



WESTERN PROVINCE GIRLS' HOCKEY



4 May 2020

Dear Heads of Girls Hockey

During these times of great uncertainty, it appears that our beloved sport has been placed on pause indefinitely. The official decision from SASHOC has been to cancel all SASHOC sanctioned events for 2020. This means that we will not have any IPTs or Regional tournaments for this year. Further to this, our current state of lockdown and staggered opening of our country means that social distancing will be in place for the foreseeable future. In light of all of this, the Executive have met and have made the following decisions.

1. League

The league for 2020 has been suspended. However, should the restrictions be lifted, schools will be free to arrange fixtures as they see fit. No completed fixtures will count towards log standings and we will start our 2021 league in the same format that was planned for 2020. We ask that when and if you are allowed to play any fixtures, you are mindful of the fact that many schools will more than likely have an academic focus in an attempt to salvage the academic year.

2. Affiliation Fees

Due to the suspension of the league, no affiliation fees will be charged for this year.

3. Completion of trials and High Performance

The HP portfolio has recently held a national meeting to discuss the way forward for players. Provinces were requested to submit U16 and U17 player information for the national database. While we were able to submit the names of those players who attended HP, we acknowledge that there may be other talented players who may be excluded. To this end, we aim to complete our trial process as soon as we are permitted to do so. This will allow us to select HP squads to be included in our revised provincial (and national) HP program. We will also then be able to acknowledge our top provincial players, even though they will not be able to attend any tournaments. These players will be invited to attend HP during the summer season. We would like to strongly encourage schools to ensure that selected players are able to attend as they will form part of the national HP program and database. Plans are currently under way to expand HP service delivery in order to include as many players and coaches as possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those organisers, coaches and teachers who are continuing to provide hockey education using various platforms. Thank you for adapting your programs. By doing so you are providing the players with a semblance of “normal” among all of the uncertainty at the moment. Thank you for encouraging them to remain active (and positive) during this lockdown period and beyond.

We will continue to communicate regarding our plans moving forward, once we have clarity. Our decisions are informed by the decisions taken at a national level. Please ensure that you stay safe and healthy and maintain physical distancing and good hygiene practices. For now, we remain patient until we can return to our “happy places” on the turf.

“The comeback is always stronger than the setback”

Continue to spread hope and comfort to your players during this time so that when we are able to return to the field, we have a renewed hunger and passion for the sport we love so much.

Yours in hockey
Lynn Abrahamse
Chairperson Western Province Girls Hockey