

## Yorkshire Men's Development League 2016-17

Dear All,

Last season was another excellent one for the Men's Development League.

The teams who have confirmed they intend to play this coming season are listed below.

### Men's Development League

North	<b>Thirsk &amp; Malton</b>	<b>Confirmed for next season</b>
	<b>City of York</b>	<b>Confirmed for next season.</b>
	<b>Airedale</b>	<b>Confirmed for next season</b>
	<b>Harrogate</b>	<b>Confirmed for next season</b>
	<b>Bradford</b>	<b>Confirmed for next Season</b>
	<b>Huddersfield</b>	<b>Confirmed for next season</b>
	<b>Ben Rhydding</b>	<b>Confirmed new Club.</b>
	Spare	
South	<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Confirmed for next season</b>
	<b>Lindum</b>	<b>Confirmed for next season</b>
	<b>Doncaster</b>	<b>Confirmed for next season</b>
	<b>Wakefield</b>	<b>Confirmed for next season</b>
	<b>Sheffield Hallam</b>	<b>Confirmed for next season</b>
	<b>Slazengers</b>	<b>Confirmed for next season</b>
	<b>Chesterfield</b>	<b>Confirmed new club</b>
	Spare	

As you can see we have 14 teams entered and welcome to the two new clubs, Ben Rhydding and Chesterfield. May I ask all other clubs to be patient with the new teams and help them to make the best use of the League.

I also attach the fixtures for the new season. As you will see that with currently only 7 teams in each league there will be one team in each league without a match every week. You can use this as a rest week or organise a friendly with the team in the other league that does not have a fixture.

The guidelines for this League are attached for your perusal in red below.

There are no special rules for this league, only guidelines, but the main think to bear in mind is that these matches are **“to provide a safe environment for the development of young players in both teams”**.

Especially at the beginning of the season, it would be wise to speak to the organiser of your opponent's team early so that you are aware of the playing standard of each other's team which may well help selection. It is never an exact match as clubs have different requirements for developing their young players.

The choice of senior players is also important, as I am sure you are aware, as they must be able to work with the young players and give them freedom to learn the game against teams with a similar ethos. There is a gentlemen's agreement for Senior players not to score goals, which I would really like to maintain. Care needs to be taken when playing against very young or inexperienced players as things such as Drag Flicks and aerial balls, whilst part of the game and need to be learnt, their use in these matches needs to be controlled so that the whole experience for ALL players is a safe and satisfying one.

The number of seniors you have on the pitch will depend on their ability as well as the ability of your young players and strength of your opposition.

I hope the season is an enjoyable one for your young players. BUT PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, SEND ME YOUR COMPLETED MATCH SHEETS FOR MY RECORDS. I would like to keep a detailed record for the season and it is good practice for the young players to see what to expect in the adult leagues.

Over the years it has been great to see clubs buying in to the ethos of the League and young players benefit from the experience. I would like to thank club coaches, organisers and senior players at your clubs who give up their time to make sure this does happen every season.

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](mailto: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.*

**DUTY OF CARE NOTE**                      Safeguarding and Protecting Young people in Hockey.

**The EHB is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all young people involved in hockey under the age of 18. It accepts a responsibility to help safeguard the welfare of young people and protect them from harm.**

**Every individual and organisation within the Hockey Family has a role and responsibility to help ensure the safety and welfare of young people. In particular, all clubs and others providing opportunities for young people in hockey must accept that they are required to fulfil their duty of care, which means that they must do everything that can be reasonably expected of them to help safeguard and protect young people from any reasonably foreseeable harm.**

**Please refer to EHB's Proud to Protect documents especially the Policy on Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey.**

*EHB's policy is that players under the age of 13 are restricted from participating in adult hockey leagues until they reach their 13th birthday. This restriction is not intended to apply to the practice of mixing junior and adult players in formalised matches where these are specifically organised to ensure that the primary purpose is the development of the junior players. Such matches are often referred to as beavers / badgers / vixens / fathoms and the format of the current Yorkshire Men's*

*Development League complies. However, due consideration should be given, on an individual basis, to the inclusion of junior players in such matches to ensure that it is appropriate to do so. Factors considered might include physical and psychological maturity, age, playing ability and social skills.*