, and a monthly stipend that is paid to the player. All equipment, including hockey sticks and skates, are also provided for the player.

Travel

The costs for a roster player to travel to the team for training camp; return travel to the player's home at Christmas; and return travel home after the season are covered by the WHL team.

Inappropriate Conduct

Should a WHL player act in a highly inappropriate manner, through his actions, gestures or general conduct, the WHL Office shall be empowered to discipline him accordingly through a suspension or fine to his team.

Education

All players who sign a WHL Standard Player Agreement are entitled to all education costs that occur while the player is with the WHL team, including secondary and post secondary schools. Each team employs an Education Advisor who is in daily contact with the school(s) and the students. The Education Advisor works with the players and the school to help the players schedule their scholastic responsibilities around their hockey schedule. The Education Advisors in each community report to the Director, Education Services at the WHL Office who oversees the league's education program. Schooling for all players is governed by strict WHL league-wide education standards and policies. All players are expected to graduate in a timely fashion and achieve their academic goals.

Grades and attendance are monitored throughout the school year by the WHL Club Education Advisor and the WHL Director, Education Services. Coaches and managers are empowered and encouraged by the league to use whatever disciplinary tools are available to ensure the students take their schooling seriously.

All players who have graduated from the WHL, who have not signed an NHL, AHL, or European Elite League contract, earn a minimum, one year of books and tuition at their home university for every year in the league. The scholarship amount is fully indexed, that is, it is based on the actual cost of tuition in the year the player attends. In addition, the tuition may be applied to a variety of educational opportunities including Community Colleges, Firefighting Schools, or any other situation that the WHL deems as professional job training for the graduate player.

Most CIS University hockey teams in Western Canada have a large complement of WHL graduates on their teams.

In addition to the above, the WHL operates a professional development program referred to as "The Players First Program" which provides for life skills training in a variety of areas that helps round out the experience for WHL players.

Western Hockey League Member Clubs

- Brandon Wheat Kings
- Calgary Hitmen
- Chilliwack Bruins
- Edmonton Oil Kings
- Everett Silvertips
- Kamloops Blazers
- Kelowna Rockets
- Kootenay Ice
- Lethbridge Hurricanes
- Medicine Hat Tigers
- Moose Jaw Warriors
- Portland Winter Hawks
- Prince Albert Raiders
- Prince George Cougars
- Red Deer Rebels
- Regina Pats
- Saskatoon Blades
- Seattle Thunderbirds
- Spokane Chiefs
- Swift Current Broncos
- Tri-City Americans
- Vancouver Giants

HOCKEY MANITOBA PLAYER DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Partners

