



**2025 DIRECTOR'S CUP
OPERATIONS MANUAL**

September 2024 Update

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The DC Prospects Program is a program for emerging high performance athletes that will focus on key concepts and skills applicable to the “Train to Train” athlete development stage and will serve as an important precursor to the U-16 Program of Excellence and U-16 Team Manitoba. The DC Prospects program operates annually over the course of two separate weekend events. The first of these events are the DC Prospects Regional Development Tournaments which take place in two locations (East and West) on the first weekend of spring break. The second event is the DC Prospects tournament which takes place on the first weekend of May at the Scotiabank hockey for all center. The breakdown of these tournament weekends is as follows:

DC Prospects Regional Development Tournaments:

- Friday PM – Regional exhibition game
- Saturday AM – Team Skill development Session
- Saturday PM – Positional Skill Development Session
- Sunday - Regional exhibition game

DC Prospects Tournament:

- Friday PM – Mixed Region Game
- Saturday AM – Mixed Region Game
- Saturday PM – Mixed Region Game
- Sunday - Mixed Region Game

The goal of the DC Prospects program is to provide U14 athletes with the opportunity to participate in skill sessions and competitive games that will prepare them to enter into U15 AAA hockey or continue their development in the circumstance of athletes who have been playing for their regional U15 AAA team. Skill sessions at both tournament weekends will be run by Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada skill instructors in addition to coaching staffs identified by the region.

2.0 PROGRAM INFORMATION/REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 DC PROSPECTS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOURNAMENTS

1. All rural regions, players and coaches, participate in the DC Prospects Development Weekend held March 28-30, 2025.
2. Winnipeg athletes will participate in the VP Cup hosted by Hockey Winnipeg and will not participate in the DC Prospects Regional Development Tournaments.
3. Two geographical sites, east & west, are hosted simultaneously for the DC Prospects Regional Development Tournaments.
4. DC Prospects Regional Development Tournament Locations;

	<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>
2025:	Pembina Valley*	Yellowhead

**Indicates site that will host five teams including Pembina Valley*

5. Host regions/teams to set up a basic organizing committee consisting of team staff and other support volunteers.
6. Host region is responsible for blocking **ample hotel rooms**
7. The host region is responsible for the assigning of game officials (timekeepers and officials)
8. Detailed hosting guidelines found in DC Prospects Development Weekend Hosting Guide, see appendix.

2.2 DC PROSPECTS TOURNAMENT

1. All regions, players and coaches, participate in the DC Prospects Tournament Weekend held April 25 – April 27, 2025.
2. Athletes will be placed onto mixed regions teams with athletes from other regions based on athlete rankings provided by each individual region.
3. Teams will be split equally to ensure a competitive balance.

2.3 SCHEDULING AND FEES

1. As part of this provincial development program, all fees for the Regional Development Tournament and DC Prospects Tournament are determined and paid to Hockey Manitoba.
2. All selected players will register and pay online through the Hockey Manitoba registration system.
3. Expected fee per athlete for the DC Prospects program is approximately \$350/athlete.
4. Regions are not permitted to charge any additional amount to their athletes as a part of the DC Prospects program.

Any additional regional programming beyond the Regional Development Tournaments and the DC Prospects Tournament is not to be associated with the DC Prospects program.

5. Regions will be responsible and billed for outstanding payments and vacant roster spots. This will take place after the conclusion of the Directors Cup Tournament.

2.4 TEAM FORMATION AND REGISTRATION

1. All regions shall openly promote and provide the opportunity for players to attend a regional selection camp to be hosted during Hockey Manitoba Development Weekend, annually held the last weekend of January
2. Regions will only be permitted to host selections camps after the Hockey Manitoba Development Weekend if they have applied for and received the written permission of Hockey Manitoba.
3. Regions must advertise and post selection camp schedule, with all times & locations, no later than December 21.
4. With the exception of Minor aged U15 players who have made their Regional U15 AAA team, Regions with U15/U14 club teams are expected to ensure that no exhibition/league games, tournaments or other activities conflict with the Hockey Manitoba Development Weekend (selection camps).
5. It is strongly recommended that parents of eligible players should not be involved in the selection process.
6. Regions must submit their rosters to Hockey Manitoba by February 14.
7. Hockey Manitoba will send out the central registration link to athletes upon receiving of regional roster.
8. Invited players must register online with Hockey Manitoba by March 3.

2.5 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. All male players, classified as U14 during the current season are eligible to tryout and participate for the DC Prospects program.
2. Female U14 players are not eligible for this program, please see Hockey Manitoba U-16 Female Program of Excellence.
3. Players must tryout in their home Region or primary residence. Players may move between regions if they reside near the boundary pending the agreement of the two respective Region Directors.
4. In the event that a region is lacking in adequate numbers they are permitted to bring in athletes from neighboring regions pending the approved release of that athlete by their home region.

