

2016 Wellington Indian Sports Club (WISC) Junior Hockey Guidelines

These Guidelines align WISC Junior Hockey with the WHA Competition Structure, which has been implemented by New Zealand Hockey. WHA changed to this format in the 2014 season and will continue going forward.

The aim of these Guidelines is to ensure that selection decisions are made fairly and consistently, taking into account player development, team viability and available resources, while aligning to the WHA Competition Structure.

Playing Junior Hockey is about having fun and making new friends, along with learning and developing the skills required.

2016 Wellington Hockey Association (WHA) Junior Hockey Grades

WISC Junior Hockey Players will fall into the following year group grades as defined by WHA.

- ❑ Fun Sticks – run by WHA for Year 1 and 2
- ❑ 6-aside Hockey (WHA Competition Structure)
 - ❑ 6-aside – Year 3/4 Development
 - ❑ 6-aside – Year 3/4 Returning
 - ❑ 6-aside –Year 5/6 Development
 - ❑ 6-aside -Year 5/6 Premier
 - ❑ 6-aside -Year 7/8
- ❑ 11-aside Hockey – Year 7/8

Mini Hockey

WISC will support the running of Mini Hockey sessions in the Gymnasium for the 3 - 5 year olds if one or more parents volunteer to run this on a weekly basis.

Fun Sticks

WHA run a Fun Sticks programme. This is a NZ Hockey initiative that has been rolled out nationally. It is a 12-week programme designed for Year 1 and 2 who are relatively new to the game of hockey. It is run at a variety of local venues, and parents can enrol their children to attend any venue.

If you are interested in this programme, you will need to register **directly** with WHA and payment will be made **directly** to WHA.

6-Aside Competition

6-aside is for players in Years 3 - 6. It is divided into the various divisions stated above as per the WHA Competition Structure.

Background:

In 2014 WHA adopted the Active-Post Small Sticks Competition format which is a **New Zealand wide structure** established to ensure that young hockey players are playing in the correct hockey format for their age, size and development level - 6-aside is widely recognised as being far more conducive to skill development, as players get more touches on the ball and are far more involved in the game.

This new format stipulated that all 2014 players in Years 3 - 6 must play 6-aside hockey unless they are “exceptional” players. The example given by WHA was Stephen Jeness. However, there were a number of issues faced by many clubs, especially trying to field complete 11-aside teams without Year 6 players, so WHA did grant some Year 6 player exemptions to the new format in 2014.

For 2015 and now 2016, WHA has stated that Year 6 players **will not** be used to fill 11-aside shortages. WHA has advised that clubs join with other clubs to make up an 11-aside team of Year 7/8s. Our selection decisions are now tied to WHA’s decision making and they will only make changes to assist the majority of clubs not just individual clubs or individual players.

A **Premier 6-aside Grade** has been developed by WHA to provide a more competitive environment for the stronger Year 5/6 players. WHA has stipulated that no more than two teams per club will be permitted into the Premier 6-aside Grade (around 14 players). This will be assessed by WHA on a year by year basis.

Selection Process for Premier 6-aside Grades:

- 2016 – WISC will be holding trials for the Premier 6-aside Teams (Year 5/6 players). This is to enable players to be placed fairly, looking at all aspects of the player alongside their peers. If a player is unable to make the trials they are likely to miss out on the Premier Grade. This will be dealt with on a case by case basis but will be dependent on the selection panel’s decisions on the day of the trials.
- A selection panel made up of independent persons, where possible, will make the team selections. The decision of the selection panel will be **final**.
- Playing numbers and level of skill vary from year to year and selection will focus on balancing all teams to ensure they are competitive.
- Teams will be made up of a mix of both girls and boys. As a Club we have decided the ideal number of players in each team would be 7 (4 boys and 3 girls); however numbers will dictate this on a season by season basis.

11-aside Competition

This is for Year 7 and 8 players who have predominately played hockey. 11-aside hockey is played under full hockey rules.

Selection Process for 11-aside Grades

- Trials for the 11-aside teams will occur in March 2016 (date TBC).
- There are no mixed teams.
- The trials will consist of an assessment of skills and fitness.
- A selection panel made up of independent persons, where possible, will make the team selections. The decision of the selection panel will be **final**.
- A second trial will occur if needed. This will be assessed on a season by season basis.
- Selectors look for many attributes, both physical and skill based when assessing players:
 - Physical attributes - speed, strength, agility, endurance, power and flexibility.
 - Skill attributes - technique, tactical awareness, positional qualities and attitude.
- The number of teams fielded in 11-aside will depend on the numbers at registrations on a season by season basis. In 2015 we fielded 2 Boys teams and 1 Girls team. A squad of 12 - 13 players is the ideal number; however numbers will dictate this on a season by season basis.
- Teams are registered in the Grades they were in the previous year.

The first round is a grading round where teams at the end of Round 1 who are at the top and the bottom of their respective grades will move, either up or down depending on their results.

Registration and Fees

- Pre-registration is mandatory. An non-refundable Administration/Membership Fee of \$30 is collected at the time of registration.
- Fun sticks fees are paid directly to WHA
- Playing Fees for 2016 are yet to be finalised, and will be between \$140-200 for 6-aside/11-aside.