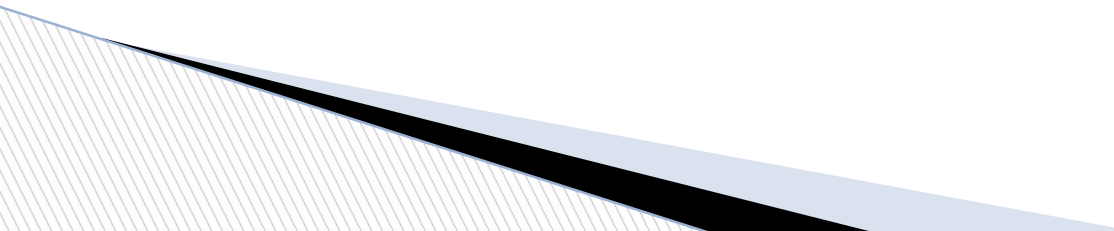




U11 Pathway
What comes next?


February 18, 2021

Introductions

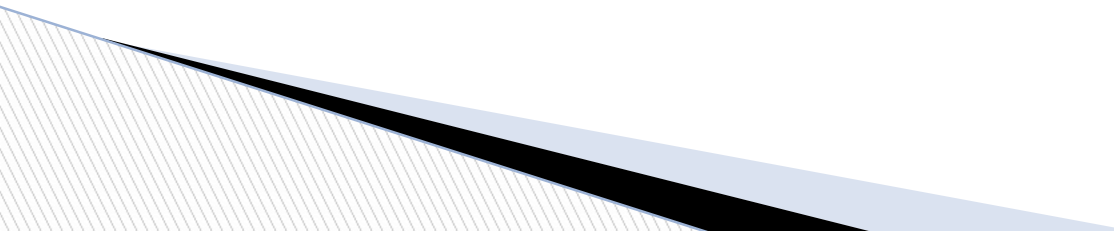
- President: Chantal Cotton, President
 - U6 - U9: Johanna Webber & Patricia Tait
 - Recreational: Jody Yau
 - Rep: Bruce Gregg
 - Tanya Foley, Executive Director
- 

The 2021-22 U11 Division

So your player will be part of the U11 division next season...

- For our U9 players, this will mean your first time deciding between recreational and rep streams
 - For our current U11 players, this will mean a final transition to the U11 pathway that was started this season
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Changed landscape

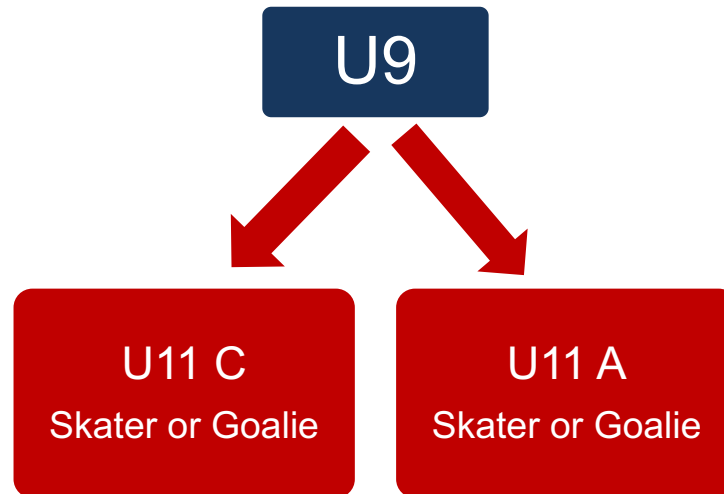
- May 2018 – Canadian Development Model Workgroup endorsed the new Canadian Player Pathway
 - Nov 2018 – Member Forum approved the implementation of the U11 Player Pathway for full implementation in the 2020-21 season
 - 2020-21 saw a glimpse of the changes, but Covid restrictions didn't allow for the full rollout of the U11 Pathway
 - 2021-22 will see the full changes implemented (we hope!)
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U11 Pathway