2.6 ROSTER SIZE AND AFFILIATES

1. Rosters must include a minimum of 20 athletes (12 forwards, 6 defense and 2 goalies).

2. All Regions are asked to identify 3-6 alternate athletes that can be brought in if an injury or conflict occurs for a selected athlete from their region.
3. Alternate players will only be permitted to participate in programming if they are taking the place of a previously selected athlete.
4. In the event that an alternate player is added to the roster and participates in both the March and May tournaments they will be required to pay the full DC Prospects fee. If they are added to the roster following the March tournament and only participate in the May tournament they will only be required to pay half of the registration fee.

2.7 TEAM STAFF REQUIREMENTS

1. In January, the region shall select the team staff consisting of 1 Head Coach and 2 Assistant Coaches. Staff Roster Form must be submitted to Hockey Manitoba no later than January 15.
2. Regions are asked to facilitate the application and selection process for coaches within their region. Following the selection of the coaching staff, the region must send the list of selected staff to Hockey Manitoba for final approval.
3. Hockey Manitoba reserve the right to eliminate potential coaches from the selection process. Reasons for any eliminations will be provided to the region.
4. All participating coaches must have Respect in Sport and the appropriate certification for the appointed position (see below).
5. Each team must have a certified Safety person.
6. Parents of players are ineligible to be the head coach on the staff, and whereas possible parents should not be included in the coaching staff whatsoever.
7. Each region will be provided with a \$600 honorarium. The total honorarium will be sent to the region and the region will be responsible for allocation amongst the staff.
8. **Head Coach;** each region will appoint a Head Coach who will assist Hockey Manitoba skills mentors in the delivery of on-ice instruction during the DC Prospects Regional Development Tournament and DC Prospects Tournament. The Head Coach will also be responsible for being the head coach of the regional roster at the DC Prospects Regional Development Tournament as well as the head coach of a mixed region roster at the DC Prospects Tournament. This individual should have strong technical hockey background with the proven ability to instruct skills and teach individual tactics/concepts at the AAA level or beyond. Strong leadership, communication skills and authentic rapport with 13-14 year old athletes are a necessity. The Head Coach, and all staff, must understand the program goals are player development as opposed to club team systems/strategies. Minimum certification; Development 1.
9. **Assistant Coaches;** each region will appoint two (2) assistant coaches who will provide support to the head coach and Hockey Manitoba Skills Mentors during all on-ice sessions as well as on the bench. These individuals should have a proficient technical hockey background who are wishing to advance their coaching experience. Individuals

who possess solid ability to instruct & demonstrate skills should be given priority. Strong communication skills and rapport with 13-14 year old athletes are a necessity. Assistant coaches, and all staff, must understand the program goals are player development as opposed to club team systems/strategies. Minimum certification; Coach 2 – Coach Level (Hockey).

10. Regions may apply to Hockey Manitoba on behalf of an individual who may not currently hold Coach Level certification but are interested in getting into coaching (ie. former Jr. players, university player/student, former professional player). This will only be dealt with on a case-by-case basis pending approval of Hockey Manitoba. Should an individual be granted approval he/she must immediately complete Respect In Sport and Hockey Canada – Coach 2, followed by completion of their full certification (classroom) by Dec 1 of the upcoming season.
11. The Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Safety Person are required to attend all on-ice sessions.
12. At the final tournament, regional staff will remain together and be assigned a roster that is a mix of regional players from across the province.

2.8 REGULATIONS

1. In the event a Region cannot field a program, they shall notify Hockey Manitoba in writing by December 1 of the current season.
2. No exhibition games to be played outside of the DC Prospects Regional Development Tournament and the DC Prospects Tournament.
3. If regions choose to schedule an exhibition game with another region between the tournament dates, these games will not fall under the banner of the DC Prospects program.
4. Regions are to ensure all coaches attend the necessary coach development sessions hosted by Hockey Manitoba throughout the DC Prospects program.
5. Day-to-day team operation is the responsibility of the region. Any team failing to comply with the DC Prospects rules and regulations will be subject to discipline, which may find the region suspended from the program for a minimum of one year.

2.10 COMMUNICATION

1. To avoid any conflicts regions should communicate effectively to ensure local minor hockey associations, teams, coaches and parents understand their regional schedule and process for DC Prospects.
2. Regions are asked to identify their regional contact for the DC Prospects Program no later than December 1. This individual will be the primary contact for Hockey Manitoba.
3. During general hockey registration and throughout the early part of the season, the region shall openly promote and provide the opportunity for all male players, aged within the current Minor Bantam season are eligible to tryout and participate for the DC Prospects program.

