



# EYHA Girls Hockey

Growth & Opportunity  
Information Session

Spring 2020



# AGENDA

1 Background: EYHA's decision path to field girls teams

2 Misconceptions & Benefits of girls hockey

3 Overview of the 2020/2021 season

4 EYHA's development plan to provide the best options for all girls

5 Panel Session



# EYHA'S DECISION



## CHALLENGE

- The need to increase girls hockey – need to change how things were run
- Co-Op – Focus, direction, and attention – Ownership of development of girls in the program
- Options for coaching
- Participation numbers & levels for girls teams
- Practice distance and local competition
- Depth & level of play
- Commitment to grow girls hockey

## WHAT WE WILL DO

- Based on the numbers in the EYHA program - support girls only teams
- Owning the development of EYHA player
- Provides local team for higher community participation - equal experience as co-ed
- Within the current WAHA geographical club assignments the girls & boys have the same\*\* options for teams and coaching
- Competition local & competitive, against the same teams that the co-ed teams play
- Our coaches deliver a highly tailored & constructive practice for all skill level players on the team.

## GIRLS PROGRAM FUTURE

- This is NOT a one year plan – EYHA is committed to developing girls hockey
- Increase female player participation - EYHA currently has 17% female players - our goal is 30% over the next 3 years
- LTP/U8 development is critical for building numbers – Splitting Girl / Boys Try Hockey for Free and Learn to Play Groups
- In 2019-2020
  - U8 team dependent on evaluations
  - U10 and U12 teams
  - U14 has many options

# SUPPORT FOR FORMING GIRLS TEAMS



## According to USA Hockey Survey of 6000 female hockey players:

- Girls playing boys hockey were more likely to quit.
- 79% of the girls who said they planned to quit hockey were playing boys hockey
- Only 44% of girls who said they planned to quit hockey were playing girls

The largest advantage of playing all girls hockey is that the **social experience is greatly increased**. The social aspect of the game is one of the *most tangible benefits* to kids. It has been shown in research that the level of enjoyment of the “**team experience**” by girls playing on an all girl team is higher than those playing on co-ed teams.

**Social Aspect = Heightened Experience**

# WHAT DO THE PLAYERS SAY?



**According to USA Hockey Survey of 6000 female hockey players:**

Girls hockey is mentally and socially different for female players

## Girls Hockey Experience

Girls LOVE hockey rating their experience a 4.79 out of 5!

## What does the rating mean?

Girls playing with boys rated their experience a 4.69, while those on girls teams rated it 4.82. This difference is statistically significant, and it was consistent across the age groups.

## Being part of the Team

Girls playing on girls' teams were more likely to say that their teammates respect them, that they feel like part of the team, that their team plays like a team, and that they get a fair amount of playing time.

## Friendships and Camaraderie

73% of girls who were playing on a girls' team cite friendships, bonding, and not being "different" as the thing they liked best about playing for a girls' team.

# MISCONCEPTIONS OF GIRLS HOCKEY



## DEVELOPMENT

The traditional train of thought was that girls develop more on co-ed teams. That might be true of the top 10% of female players, but that leaves the other 90% of female players at a disadvantage on co-ed teams.

## OPPORTUNITY

Girls have greater opportunity to become a leader on a girls team and greater opportunities to play all positions and game situations

## TOUCHES

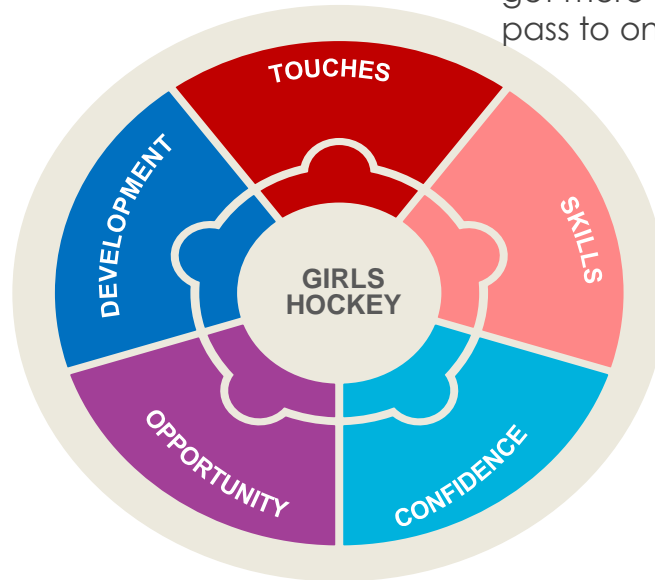
Girls playing with girls will typically get more “touches” – girls typically pass to one another

