

2022-2023 In Season Development Plan

OVERVIEW

New this season, WYHA will implement a new two part approach on how we develop our players during the season. One part will focus on the proper evaluation of our players. That will allow our coaches to highlight strengths, and correct weaknesses for each individual player. The second part will focus on association wide bi-weekly themes. These themes will cover the basic areas of the game, to allow our coaches to teach hockey concepts much more effectively.

EVALUATION

The Director of Hockey Operations (DHO) has created level specific, association wide definitions of what makes a good hockey player. These are located in both of the documents titled:

- Wayzata Core Four of Player Development
- Wayzata Skill Qualities (Age Specific)

These two documents pair together to give coaches an understanding of what to focus on at each and every practice. Around mid-season, the DHO will send out a grading rubric to every coach. The rubric will allow coaches to grade players on each category included in the “Core Four” using the definitions given to them in “Wayzata Skill Qualities.”

BI-WEEKLY THEMES

Part two of our development approach will include association wide bi-weekly themes. The themes for the season are as follows:

1. Puck Support and Teaching Offense
2. D-Zone Coverage

3. Neutral Zone Concepts
4. Gap Control, Time and Space Management
5. Angling and Body Contact
6. Vision and Puck Possession
7. Exiting the D-Zone
8. Forechecking

The following items will accompany the various themes throughout the season:

1. Examples of drills that reinforce the theme
2. On-ice video demonstrations
3. High School/College/NHL video clips that relate
4. Podcast content

SUMMARY

It has been identified that many of our players have struggled to learn hockey related concepts as they move up levels within WYHA. This is the reason for this new approach in how we develop our players. This does not mean that station-based practices should be completely abandoned. Technical skill development, especially at the younger levels, is still the priority. If you have any questions, please reach out to the DHO at hockeyops@wayzatahockey.org.