3.0 TOURNAMENT INFORMATION/HOCKEY MB RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 FACILITIES

1. All ice time and facility bookings for the DC Prospects Regional Development Tournaments will be done by the hosting region with the assistance of Hockey Manitoba.
2. Hockey Manitoba will secure all ice and facility bookings for the DC Prospects Tournament at the Scotiabank hockey for all center in April.

3.2 UNIFORMS AND COACH APPAREL

3. Hockey Manitoba will provide all regions with exhibition jerseys for the DC Prospects Regional Development Tournaments in March. Athletes are allowed to keep these jerseys.
4. All players will receive a custom CCM DC Prospects jersey and socks at the DC Prospects Tournament in April. Athletes will also be permitted to keep both items.
5. All coaches will receive a Hockey Manitoba track jacket to be worn during all DC Prospects sessions and tournament games.

3.3 REGISTRATION & PLAYER APPAREL

1. Once the region submits the program roster, parents/players will be provided a web link for the central registration portal hosted by Hockey Manitoba.
2. The portal will include online registration form and online payment link (credit card only). If credit card payment cannot be made then arrangements to provide payment through an alternative method (Cash or Cashiers Cheque) must be made with Hockey Manitoba prior to the registration deadline. Personal cheques will NOT be accepted.
3. Standardized program fees will cover program items such as: ice time, facilities, practice jerseys, game jerseys, socks, honorariums for team staff, coach apparel, coach development resources, player development resources, exhibition ice, tournament entry.
4. This is a provincial development program therefore the same base registration fee will be used across the province with the exception of Winnipeg.

3.4 COACH & PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

1. Skill sessions at the DC Prospects Regional Development Tournament and DC Prospects Tournament will be run by Hockey Manitoba and Hockey Canada skills coaches.
2. Regional Coaches are **REQUIRED** to attend each of their teams designated skill sessions at both the DC Prospects Regional Development Tournament and DC Prospects Tournament to assist on the ice.
3. All of these on-ice sessions are designed to cover key skills and concepts needed at the U15 level leading into the U-16 Program of Excellence and junior draft year (MJHL, WHL) while building a strong foundation for U18, Junior, and

beyond.

3.5 TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

1. All players and coaches should be prepared to have their first game be as early as 2:00pm on the Friday of the DC Prospects Regional Development Tournament in March and by noon on the Thursday of DC Prospects Tournament in April.
2. Tournament schedule and rosters will be distributed by Hockey Manitoba at least 1-weeks prior to the tournament dates.
3. Tournament Rules & Regulations - See Appendix E.

3.6 ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Regional Checklist - See Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

2025 DC PROSPECTS ROSTER TEMPLATE

√	REGIONAL CHECK LIST	COMPLETION DATE
	Advertise & post selection camp schedule within region	December 21
	Regional tryouts on development weekend	January 24-26
	Finalize and submit coaching staff information, ensure Staff Roster form is complete in full	February 1
	Regions provide roster of players, coaching staff and alternates	February 14
	Provide registration link to players from Hockey MB	February 14
	Ensure all players have completed online registration	February 28
	Ensure schedule details are circulated to athletes and coaches for Regional Development Tournament	March
	Ensure all jerseys are returned to Hockey Manitoba after Regional Development Tournament	April 30
	Player/parent day-to-day communication	March/April
	Ensure all coaching staff attend final tournament	Event Week
	Distribute coach/staff honorariums, lump sum grant provided by HM to Region	May
	Provide program summary report; Finances, Development, General	May

APPENDIX B

2025 DC PROSPECTS ROSTER TEMPLATE

DIRECTOR'S CUP PROSPECTS - REGIONAL PARTICIPANTS LIST

REGION: _____



Lists to be submitted by email on this .xls template only: trevor@hockeymanitoba.ca

Minimum 20 players per roster (18 skaters, 2 goalies) + up to 6 program Alternates

LIST / LISTE									
#	Last Name	First Name	Pos	Born (mm/dd/yy)	Hometown	Phone	Player Email	Height	Weight
#	Nom	Nom	P	Né (mm/dd/yy)	Ville d'origine				
20	Belfour	Eddie	G	04/21/65	Winkler	555-555-5556	eddie@hockey.com		
99	Gretzky	Wayne	F	01/24/61	Brandtford	555-555-5555	wayne@hockey.com		
1			G						
35			G						
2			D						
3			D						
4			D						
5			D						
6			D						
7			D						
8			F						
9			F						
10			F						
11			F						
12			F						
13			F						
14			F						
15			F						
16			F						
17			F						
18			F						
19			F						

SAMPLE ROSTER

List up to 6 "Alternates " that will participate in 5-week program but will not be eligible for tournaments (unless replacing a player listed above)

Alt									
Alt									
Alt									
Alt									
Alt									
Alt									

TEAM STAFF	Phone	Email
Head Coach		
Asst. Coach		
Asst. Coach		
Manager		
Safety Person		
Fitness Coach		
Skills Coach		
Goaltending Coach		



All information for players & coaches must be completed in full.