Key changes

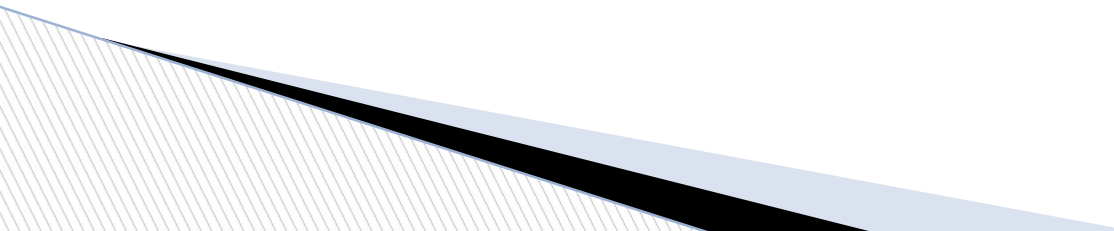
- no tryouts/evaluations prior to the start of school (implemented 2020-21 season)
- must have a min of 4 practices / skill sessions prior to formal evaluations starting (implemented 2020-21 season)
- tryouts must be a minimum of three sessions (already TBirds method)
- must have a period of development time following team selection and prior to start of regular season (already TBirds method)
- must be tournament style playoffs vs elimination rounds (will be implemented for 2021-22 PCAHA season)

Choose your track



- Choice # 1: Community (Rec) or Developmental (Rep)?
- Choice #2: Skater or Goalie?
 - TBirds do have goalie equipment available for U11 division if required (can also look at TBirds Marketplace on Facebook for equipment)
- *Next season may be your first, but not last, time to make these choices.*

General Information

- U9 parents: get ready for early morning weekday practices
 - Conflict forms are collected at the end of summer/early September for Recreational stream only.
 - Friend requests are not possible due to the complexity of creating balanced teams in recreational.
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General Information

- Ice allocation: teams can be assigned ice times at any of the rinks TBirds is allocated ice from Richmond Oval to UBC to Trout Lake to Sunset
 - We do not get to choose our ice times, but are allocated based on our priority within the user groups of each of our venue providers (Vancouver Park Board, UBC, Richmond Oval, City of Richmond)
 - Teams will have players who live in all corners of our TBird boundary area so we do try to spread out ice allocation as best as possible

On the Ice for **ALL** U11 players

- Goals:
 - Fun
 - Refining of basic skills
 - Introduction to team tactics
- Practice breakdown (over season) as per Hockey Canada guidelines
 - 50% technical skills
 - 20% individual tactics
 - 15% team tactics
 - 10% team play
 - 5% strategy
 - In other words, it is NOT all about breakouts and special teams!

On the Ice for all U11 players

- Goaltending development for both streams
 - Community (Rec): Steel Development
 - Developmental (Rep): ProFormance Goalie School
- Defence vs Forward – all players will play both positions as per the Hockey Canada player development pathway
 - with cross ice/half ice hockey, no true positions are played and, outside of a short period of spring hockey for some, players have not been exposed to positional play
 - as skills develop, the best position for a player becomes more evident. This typically happens towards the end of their second U11 season and into U13
 - it is important to provide opportunities for players as they go through this period where their individual skills will develop at a high rate
 - at minimum, players should be on a rotation until Christmas each season
 - players will be assigned to defence and forward on a period by period basis during rep tryouts

U11 Community (Recreational)



U11 Community (Recreational) “C”


- In 2020/21 – 7 teams based on the total number of players in birth year
 - planning for 7 teams for 2021/22 season dependent upon total # of registrations and # of rep teams formed
- No returning TBirds player is turned away from playing community (recreational) hockey at the association – if this is the choice you prefer, you simply need to register for it
- Coaching: Typically parents for all team staff positions

U11 Community (Recreational) “C”

- Teams are determined through a balancing process
 - **September to Thanksgiving: Internal balancing**
 - initial “groups” will be created using the evaluations from this year (U11 players) and skill group allocations (U9)
 - teams will start to be formed with some movement of players to attain as close to “balanced” teams as possible
 - **Thanksgiving to Nov:** PCAHA Balancing games and teams assigned to PCAHA groups – helps accommodate balancing imperfections

Final approval given from PCAHA committee based on balancing games – ***this is not done by Thunderbirds association***

2021-22 Balancing Process

- Minor changes for Community (Recreational) hockey will be implemented around internal balancing process – it will never be perfect but tweaks happen each year
 - The U11 division is comprised of two birth years. To balance teams a mix of both birth years will be seen on all teams.
 - Balancing process is expected to officially begin the Sept 17-19 weekend with groups assigned practices in the first two weeks to accommodate the four required pre-evaluation ice times
 - Every player will be assigned to a “balancing group” and those groups will be assigned four ice times prior to the start of balancing
- 

A Week in the Life of a U11 Player

Community (Rec)

