



2018/19 PJW Season Highlights- Q&A

What is PJW's Vision?

Our focus and goal as the Portland Jr. Winterhawks is to create and facilitate an environment and culture that

- ✓ **PROVIDES A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR OUR ATHLETES**
- ✓ **DEVELOPS LIFE-LONG LEADERS**
- ✓ **GRADUATES QUALITY HOCKEY PLAYERS AND CITIZENS.**

We feature excellent coaching and training and are dedicated to working together as a hockey family to selflessly execute our strategic plan and mission.

What is PJW's goal for this coming season?

PJW's goal is to offer programs that develop all of our athletes with the ice constraints we have. We will look to develop **ALL** of our athletes and not just our best athletes.

What is PJW's hockey philosophy?

We will continue to be a USA Hockey American Development Model (ADM) Association with a focus on age appropriate and skills based training, on and off the ice.

What will PJW be offering this season to help develop ALL of our athletes?

We will continue to offer a competitive hockey option with six travel teams. PJW will have a travel team at 10U, 12U, 14U and two at 18U (4 birth years at 18U). We will also have an all-girls travel team at 14U. Development Teams at each age group will help bridge the talent gap between travel and metro players and offer the following:

- Higher level hockey options for athletes who do not make the travel team,
- Experiences for metro players who have not had the chance to play travel because of the costs needed to experience it and;
- Opportunities for players who may develop later in their hockey careers.

What age groups will have Development Teams?

We will have Development Teams at 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U. Coaching strategy will be directed by the head travel coach at each level working with selected coaches for each Development Team We will also have all-girls Development Teams at 10/12U and 19U.



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How will the Development Teams work?

For our athletes who do not make the travel team or are playing in the Metro League, they will have the option to be considered for a Development Team. These teams, which **will be selected at the Metro evaluations in Sept.**, will have weekly practices together and play in 2 travel tournaments. The cost will be less than a normal travel season and allow players who have not been able to afford travel hockey an opportunity to try it. These Development Team **players will play in the Metro League**, thus raising the overall competitiveness and providing leadership opportunities for these players. Development players will also have the opportunity to be call-ups as needed for the travel teams if injuries occur.

Why are we not having two travel teams at each age group this season?

Our surveys of our membership have consistently pointed to the talent gap between travel and metro players. We believe that Development Teams will help develop more of our athletes, give opportunities for those players who develop later in their hockey careers and enhance the quality of play in the Metro League, while attempting to bridge the talent gap. USA Hockey's recommended ratio of travel teams/house teams is one travel team for every four house teams in an association and we will align with this recommendation.

What is new this year with the Girls Development Program?

With 80% growth in girls hockey nationally over the last decade, we will continue to expand upon our successful inaugural season of the Girls Development Program and strengthen our partnership with the Rose City Hockey Club. For the first time in program history, PJW will have its first all girls travel team at 14U. We will also have Development teams at 10U/12U and 19U. These girls will have the opportunity to grow competitive girls hockey around the Pacific Northwest.

Why are we playing half-ice at 10U squirt travel this year?

Stemming from the huge success of our 10U half-ice last year, we will continue half-ice hockey for our anticipated six-10U metro teams. Our 10U travel team has been invited to join Washington State's (PNAHA) Metro Hockey League (MHL). In addition to the advantages of playing half-ice (more puck touches, quicker pace and read and react skill development), our new relationship will potentially open up more partnerships with PNAHA as hockey continues to grow in Seattle and the region. Our 10U travel team will have a guaranteed 20 games (10 home and 10 away) and will not play in the 12U metro league like in years past. Tournaments at 10U may be played at full ice. The entire region is moving in the direction of half-ice. Washington and Oregon have mandated half-ice for 10U and even Alaska will play some half-ice 10U this year.

What can you tell us about the State Championships?

The winner of our Metro League at 14U and the winner of the WVHL will move on to play for the State Championship at the end of the season. This is another great growth opportunity for our Metro players. We will also have some of our 8U, 10U and 12U teams participate in the state jamborees in order to help grow our game in Oregon.