



## Coaching in the Development Season 101

### Philosophy for Development Season

While we have formed parity teams for the first half of our season, the expectation is that we will be tiering teams starting in January.

To ensure our players are all on the same page in the second half of the season our focus is on getting all players within a cohort to work on the same skills over the course of the development season.

As such, our Director of Development, Dean Seymour, will be providing a bank of drills that support specific areas of development for our players over these next 8-10 weeks. It is expected that all Cohorts will focus on these areas of development and utilize the various drills listed in the Crowfoot Drill Bank.

For clarity – we expect all coaches in all cohorts to utilize the drills Dean has provided. Next year's player evaluations will only utilize drills from this list, so it is to the players' benefit that you implement some of these drills at every practice.

### Expectations of Coaches

- While we have assembled players into Mini-Teams and named head coaches for each, coaches are expected to focus on the development of every player within their cohort. All players should be taught and coached on the same drills regardless of the team colour they are on for gameplay days.
- Coaches are expected to work together and communicate amongst the mini-teams to support the overall development of every player within that cohort.
- Coaches who defer to coaching their own "team" rather than the collective will likely not be given coaching responsibilities in the second half of the year.
- Depending on the age division you may, or may not, practice with all teams in your cohort at the same time. Regardless, as mini-team coaches you must communicate across the cohort to determine how to best share practice planning responsibilities.
- Players should not be segregated into mini-teams during drills at practices.
  - If coaches elect to run small-area games during practices dividing into mini-teams is endorsed.
- Coaches may find dividing players into similar skills for station-based drills is a more effective strategy for coaching, however that method of division should not be utilized for ALL practices.

- Part of development includes being dominant and being dominated. If players are always grouped by like-skill we will lose an opportunity for development.

Expectations of Cohort Leads and Coach Coordinators

- Cohort Leads are expected to be the primary development resource for mini-team coaches
- Cohort Leads are expected to help mini-team coaches with questions on development/practice planning throughout the year
- Cohort Leads are expected to monitor utilization of the Director of Development’s drills in mini-team practices.
- Coach Coordinators should host biweekly meetings with Cohort Leads and mini-team head coaches to discuss any challenges and gain feedback on how to improve the delivery of the program

Tools for Communication

- Crowfoot’s OneDrive system will serve as the warehouse for the Drill Bank. <http://development.crowfoothockey.com>
- Rely on your cohort leads if you have questions about how to improve your practice planning or have other areas you need help with. If your leads can’t help, follow the hierarchy up because we have support in place.
- Mini-Team Coaches are encouraged to download and use WhatsApp application for Real-Time communication across the Cohort

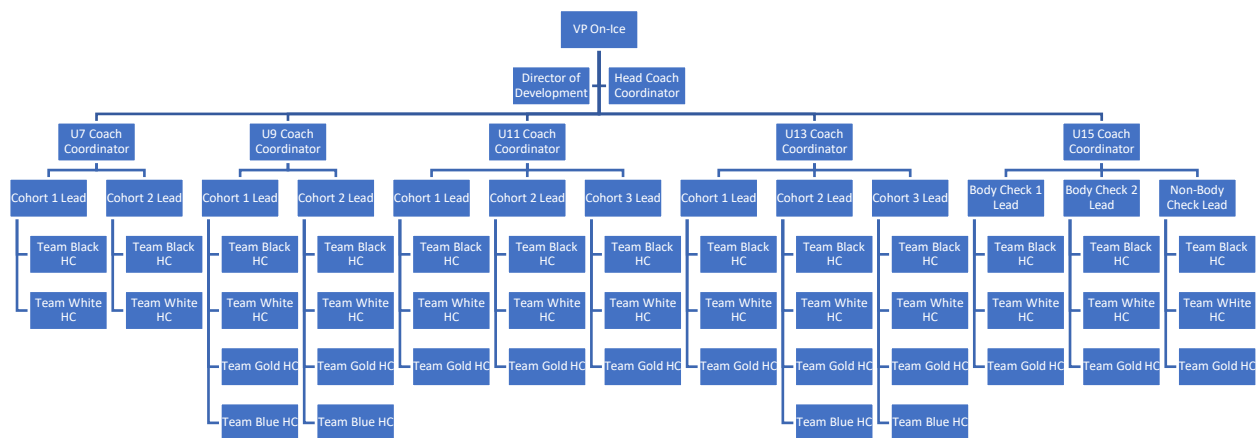


Figure 1 Sample Hierarchy for Cohorts