



West Vancouver Field Hockey Club

"The home of North Shore Field Hockey"

Spring League 2025 - Girls U13 to U15

Team Formation FAQ's

Players U13 and older play 11-a-side full-field, a jump from half-field at U12. As part of the Girls U13-U15 registration, WVFHC will be asking athletes to identify their competitive preference and the league tier in which they wish to play. U13 teams will grow by more than 50% in size and be assembled based on U12 team results, athletes' competitive preference, input from coaches, and input from WVFHC staff. Efforts will be made to keep like-minded players and friends together over a multi-year team formation process.

Our mission is to support multi-sport, social, and high-performing athletes equally, as well as offer options for all in their pursuit of excellence. We understand that athletes evolve over the years; they develop at different rates and priorities change. We will give players an opportunity to request a realignment of their competitive preferences each year.

1. Why are you making this change to the WVFHC Spring League philosophy of “playing for fun with your friends”? WVFHC has not changed the Spring League philosophy; Spring League's priority is for players to have fun, above all else. The team formation policy has not changed for the U6-U12 age groups. Beyond U12, team sizes need to grow yet enrollment traditionally decreases, and some athletes start to look for a different experience in Spring League than they may have had up to U12. WVFHC wants to make sure athletes have some choice in their Spring League experience whether spring is their “off” season or their “main” season of field hockey. We want to offer all members an enjoyable and appropriately challenging Spring League experience.

2. It sounds like WVFHC is moving to create select and house teams. Why aren't there any tryouts? We are not moving in this direction. The junior league (GVJFHL) in which we play is not structured or operated the same way as ice hockey or soccer. We will not have tryouts, and all the best players will not end up on the top team in each age group. There are only 2 tiers, and in most age groups WVFHC has several teams. Age Group Coordinators (AGCs) will strive to form balanced teams within each tier. The goal is to offer athletes the option to play with and against athletes and teams of a similar mindset and skill level. Playing with friends may be your top priority, and this will be honoured for Tier 2 teams.

3. In registration, why are you asking me about my competitive preferences when I just want to stay on the same team as last year? Good question! From U13-U15, teams will experience some player movement and increased roster sizes to make sure everyone has a positive Spring League experience. We are gathering this information at registration because it makes the AGC's job a lot easier when forming teams. If teams fold, it gives them a better understanding of the teams' general competitive profile. This will help avoid merging incompatible teams or placing new players in uncomfortable positions.

4. Who decides what teams fold or merge each year and how do they determine which players get to stay together? Every age group has an AGC. This person spends countless hours before the start of each season forming teams and responding to dozens of requests from players. The AGC will be folding and merging teams based on enrollment, last season's league results, athletes' competitive preferences, tier requests, and coach (parent & club) recommendations.

5. I was in Tier 1 last year, and I would like to stay in Tier 1 on the same team. How do I let you know? When you register, select Tier 1. Depending on space in Tier 1, we will try to place you on a Tier 1 team. The AGC takes many inputs to decide on teams/players in each tier, so we cannot guarantee your placement.

6. I was in Tier 2 last year, and I selected Tier 2 again this year. In registration, why are you asking me to provide names of friends with whom I would like to play when I just want to stay on the same team? Team formation depends on enrollment each year. If your team has enough returning players to remain together, it will. Having said that, historically, the older the age group, the lower the enrollment. Also, the athletes that do remain, get busier and busier with school, jobs, and other priorities. The AGC needs to increase the roster sizes to ensure a good turnout to practices and games. The result may be that your team folds and merges with other teams, hence the need for friend requests. Friend requests are prioritized in Tier 2 only.

7. I want to stay on my current team this year, but what if I change my mind next year and want a different level of competition? After U12, teams may experience player movement, increased roster sizes, name changes, and movement between league tiers. From U13-U15, players are asked for their competitive profile and league tier request during registration. Tier 2 requests include the option to request friends. AGCs will make efforts to keep friends together in Tier 2 while creating balanced teams within the tier. You are free to request changes each year.

8. My friend and I were on different teams last year and would like to play together this year. How do we make that request? Team formation in Tier 2 prioritizes friend requests; Tier 1 does not. If you both select Tier 2 in registration, you may request each other as teammates, and the AGC will do their best. A lot of thought goes into team formation with multiple variables. AGCs try to accommodate all friend requests, but they must consider roster sizes and attempt to create balanced teams with a mix of schools represented. Part of the Spring League philosophy is to foster new friendships. In that spirit, many athletes find that over time new friendships grow at field hockey, which is a wonderful complement to friends made at school, art, dance, and soccer, etc.

9. Who will coach the teams starting in U13? There won't be any changes to how coaches are recruited for Spring League teams. We are grateful to have parent coaches as the primary leaders for all teams regardless of tier, supported by our junior coaches. We also have several additional skill sessions with club coaching staff to facilitate player growth. If a coach leaves the club or decides to retire, the AGC must recruit a new coach from the parent population. It's a big job. Please thank your AGC every chance you get!

10. I am a competitive player on a primarily social team that plays against similarly skilled teams as ours. I would like to play against more competitive teams. How do I switch teams? Do I need to fill out a Player Transfer Request form? When you register on Sports Engine, there will be a page that asks for your competitive profile and in which league tier you wish to play. Every effort will be made to put you on a more appropriate team. There is no need to submit a Player Transfer Request form unless your request is made AFTER you've already registered and before the registration deadline. If the registration deadline has passed, please contact the AGC with your request.

11. I am a beginner on a very skilled team playing against competitive teams. What do I need to do to change teams? When you register on Sports Engine, there will be a page that asks for your competitive profile and in which league tier you wish to play. Every effort will be made to put you on a more appropriate team. No need to submit a Player Transfer Request form unless your request is made AFTER you've already registered and before the registration deadline. If the registration deadline has passed, please contact the AGC with your request.

12. What if I move to a new team to be more/less competitive but I change my mind next season and want to move back to my previous team? Is that possible? Each year after U12, there will be a place to include your competitive profile and tier request during the registration process in Sports Engine. For Tier 2, if your previous team and coach is still intact and there is room on the team, the AGC will make every effort to grant your request. Movement to Tier 1 does not guarantee friend requests. Note: as always, we cannot guarantee your team will remain together; this depends on enrollment each year.

13. Why can't we know the practice days and times earlier? Wouldn't it help with team formation to have more time to adjust for conflicts with other sports? WVFHC understands the frustration of not knowing schedules further in advance. We strive to support multi-sport/activity families with busy schedules, but this is not within our control. Our field requests to the municipalities are not confirmed until February. Since parent coaches get to request practice times, this cannot be done until teams have been formed and coaches have been identified. With registration closing at the end of January, teams aren't fully formed until mid-February when the League requires the club to declare the number of teams in each age group. The timeline for such variables makes it impossible to have this information to parents any earlier. When you are notified of your team's practice day/time and it absolutely does not work, you will need to contact the AGC. The AGC will try to place you on a team with a practice day that works.

14. Why aren't the boys included? At this point, the enrollment for the boys does not support this initiative. The league goes from two tiers of several teams in each tier at U12, to one tier with 4 teams (2023) in U14. There's no tiering in the league after U12, and we usually have one team in each of the U16 and U18 age groups.