APPENDIX C

DC PROSPECTS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOURNAMENT HOSTING GUIDE

General

- Hosts determined by Hockey Manitoba
- Teams compete as regional rosters at exhibition tournaments
- Annually held the last full weekend of March
- Ice time paid by Hockey Manitoba through Director's Cup Prospects program

Host Responsibilities

The host is responsible for the **coordination** and whereas needed the **compensation** of the following;

- Assign a lead (chair) for event who will be main contact with Hockey Manitoba
- On-ice officials (1 referee, 2 linesman per game)
- Timekeepers
- Music/Stats (second TK)
- Online statistician
- Facility for player presentation session(s)
- Hotel room block & contact person

Teams

East and West locations will annually host the exhibition tournaments. Generally these tournaments will only host rural based regions, therefore the one location will host 4 teams meanwhile the other location will host 5 teams (9 rural regions). This total may differ from season to season. Each team will play 2 games at the exhibition tournaments.

Tournament Jerseys and Socks

Hockey Manitoba will provide regions with jerseys and socks for the exhibition tournament; these will be shipped to the host 1-2 weeks prior to the tournament. These jersey/socks sets are not to be returned to Hockey Manitoba after the completion of the Exhibition Tournament. Please note that regions will be billed for any missing jerseys or socks.

Programs

Souvenir programs will not be sold at the exhibition tournaments. Hosts may print a package of basic roster sheets. These may also be sold as a fundraiser and to control waste for \$1-2 per package. A standard template will be provided by Hockey Manitoba.

Player Development Sessions

Plans for on-ice sessions and/or presentations will be coordinated by Hockey Manitoba with the support of the Host. (See attached schedule).

APPENDIX D

2023 DC PROSPECTS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOURNAMENT TECH PACKAGE

GENERAL:

Code of Conduct:

All coaches, team staff, players, and fans are expected to conduct themselves with the highest standard of sportsmanship, fair play, and respect towards all.

Discipline/Suspensions:

All supplemental discipline will be handled as per Hockey Manitoba Handbook (Rules & Regulations). Head official is to report any incidents immediately after game to Hockey Manitoba.

Game Stats:

Game/player stats will be posted at www.hockeymanitobastats.ca. All stats are unofficial, requests for stat updates cannot be accommodated.

Schedule:

Full schedule will be determined prior to the event and there will be no playoff taking place on the Sunday.

GAME PROTOCOLS:

Pucks:

Each coaching staff is responsible to bring a set of puck for their assigned team's warm-up and to supply several pucks for officials to use game.

On-Ice Warm-up:

There will be a 5-minute on-ice warm-up before each game. Timekeeper will begin the clock at 7-minutes and run down to no time remaining at which point the game will begin.

Periods:

There will be 3 – 20 min periods with floods between each period.

Overtime:

In the event of a tie after regulation there will be a 5 minute **3-on-3** overtime period.

Timeouts:

Teams are permitted 1-30 second timeout per game.

Gamesheets:

Gamesheets will be pre-printed and distributed directly to the time keeper, coaches must advise the TK of starting goaltender and any scratches due to injury or absence.

Goalie Changes:

During goalie changes, once arrived to the crease, the incoming goalies will then be allowed 30 seconds for a skating and pad slide warm-up/stretch.

TEAM PROTOCOLS:**Uniforms:**

Coaches will have a box of team uniforms delivered to the dressing room 1.5 hour prior to their first game, coaches must properly distribute jerseys and socks to players with proper numbers as per roster, no number changes. If your team have extra jerseys please hold onto the uniform in case a player is late, please return all extras to Hockey Manitoba on Sunday.

Pre-Game Routine:

All Games

- Arrival **1.25 hour** prior to scheduled game time
- Change into workout gear
- Off-ice Warm-up held **40 minutes** before scheduled game time
- Dress for ice
- Ready for ice **5 minutes** before game time (helmets/gloves off), coaches lead game keys, lineups, etc

Goalies:

Goalies will spilt each game half time; goalie change will occur at the first whistle following the 10 minute mark of the 2nd period. Time keepers must circle the starting goaltender on the game sheet for stats identification and note time of change.

DC Prospects contacts:

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