- 1 practice
 - either 6:00–7:15 am on a weekday or early Sat/Sun am
 - usually shared with another team
- Game/2nd practice
 - Pre-Christmas – ~1 game/wk
 - Post Christmas – ~2 games/wk
 - usually on Sat or Sun early morning to mid-aft
- Additional skill development options for TBirds only (user pay)
 - Skaters and Goalies series based on available ice
- Tournaments 1–3 times per season (including TBird hosted tourney in Nov-TBD)
- Away games
 - could be any day of the week
 - latest start time = 8:00 pm
 - Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby, New West

Note: 1 game/wk as per PCAHA scheduling based on 2:1 practice to game ratio over all President's League MHAs

Cost: what to expect

Community (Rec)

- Base fee paid at registration (same for all U11 players)
 - \$1035 in 2020-21
- Team Fee
 - avg \$150 pp + tournaments
 - team budget should be approved by parent group via parent meetings and/or other means of achieving
 - could include items such as:
 - Tournaments
 - Exhibition games (referees)
 - Team activities
 - Additional skill providers
- Additional skill options (user pay)
 - clinics offered based on ice availability
 - Examples from this season:
 - U11/U13 shooting and stick handling series – 5 sessions (\$160)
 - U11 Power Skating & Hockey Skills – 3 sessions (\$99)
 - U11/U13 Transition to Rep – 4 sessions (\$119)
 - Thunderbird goalie school – 12 sessions (\$599)

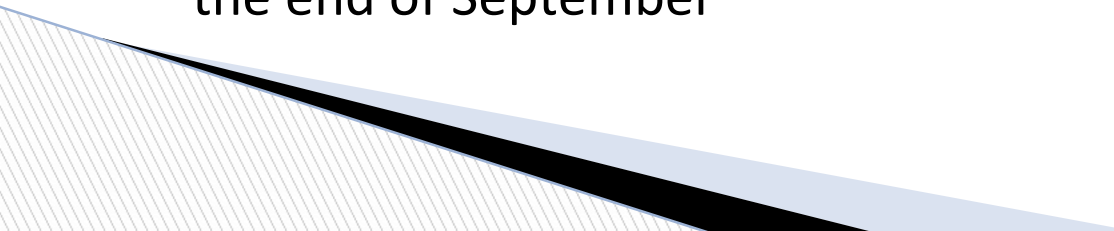
U11 Developmental (Rep)



U11 Developmental (Rep) “A”

- In 2020-21 – 4 teams
 - planning for 4 teams for 2021-21 – will be determined by number of players trying out and the overall skill level at tryouts
- Players are selected via a tryout process by independent evaluators and non-parent contracted coaches (ie no parent coaches are involved)
 - Registration for tryouts must be completed by July 15 to allow for planning
- Coaching: U11 Rep hockey is typically a mix of non-parent (contracted) coaches and parent coaches.

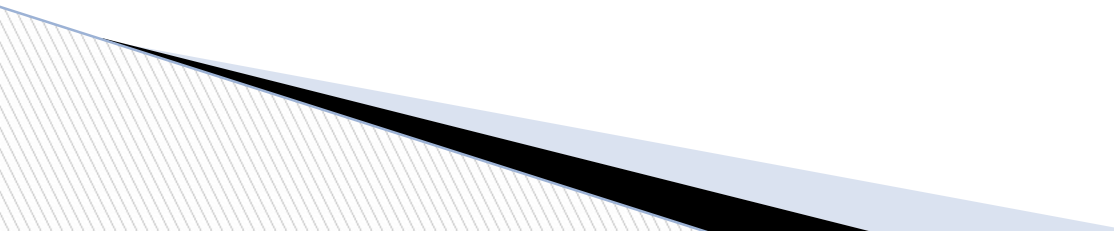
Rep Tryouts

- Teams are selected through a formal tryout process and are tiered (not balanced)
 - Players are assigned based on their performance during the tryout process only
 - Players will have the opportunity to attend their four pre-evaluation ice times starting in August with ice times and/or TBird camps leading up to the start of tryouts
 - Tryouts to begin Friday, September 10th and continue through to the end of September
- 

Rep Tryouts

- Players MUST attend all sessions to be eligible.
 - Please note, family vacations are NOT approved absences and unfortunately will need to be avoided.
 - Only exceptions are due to medical reasons with documentation submitted to Executive Director prior to any missed ice time
- Tryouts are stressful for young players – parents can help by focussing them on doing their best every single ice time
 - Some players will be “moved down” a level during the process. Note that the expectation is they will come out and be at the top of that new group to be in the discussion to “move up” the next session.

