



### Parent Consultation Meeting Summary

All parents of Members were invited to attend a Parent Consultation Meeting on Sunday, July 7, 2024 held by MWF. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the upcoming 2024/2025 season primarily focusing on the Evaluation Process. Approximately 30 parents were in attendance and there was great discussion throughout the course of the meeting. We thank those who were in attendance and thank you for sharing your thoughts, ideas and concerns. MWF is committed to continuing open dialogue with parents and will be planning to host another Information Session prior to evaluations starting.

A few key points from the July 7th meeting that we'd like to share with everyone:

#### 1. Ice Availability

- a. MWF has been allocated ice from HRM. Ice quantity and quality has decreased for the upcoming season.
- b. HRM uses a formula to determine ice allocations based on the number of associations/clubs that require ice and the number of Members registered. MWF's registration numbers saw a slight decline last season, therefore we have received less ice. The quality of ice has also reduced as we received early morning and late evening ice times, and our ice is further distributed amongst more rinks (i.e. we have less ice at Greenfoot Energy Centre). Our Director of Hockey Operations, Trevor Magarvey, is working through schedules to make use of the ice provided to us to achieve the best possible outcomes.
- c. Our Board sent a letter to HRM Parks and Recreation to share feedback about the quantity and quality of ice, and there was a swift invitation to discuss this with us. Angela Lewis and Trevor Magarvey recently met with HRM and used this opportunity to educate them on challenges faced by Female Hockey Associations such as the majority of games scheduled on weekends, competitive teams playing the provincial loop, and the significant travel for Female Teams. This was new information to HRM.
- d. Although it is too late to make changes for this upcoming season, HRM is very open to continuing discussions with MWF and how best to meet the needs of Female Hockey. HRM committed to partnering with Hockey Nova Scotia (HNS) and its Female Council to further understand the needs of Female Hockey and to share this information with Rink Operators prior to next season's ice allocation in the form of a workshop. We will continue to follow up to ensure this happens. We will also follow up with individual rink operators.
- e. Due to the decline in ice availability, MWF will be asking teams to get creative and think outside the box when it comes to ice and practice time. An example is the use of shared practice ice (i.e. practice ice shared between two teams but practices are separate). We encourage our coaches and parents to be open to shared practice ice and to remember that the goal is to get our players on the ice as much as possible to support their development.

2. **Seasonal Chart:** These dates are provided by HNS Female Council and are subject to change; MWF will be sure to notify Members of any changes in relation to the Seasonal Chart. Please see the HNS Female Seasonal Structure Chart that we have posted to our website [2024 Seasonal Structure](#)

- a. Conditioning Camps (“Development Skates”) will consist of four (4) sessions for U11 to U18 players who are preparing for evaluations. Sessions will be held early September. Conditioning Camps will consist of skill sessions and games.
- b. Evaluations (“tryouts”) for U11AA, U13AAA, U15AAA and U18AA will start mid-September. All players who wish to play competitive hockey at the A, AA, and AAA levels must register for evaluations.
- c. C Level Balancing Sessions will be scheduled following evaluations.
- d. U9 and U7 Sessions will start late September.
- e. MWF is still firming up actual dates for evaluations and conditioning camps, we will notify Members of schedules as soon as possible.

### **3. “Play to Compete” Approach**

- a. The Play to Compete Approach is part of MWF’s strategic path and vision to becoming a premier female hockey association in Atlantic Canada.
- b. Competitive teams, no matter the level, require players and families who are committed to growth and development. This commitment is shown by attending team practices and additional development sessions (eg. off-ice conditioning, shooting skills, etc.), and showing up prepared to work hard.
- c. Play to Compete does not mean winning every game. We expect teams will win and lose games. The premise behind Play to Compete is to create teams that can compete at the respective level of play and to place players on these teams who are prepared to put in the effort to develop and perform at their best.

