



Player Pathways and Team Structures

This purpose of this document is to provide players, coaches and supporters with a framework for player and team development across all grades.

Club Structure

The club has teams in the following grades:

Senior Open grades

Premier (P1), Premier Reserves (P2)

Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, Division 4

Age protected grades:

Youth Premier, Youth Championship

Junior grades:

Kwik-Sticks Y7 /8

Kiwi-Sticks Y5/6

Mini-Sticks Y3/4

Fun-Sticks Y1/2

Please note: Some grades may have more than one Somerville team.

Player welfare and workload - all grades

Somerville recognises that our players may play across multiple teams and competitions in one season. Player welfare is important to the club and it is critical that the player openly communicates with the team coach and/or manager if they have any concerns. Players must, in the first instance, discuss their workload with the team coach to develop an effective plan to manage their time. In the interest of player welfare a compromise for training/match commitment may be met during season peaks. Should a player continue to have concerns he/she should contact the Club Coaching Director. In the event of unacceptable absence, both parties (club/player) will endeavour to find a solution. Should this fail, the club may regrade the player.

Premier 1

The Premier teams (male/female) are often regarded as the marketing face of the club. The premier teams are considered a priority team for the club. It is the home of our current Blackstick players when available. Through representative commitment/unavailability these team squads are often extended beyond 20 players. Neither match time nor field time is guaranteed for premier players. The teams are heavily "result focussed". The club (selection/coaching staff) reserve the right to recruit players from outside the club when necessary.

P1 player requirements:

A player wishing to play premier hockey must be prepared to attend:

- pre-season training and trials
- 2x trainings per week when scheduled
- all scheduled matches
- end of season prize-giving

International players (Blackstick or overseas) may be exempted from some of the above requirements.

Competition day is Saturday (unless otherwise scheduled).

Training nights - see club [Training Schedule](#).

Opportunities exist for financial assistance where players coach/assist another club team.

Premier Reserve

The team in the Premier Reserve grade is the recognised path to the Premier 1 team and is considered a priority team for the club. During the pre-season programme, selected Premier Reserve (P2) players form part of the greater Premier (P1) squad. At the completion of this programme and after trials the Premier Reserve team will operate as its own entity.

Replacements for injured/sick or otherwise unavailable Premier 1 players may be drawn from the Premier Reserve squad. On occasion the Premier coach may request P2 players train with the P1 team.

A player wishing to play Premier Reserve hockey must be prepared to attend:

- pre-season training and trials
- training 1 x per week when scheduled
- all scheduled matches
- end of season prize-giving

Competition day is Sunday

Training night - see club [Training Schedule](#).

Senior Division Teams (D1, D2, D3, D4)

These teams compete in the appropriate open grade competition. They are a mix of competitive and social players, predominantly adult teams with a blend of younger players. The teams continue to play and train over school holiday periods and it is expected that players are available for the full duration of the season.

Senior Division requirements:

A Player wishing to play senior division hockey must be prepared to attend:

- a minimum of 1 trial
- training 1x per week.

- all scheduled matches.
- end of season prize-giving.

Competition days are:

- Saturday – D1, D3
- Sunday – D2, D4.

Training nights - see club [Training Schedule](#).

Youth Grades

The club's youth teams compete in the Youth Grade. This is the recognised pathway to the open grade teams. The youth grades draw from a range of players from Y9 to Y13, or under age of 18.

Individuals may be asked to fill in for higher graded teams, including senior teams, sporadically during the season . This is a good opportunity for aspiring players to 'test' themselves against more seasoned adults.

Please note: the club recognises that most players in this age group are still reliant on parents for transport/support, however the objectives of the team should not be continually compromised.

Youth A

The Youth A team plays in the Premier Youth grade and is considered a priority team for the club. Committing to the club with hockey as your 'priority sport' is an expectation.

A player wishing to play Youth A hockey must be prepared to attend:

- pre-season training and trials
- training 1x per week.
- all scheduled matches.
- end of season prize-giving.

Competition night is Friday evening.

Training night - see club [Training Schedule](#).

Youth B, C, D

These teams compete in either the "Premier" and "Championship" youth grades.

A player wishing to play youth hockey must be prepared to attend:

- pre-season training and trials
- training 1x per week
- all scheduled matches
- end of season prize-giving

Competition night is:

- Friday (pm) – Premier grade
- Sunday (pm) - Championship grade

Training night - see club [Training Schedule](#).

Junior Hockey

Somerville has teams at all grades across the junior Auckland competition. There may be more than one team in each grade.

The club recognises that players in this age group are heavily reliant on parents for transport and support. Parents are asked to support team/coach objectives around availability, timekeeping and practice regimes.

The Club recognises the delicate balance that must be achieved with regards to development and performance (age and stage).

For the purposes of data collection, Y5-8 players will participate in skills/physical testing so that age group performance and standards can be set by the club.

Junior Boys A - Gold Grade

The Kwiksticks Gold grade team is recognised as a priority team in the club. Committing to the club with hockey as your "priority winter sport" is expected. In this respect, unless indicated prior to trials, the Gold grade team will operate with a maximum of 14 players.

Coaches at this level are monitored to ensure they achieve a balance between team results and individual development.

A player wishing to play in the gold grade must be prepared to attend:

- pre-season training and trials
- training 2x per week (if scheduled)
- all scheduled matches
- end of season prize-giving

Junior Y7/8 Girls A - Diamond Grade

The Y7/8 Girls Team is recognised as a priority team in the club. Committing to the club with hockey as your "priority winter sport" is expected. In this respect, unless indicated prior to trials, the Girls A team will operate with a maximum of 14 players.

A player wishing to play in the gold grade must be prepared to attend:

- pre-season training and trials
- training 2x per week (if scheduled)
- all scheduled matches
- end of season prize-giving

Junior (all other grades)

All other junior teams, although seeded on ability (with the exception of players new to hockey at the younger levels) are considered development teams. Development takes priority over results at all times. Parents should support sound team sport ethics, availability, club uniform requirements, timekeeping, and practice regimes.

Parents should be aware that coaches at this level (like players) vary in ability.

Junior Competition day is Saturday mornings

Training days vary depending on team (see club training schedule, website).

Player Pathways

The club has a number of priority high performance teams. It acknowledges these teams will receive additional resources and turf time befitting their status. Priority team status is given for the purposes of winning competitions and/or the development of individual talent for the club.

These teams are ranked in importance (for both genders):

1. Premier
2. Premier Reserves
3. Youth A
4. Kwiksticks - Gold Grade.

Priority Teams

Players are selected into the priority teams based on ability. It is not a given right because of years at the club, incumbent or representative player status. Selection is based on performance at trials and completion of physical criteria and skill testing where pertinent. Committing to the club with hockey as your "priority sport" is an expectation.

Priority team players are expected to attend the following, unless unavailable through injury or illness:

- Pre-season matches and training
- Trials and relevant testing
- Matches and training during the season
- Prizegiving
- Relevant club social events

Premier 1 teams may include International players (overseas or BlackSticks) exempted from some of the above requirements.

The club (team coaches in consultation with Coaching Director) reserves the right to relegate any player who falls into one or more of the following categories:

- Does not attend an acceptable percentage of trainings or matches.
- Fails to maintain playing or training/fitness standards.
- Brings the club into disrepute by word or action on or off the field.

Players who trial and gain selection in a priority team are not guaranteed turf/field time for any match. However, continual lack of field time is a concern for both player and club. This may necessitate in a priority team player being offered field time on occasion in a lower graded team.

END. (Updated Dec 2019)