## SKILLS

Skills are learned in practice – girls will have the same practice time and skills sessions – same skills are taught to boys and girls

## CONFIDENCE

Confidence on the ice increases when playing with girls with more meaningful puck play



**“Playing on the top team does NOT always guarantee the best development of the player. Playing more, getting more touches is the true route to development.” - KENNY RAUSCH USA Hockey - Former NCAA D1 P&C**



# BENEFITS OF GIRLS HOCKEY



## Female Peers

- Playing with female peers may be important for many young girls to feel like they fit it.
- USA Hockey's most recent growth and retention studies found 54% of 8U girls players quit the game before they progress to the 10U level
- Girls are social beings - they may play on all-girls team because they want to play with girls because the boys may intimidate them

## Focus on Female Needs

- All-female teams and associations will have hockey directors, managers and coaches focused on the specific needs of a female player
- EYHA's off-ice program, will focus specially on a girls development plan as compared to boys program
- FUNdamentals – M 6-9 ; F 6-8
- Learn to Train – M 9-12 ; F 8-11
- Train to Train – M 12-16 ; F 11-15

## Female Coaches

- EYHA actively recruits female coaches for the girls program
- EYHA coaches for girls team have credentials and resume to support the program
- Include current women competitive players, past NCAA collegiate players, and past AAA players
- Some girls might feel more comfortable with a female coach

## Female Student Coaches

- EYHA has access to the Brookfield Glaciers Hockey team
- Members of this team will be coming to practices and staying with the girls teams ONLY
- Many current Glacier players have connections to EYHA

## Exposure

- In associations with all-girls teams, the women's game at the higher level will be visible to the younger female players
- This will give players and families a clear sense of what they can achieve.

## Mentorship Programs

- There is opportunity to create mentorship or big sister programs with local women's programs within your association. IE Marian Women's Hockey Coach
- Within the EYHA, we will try to have older teams and younger teams interact (IE U12/14 helping with LTP)

## Leadership

- Very few girls that play on boys' teams get the opportunity to be a leader or a captain – both on and off the ice

## Playing Time/Development

- Unfortunately some coaches on the boys' side will not play girls equally
- If the girl is not as talented, she will not get the playing time and coaching needed to develop

# OVERVIEW OF 2019/2020 SEASON



## LTP & U8 (2012 and Younger)

- LTP – Level 1 and Level 2 LTP for girls only
- U8 – In house program minis (grouped), jamborees
- U8 RWB - 25-30 games including home and away
- Competition: RWB level – mixed level for other girls & boys teams
- 1-2 practices per week
- ADM practices: Meet EYHA player development

## U10 SQUIRT (2010 & 2011)

- 35-40 games total & 2-3 girls tournaments
- 2 practices per week plus dryland
- Competition: Local “B” girls team (Required games against these opponents to qualify for tournament) and additional girls levels team in area
- Competition: Local boys teams at same level determined after evaluations (IE: “B” – Teams at the higher level of top players)

## U12 PEE WEE (2008 & 2009)

- 40-45 games total & 2-3 girls tournaments & 2-3 practices per week plus dryland
- Competition: Local “B” girls team (Required games against these opponents to qualify for tournament) & additional girls levels team in area
- Competition: Local boys teams at same level determined after evaluations (IE: “B” – Teams at the higher level of top players)

## U14 BANTAM (2005 & 2006)

- 50 games total & 2-3 tournaments
- 3 practices per week plus dryland
- Competition: Local “A & B” girls team (Required games against these opponents to qualify for tournament) and additional girls levels team in area
- Competition: Local boys teams at same level determined after evaluations (IE: “B” – Teams at the higher level of top players)

EYHA GIRLS



# GAME OPPONENTS



Ozaukee  
Winter Club  
Beaver Dam  
Washington County  
Arrowhead  
Wolves  
Tournament teams:  
Western WI Stars  
(Somerset),  
Chippewa Valley,  
Wausau



Elmbrook  
Waukesha  
SHAW  
Winter Club  
Ozaukee  
Arrowhead  
Blaze  
Kenosha  
Sheboygan



EYHA's goal is to keep competition **local & competitive**, against the same teams that the co-ed teams play - A heightened social experience with the same local competition

# HOW TO PROVIDE THE BEST OPTIONS



Female players who have been playing co-ed and wish to continue to play co-ed should be supported

- EYHA will work on finding ways for them to be included in girls events

One of the biggest deterrents for existing players to make the switch is the assumed lower skill of girls teams

- EYHA will provide local competitive games, including games against higher level co-ed teams to drive increased level of play and to showcase the team

One of the biggest attractions for existing players to switch is the social experience

- EYHA will provide a social experience for ALL girls when possible

# Panel Session: Q & A

Thank you