### **4. Evaluations (2024/2025 Season)**

- a. MWF’s evaluation structure will consist of five (5) sessions. All sessions will consist of games (could be 5x5, 4x4 or 3x3); there will be no skills only session for players.
- b. We discussed starting evaluations with randomly set groups with parents. We received strong feedback from parents that this would be wasting the first session and could potentially limit movement in the following sessions. Following this discussion, our Board did revert to setting the groups for Session #1 based on last season’s data and players will have the opportunity to move groups based on their performance after each session. If players were placed in a group below or above their level of play, this will be recognized and adjustments will be made for the following session. Each player will be scored and placed accordingly following every session.
- c. There is no grandfathering of positions/levels. Players grow and develop or lose interest and all players are given the opportunity to start fresh each season.
- d. We will have an Evaluations Team consisting of a minimum of 4 evaluators per session. (It is important to keep in mind that MWF and all other associations are doing evaluations at the same time and resources might not always be available. MWF will maintain the minimum of 4 evaluators per session to the best of their ability.)
- e. The Evaluations Team will consist of unbiased, non-parent evaluators. Evaluators are qualified and trained individuals at the university level and higher. At times, younger than university players may assist with on-ice organization of scrimmages, but these helpers are not evaluators.
- f. To maintain an unbiased evaluation process, our Board has decided that we will not have an Evaluations Committee of Board members, parent coaches or parents. We will rely on the unbiased results produced from the Evaluations Team to create teams. Appointed coaches will not

be part of the placement or team selection process, however, we may consult Coaches for feedback on players and balancing.

- g. Players may be parked to the top level throughout the evaluation process and/or top players may be asked to sit for a game or two to assist with evaluating other players.
- h. Scores will not be released to Members or parents.
- i. There will be no rink access to parents/family/friends during evaluations (this includes the ice surface level and the seating above the ice surface). Only players, evaluators and volunteers will be allowed in the rink area. Parents can watch evaluations, if they wish, from the seating area on the second floor, outside of the rink. MWF asks that parents respect this policy and it will be monitored during evaluations. This is in the best interests of our players to allow them the opportunity to shine on their own.
- j. **Goalies** will participate in the Game sessions plus there will be one 90-minute Goalie Skills session. Goalies will be evaluated and scored during the whole process and will also have potential to move groups.

## 5. C Level Teams

- a. MWF is committed to growing C level hockey. There is a need for a C level development program for U15 and U18 players. MWF is currently in discussions with Metro East Inferno to determine how the associations can come together to offer a program with practices and games.
- b. U11C and U13C is becoming a valuable offering for our Members and we look forward to the continued growth at these levels.

## 6. Team Structure

- a. At this time the team matrix that was presented at the AGM remains as is. This team matrix is based on projected Member numbers for the upcoming season.
- b. The Team Matrix is subject to change based on registration and evaluation data.
- c. MWF has stated that if a trend in scores is being noted during the evaluation process at any level, that could result in changes to the team matrix, Members will be notified if any discussions are happening with HNS Female Council about changes to the team structure.

***MWF plans to schedule a virtual meeting prior to evaluations to provide a detailed overview of the evaluations process. Members (“players”) will be welcome to join this meeting. Stay tuned for details!***

## **MWF Merchandise Vendor Update**

MWF has appointed Pro Hockey Life as our new Merchandise Vendor. We’re currently working on our store and plan to have this opened to Members in the near future. ***We will offer an opportunity for all members to participate in an association merchandise order in an effort to purchase these items at a reasonable cost. We will share further details when we open registration.***

## **Jerseys**

We’re excited to announce that our new jerseys have been ordered and we can’t wait to show them to everyone! Stay tuned for the unveiling of our new jerseys, socks and pant shells!

## Gear Swap 2024/2025

Our Gear Swap will take place early September, at the Greenfoot Energy Centre. This is a great opportunity for Members to pick up new-to-you gear at no cost and to get rid of any old gear that's cluttering up your house. Stay tuned for more details!



## Registration

Registration for the 2024/2025 season and for Conditioning Camps will be open by the end of July. MWF will notify Members when registration opens via email, website and social media.