Evaluation during tryouts

- Players in U11 will be selected based on overall skill level
 - All players in a division will be evaluated by the same independent selection group during the first phase which is comprised of non-parent head coaches, 3-4 external evaluators and one TBirds hockey staff member
 - A minimum of two independent evaluators attend every tryout exhibition game
- 

Example: 2020-21 Tryout Pathway

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

1

Skill
Evaluation

1 Skills Practice
1 Goalie Session

Evaluation

Stage Completion:
Player Movement
Between Groups

2

Scrimmage
#1

1 Scrimmage

Evaluation

Stage Completion:
Player Movement
Between Groups

3

Scrimmage
#2

1 Scrimmage

Evaluation

Stage Completion:
Assignment to
Practice Groups / C
Division

4

Practice
Groups

1-2 scrimmages

Evaluation

Stage Completion:
Assignment to
Practice Rosters / C
Division

5

Interviews

Individual
Interviews

Evaluation

6

Exhibition
Games

2-4 Exhibition
Games

Evaluation

Stage Completion:
Final assignment to
A teams /
C Division

A Week in the Life of a U11 Player

Developmental (Rep)

- 2 practices
 - usually 6:00 – 7:15 am on a weekday
 - not shared with another team
- 1-2 Games per week based on PCAHA scheduling
 - usually on Sat or Sun morning
- Away games
 - could be any day of the week
 - latest start time = 8:00 pm
 - From Sunshine Coast to Chilliwack
- Thunderbirds High Performance Program (new for 2021-22)
 - similar model to the U15/U18 pilot conducted over the past two seasons
 - A1 team will automatically include additional skills (ie Vancouver Hockey School HP program), dryland training and some team apparel
 - A2, A3 & A4 players will have scheduled rep team skills sessions plus opt-in ability for additional skills and dryland on an individual basis

Note: # of games per week will be based on 2:1 practice to game ratio for average PCAHA MHAs

Cost: what to expect

Developmental (Rep)

- Base fee paid at registration (same for all U11 players)
 - \$1035 in 2020-21
- Rep Tryout fee
 - \$185 in 2020-21
- Team Fee (range \$600-800 per player in typical year)
 - team budget should be approved by parent group via parent meetings and/or other means
 - could include items such as:
 - Tournaments (reg, travel, hotel, etc)
 - Exhibition games
 - Team activities
 - Additional skill providers
- Rep Fee (\$975 in 2020-21)
 - additional weekly practice
 - not shared practice
 - contracted coaches
 - Rep skill sessions
 - Coach development
- User pay skill options
 - HP program (Vancouver Hockey School) – 16-18 sessions (this season 18 sessions for \$899+GST)
 - Note all A1 players register for this program. A2 to A4 option dependent upon ice availability.
- Typical cost A1 player = ~\$4000
- Typical cost A2, A3, & A4 player = \$2800

Cost: what to expect

- Exploring for 2021-22
 - Bringing rep fee and majority of team fee into one High Performance fee similar to what TBirds did for U15/U18 last two seasons
 - Allows for more options for payment (instalments, payment plan) as Association then covers most costs directly to provider
 - Reduces amount of financial burden on team managers/treasurers for collection of funds from parents
 - Based on feedback, incorporating Vancouver Hockey School HP program cost into A1 team fee instead of separate fee required in September (included in overall cost on previous slide)
 - Based on feedback, looking at options for dryland training on team and/or opt-in individual basis at an additional cost

Expectations in U11

At the team level:

- Same level of commitment expected for both streams – community (recreational) is NOT a drop in program.
- Equal ice time – both streams as mandated by PCAHA
- Multi-sport athletes are encouraged, but team staff must know about conflicts as soon as they are known AND a fair consideration between both sports should be the goal over the season
- Players should not register in any other hockey program that conflicts with TBird team schedule. NO allowance for missing TBirds activities will be granted for another hockey program (eg HPL). This does not meet the “multi-sport” element as above.

Expectations in U11

From our members:

- Sportsmanship – code of conducts followed to create a positive environment where the players can feel they are valued. Winning is not the most important element!
- Families need to continue volunteering
 - Association level (Division Ambassadors, association events, Photo day, etc) – minimum 3 hours per player
 - Team level (Coaches, Team Managers, HCSP, scorekeepers, two deep rule coverage, Communications, team activity organizer, etc)

U11 Pathway Document

If you want more information on the full pathway:

<https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Hockey-Programs/Coaching/u11-program/downloads/2020/u11-hockey-player-pathway-e.pdf>

Coaches should ensure they are familiar with the document as it will provide a great guide for your seasonal planning.

QUESTIONS?

