

## Girls Hockey Opportunities for 2018-19 Hockey Season

Verona, WI July 25, 2018 – Greater Madison-area Tier II girls hockey stakeholders announced several changes to improve the recruitment and development of girls in territories represented by DC Diamonds, Verona Wildcats, Middleton Wings and West Madison Polar Caps. With the announcement of the folding of the Ice Spirit, these groups quickly came together to work on a solution that will help provide options for girls at the U10, U12, and U14 age levels.

The choice of playing girls-only hockey or youth/co-ed hockey is best made by each girl and her family. Our goal is providing like-skill options for girls at all levels - girls can now choose one of three paths:

1. Full time girls-only hockey
2. Full time youth/co-ed hockey
3. Full time youth hockey AND part-time dual rostering with girls-only. Opportunity to play or practice when NOT conflicting with youth hockey team.

### OPTIONS

#### U10 and U12 – DC Diamonds

DC Diamonds is the sole organization offering U10 and U12 girls teams for the 2018-19 season. Practices will begin in late September with team evaluations and team placement occurring in early October. Efforts will be made for half of the season's games and practices to be held in Verona with the other half occurring in Sun Prairie, Waunakee, and other area ice rinks. Games will be scheduled against local like-skilled co-ed teams in addition to girls only teams.

These program offerings will be delivered by DC Diamonds and provide many different options for girl skaters at both levels. Important details about these options include:

- Girls can play co-ed AND part-time DC Diamonds Girls Team OR full-time DC Diamonds Team.
- Co-ed girls register FIRST through coed organization in territory where they reside and are encouraged by all organizations to dual roster with DC Diamonds Team. Second, register as part-time player with DC Diamonds Girls Team.
- Part-time players primary obligation is to their co-ed team and can only play DC Diamonds Girls Team when schedule doesn't conflict.
- Girls choosing to play DC Diamonds Girls Team full-time will be placed on like-skill teams (A,B,C).
- DC Diamonds Girls Teams will fulfill roster sizes generous enough to miss 25-40% of the part-time girls due to co-ed team conflicts.

Questions can be directed to:

Shawn Nelson  
President  
DC Diamonds Hockey Association  
Email: [ssnelson@uwmalumni.com](mailto:ssnelson@uwmalumni.com)

Brandon Ballweg  
Vice President  
DC Diamonds Hockey Association  
Email: [coachballweg@gmail.com](mailto:coachballweg@gmail.com)

Register at [www.dcdiamonds.org](http://www.dcdiamonds.org)

## U14 – Madison Mavericks

Verona is the sole organization offering A, B, and C U14 girls teams for the 2018-19 hockey season. Practices will start at the conclusion of WEHL (more below) in mid-October. Placements will occur during several weeks of practices in late October with teams formed by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Efforts will be made for half of the season's games and practices to be held in Verona with the other half occurring in Sun Prairie, Waunakee, and other area ice rinks.

This program offering at the U14 level will unveil a new name and brand for the upcoming season and be known as the Madison Mavericks. This name was selected with input from coaches, skaters, and members of the DC Diamonds, Verona Wildcats, Middleton Wings, and West Madison Polar Caps Hockey Associations.

Meetings were held throughout the state over the last year to discuss the issue of like-skill options for girls at U14. The problem is girls do not have the same opportunity as boys to play like-skill hockey at U14 (Bantam for boys) in a safe environment with no-checking. Larger co-ed organizations offer multiple teams at Bantam, allowing boys to be paired with like-skill players, whereas girls do not have this option. Now, we are proud to offer a like-skill option for U14 girls to play, compete, and develop the skills necessary to enjoy this great game.

Questions can be directed to:

Scott Mirwald  
U14 Girls Age Level Director (ALD)  
Verona Wildcats Youth Hockey Association  
Email: [stmirwald@gmail.com](mailto:stmirwald@gmail.com)

Register at [www.veronayouthhockey.com](http://www.veronayouthhockey.com)

## Wisconsin Elite Hockey League (WEHL)

U14 Hockey is for 2004 and 2005 birth year girls. For those in high school, the hockey season starts in November and many miss the practice and development opportunities area club's offer with an earlier season start. The recently announced return of Wisconsin Elite Hockey League (WEHL) for girls U14 and U16 will solve this development gap. **(This is NOT a Madison Mavericks Program but we encourage all 14U girls to play WEHL as it is designed to directly complement the in-season Madison Mavericks program)**

- WEHL teams run from mid-August to mid-October
- 1 practice per week and 1 tournament and 2 festival game weekends
- Ability to play other fall sports while furthering hockey development
- High quality coaching to focus on development

Questions can be directed to:

Matt Goetzke  
Region 4 WEHL GM  
Email: [mattgoetzke@gmail.com](mailto:mattgoetzke@gmail.com)  
<https://wi-ehl.net>

## Informational Meeting Dates

Meetings will be held August 7<sup>th</sup>, 7-8pm in Verona (upstairs meeting room) and August 14<sup>th</sup>, 7-8pm in Sun Prairie. Representatives from DC Diamonds and Madison Mavericks will be on hand to answer questions.