



2024-25 OPERATIONS PLAN

Revised October 28, 2024



Introduction:

This 2024-25 Operations Plan defines how the DJHL will function from start to finish and operate in terms of divisional alignment. This Operations Plan reflects alignment decisions already decided by majority vote of MHA Presidents and other decisions made by the DJHL Operations Committee within their authority. The League Budget will subsequently reflect the final decisions rendered herein.

Unless otherwise stated herein, current approaches to hockey operations, try-out process and business transactions, as dictated by the League Governance Document (see League Info page at www.djhl.ca) shall remain in place. Furthermore, changes herein reflect an effort to comply with Hockey Canada's Pathways Development Model.

Guiding Principles:

The contents of this Operations Plan are guided by a desire to achieve the following for our 10 division League:

- Parity
- Affordability
- Reasonable opportunity for every player to participate at their skill level
- Reasonable scale of operation
- Competitive environment
- Conducive environment for volunteers

Key Pivots:

- Girls Pooled Hockey Program moved to the Girls Metro Hockey League (GMHL)
- GU15AAA added to DJHL U15B Division for full season (single-carded)
- An all-female, AAA caliber, pooled team (Puffins) added to our U13B division
- C teams added to U11, U13 and U15 (projected additional 16 minor teams)
- AP Program scaled down to make practices more manageable for coaches and to reduce administrative burden
- Earlier season start: U15AA to begin October 15th and club divisions to all start by October 28th.

Staffing:

With the switch of Girls Pooled Hockey to the Girls Metro League, DJHL staff will be limited to the following (duties found in online Governance document):

- League Director (lead staff person)
- League Scheduler
- League Registrar (handled by League Director)

Fees:

- There will be no increases to full-time player registration fees on League-operated teams. U15 AA division player registration will stay at \$1,200. Puffins player fee will also be \$1,200.
- The 15AA program try-out base fee will be a one-time charge of \$150. An additional \$50 fee will be charged players electing to participate in two non-evaluated practices each at the start of the try-out process. These sessions will include time dedicated to body checking instruction for U15AA Minor players.
- All pooled AP registration will be set at \$100, down from \$160 last season. This reduction reflects APs now only able to attend practice at the request of the Team Head Coach. Further details about this Program appear on our League Info page at www.djhl.ca.
- Club base fee paid by each member Association will remain at \$500. But the Club entry fee per team will be increased to \$200 from \$150.

Play-offs:

- All teams will qualify for the play-offs.
- Bracket format will be used and all series will be First to 4 Points, except the U15AA division which will be Best of 5 semi-finals & final, using shoot-outs for overtime.
- There will be no consolation rounds – when a team loses a series, they are eliminated.
- Sudden victory Bronze Medal games will be featured in divisions with 5 or more teams
- Unless another team is participating from outside the DJHL in Provincials, the League title in U15AA will also be the HNL Championship title – no separate HNL tournament for this division.

Division Type	Format
9 Team Club	Top team gets a first round bye. In round 1, 8 th plays 9 th , and winner advances to quarter-finals in round 2. In the quarter-finals, 1 st plays winner of round 1, 2 nd plays 7 th , 3 rd plays 6 th , and 4 th plays 5 th . In semi-finals, top remaining seed plays the lowest remaining seed, and 2nd highest seed plays the 3 rd highest remaining seed. Semi-final winners battle for the title, while semi-final losers battle for the bronze medal.
8 Team Club	Quarter-finals: 1 st vs. 8 th , 2 nd vs. 7 th , 3 rd vs. 6 th , and 4 th vs 5 th . Seeding determines semi-final match-ups.
7 Team Club	Quarter-final bye for 1 st . 2 nd vs. 7 th , 3 rd vs. 6 th , and 4 th vs 5 th in quarter-finals. Seeding determines semi-final match-ups.
6 Team Club	Quarter-final bye for 1 st and 2 nd . 3 rd vs. 6 th and 4 th vs. 5 th in quarter-finals. Seeding determines semi-final match-ups.
5 Team Club	Quarter-final between 4 th and 5 th , with winner advancing to play 1 st place in semi-final. Other semi-final to feature 2 nd vs. 3 rd .
4 Team Club	Semi-finals with 1 st vs. 4 th and 2 nd vs. 3 rd . Winners advance to finals. No Bronze game.
U15AA	1 st vs. 4 th and 2 nd vs. 3 rd in semi-finals. Winners play for title.

Divisional Alignment & Structure:

Division	Projected Teams	Regular Season Games per Team	Other
U15AA	4 DJHL owned	30 (60 total)	40 practices per team
U15A	7 Club + GU15AAA	24	
U15B	4 Club	24	
U15C	5 Club	24*	
U13A	7 Club	24	
U13B	6 Club + Puffins	24	Puffins get 40 practices from DJHL
U13C	9 Club	24	
U11A	7 Club	24	
U11B	6 Club	24	
U11C	9 Club	24	

Game Lengths:

- Game lengths will three 15 minute stopped time periods played within 1.5-hour time slots for the following divisions: U15AAA + U15AA + U13AAA + U15A + U13A
- Game lengths will be three 10 minute stopped time periods played within a one-hour time slot for the following divisions: U15B + U15C + U13B + U13C + U11A + U11B + U11C
- Games hosted by the Puffins in U13B division can be three 15 minute stopped time periods if ice time is available.

Schedule Overview:

POOLED MINOR HOCKEY STREAM	Time Frame
On-line U15AA Registration	August 1 - 31
U15 AA Main Try-out Camp	September 9 – 22
Puffins Try-out Camp	September 9 – 22
Pre-Draft Scrimmage Period for Selected U15 AA Players	September 25-27
U15 AA Draft Day	October 1
Pre-Season Practice Period (2 weeks)	October 3 – 14
Atlantic Challenge Cup	October 9 - 13
Regular Season (19 weeks of games) (10 + 9)	October 15 – February 29
Christmas Game Break	Dec. 21 – January 5
Play-off Window (6 weeks)	March 1 – April 12
Easter Week HNL Provincials	April 21-26

