**OBJECTIVES**

Our intention with this policy is to

1. Ensure juniors develop as hockey players in an appropriate playing environment with the ability to extend their skills and development in seniors where appropriate and where from time to time, opportunities exist.
2. Establish consistent rules and a transparent process for the identification and selection of those players who want to play seniors
3. Establish rules and guidelines for junior players who are selected to play in senior teams

**INTRODUCTION**

One of the many roles of the junior committee at WASPs is to manage and monitor our players at the same time as offering them the opportunity to develop and grow their skills at the junior club whilst preparing them for seniors.  In the older age groups (in particular the 11/12 age group) there is often the opportunity, from time to time, for junior players to play for our senior teams subject to parental support. We encourage and support this wherever possible.

Every year the dynamics of the teams in the senior club change and therefore opportunities for juniors to fill in for senior teams may be in abundance one season and not necessarily the next.  Whilst we would like to offer all 11/12 juniors the chance to play an occasional seniors game it is not always possible for this very reason.

**JUNIORS PLAYING SENIORS**

* Except as noted below, junior players have a first priority to play and train with their junior team and this shall take precedence over playing and training with senior grades.
* From time to time, talented players may be identified and asked to train/play with the senior 1’s and 2s teams. These selections are at the discretion of the senior club coaches. In this circumstance the senior club commitments can/may take priority over the junior club.
* Juniors can only play in senior teams with the prior approval of a member of the junior committee, usually the relevant Year group coordinator.

**SELECTION**

* At start of season, the club will ask players in the 11/12 teams to self nominate if they are interested in playing seniors and will form a list of available players.
* While priority will be given to 11/12 players, there is also the opportunity for players in the highest 9/10 teams to nominate.
* This list of players may be modified at any stage during the season.
* Some players may want to be part of a senior team for the full season. This is subject to the approval of the Junior committee.
* All requests for junior club members to play for a senior team must go through the appropriate Year Group Manager [or Junior /Senior Liaison committee member depending on final structure of Junior Committee]
* A variety of factors will be taken into account in assessing a players ability to play up in Seniors
  + The players hockey ability as assessed by their coach, Year Group Manager, senior club coaches and any others as determined by the junior committee.
  + The players performance and attitude when with their junior team
  + The senior grade to be played
  + The number of senior games already played
  + Availability of other junior players
  + Requests from the Senior Club for specific players, especially in the senior 3’s and 4’s teams.

**PLAYING**

* While no specific limit on the numbers of senior games to be played is set, we are very conscious of the workload of players (and parents) through the season.
* It goes without saying that we will rely absolutely on the opinion of the parents regarding the player balancing hockey, school, family and other commitments.
* We will endeavour to give all players who have expressed an interest in playing up in seniors the opportunity to do so. Therefore a player should not expect to be playing seniors each week. Opportunities may be rotated
* If a junior player plays more than 6 senior games then additional fees will be payable as determined by the club.
* If a junior player also plays with a senior team for the full year, additional fees will be payable as determined by the club.