

WHAT DOES THE EJEPL MEAN FOR ME?

What is the EJ?

The Eastern Junior Elite Prospect League (“EJEPL”/“EJ”) is a well-established supplemental league that many DVHL teams have a history participating in.

It is currently in its 10th year of competition. It is essential to understand that the EJEPL began because clubs were looking for more quality competition outside the localized leagues.

What does the EJEPL offer my family?

This question is multifaceted. It offers clubs dedicated to staying in the DVHL an opportunity to play other competitive games vs. non DVHL teams.

What teams play in the EJ?

There are numerous teams from the DVHL currently playing in the EJEPL. Along with members from multiple states: New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Virginia — these states offer over 50 clubs at various levels of play within the league. They also have teams in North Carolina, Florida, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Georgia, South Carolina, and Maryland.

What are they offering the DVHL?

The EJ is offering many benefits to our league.

- Both Showcases and 'Loose league games' will be provided to the DVHL teams that chose to play in the EJ.
- Loose league games are not at showcase but count towards EJ standings and playoffs. These are non-league games for the DVHL and will be played at home and away from our rinks.
- These games will be scheduled in a geographically friendly area and have teams come to us thus allowing our organizations an opportunity to play these games closer to home and to keep travel costs down
- Expanded competition for our teams, meaning playing teams that we would not regularly have access to in a league-style format
- Having an opportunity to play high-quality competition at the various levels will help our clubs to recruit and retain players that want to play higher levels.
- There is an additional cost per team, but DVHL Leadership has negotiated a discounted rate based on USA Hockey T2 rosters.

Do all teams and all levels have to participate?

NO. The EJ is a supplemental offering to our clubs and our regular DVHL schedule. Clubs can choose to participate at the team level. Meaning each club will decide for THEMSELVES which teams will play in the EJ — they are not required to play.

What level and divisions do they offer?

With the expanded number of clubs (of various sizes), the league supports all age levels 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U 14U, 15U 16U & 18U at the Diamond level which is comparable to our traditional AA and strong A National). In the "Futures" level, the ages are more traditional 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U. The divisions are named GOLD and SILVER; these divisions provide more meaningful and consistent competition.

For comparison, GOLD 1 is similar to the A National division, and there may be a few weaker AA teams; GOLD 2 may have some weaker A National teams and stronger A American teams. The SILVER is split similarly with weaker A American and the B National and B American teams.

One big difference between the DVHL and the EJEPL is team placement for league play. The onus is on the Clubs to place teams in the division they feel is appropriate for each team. Yes, this sounds similar, but it is different – meaning if a team is required to compete “down” in the DVHL – that same team can be placed at a level in the EJEPL, and it can be placed and still be playoff eligible.

Will we play teams in the DVHL at showcases?

No – the DVHL team will not play against other DVHL teams during their season except in the EJ Playoffs if they need to. There is no championship at showcases, just a weekend of a minimum of 4 games. One showcase will be in late August, one in the fall, and a 3rd TBD.

Where will we play?

The EJ has had showcases at Ice Works (Aston PA – Home of the Delco Phantoms), Klick Lewis (Palmyra/Annville PA), and we are currently working with other rinks within our league footprint for next year.

Will we travel at all?

Sure, while most of the showcases are within our league's footprint, there may be showcase weekends outside of our area; New York, Virginia or Connecticut. Additional travel will also happen with loose games played at the opponent's rink.

What will this partnership offer our younger-aged teams?

We are working on an exciting event with the EJ to have a unique showcase for our 14U Diamond All-Stars. This special showcase will be in Connecticut or Massachusetts. This event will put our kids in front of the coaching staff of many of these schools. For ages under the 14U level, it will also offer diversity in game-play and scheduling partners.

What do they offer our older players?

The EJ is known for its commitment to competitive play. For divisions at the older levels where current a division may be smaller, our teams can play additional games at comparable levels.

The league does evaluate the competition at the first league showcase between teams. After the first showcase, teams have/and will move to different levels to make sure the kids are getting the best experience available.

The EJ has established a good name in junior and college programs at all levels. By having their distinction of being a well-run and organized league, the scouts for these clubs and associations often attend the showcases.

**THE EJEPL MEANS STABILITY
AND ADDITIONAL COMPETITION FOR
THE DVHL AT ALL LEVELS
OF PLAY AND OUR FAMILIES.**