

North Performance Report 2018

2017-18 marks the first full season of the Player Pathway after the 2017 transition year

Performance Centres

The four centres; Durham at Durham University, Fylde at Mill Farm, Manchester at Brooklands HC and Yorks at Hill House School and Wakefield HC are now established with Centre Managers at each. The Head Coaches are appointed by EH, other coaches are regional appointments.

The playing schedule, focusing on regular contact with players on Monday evenings, was heavily hit by the severe winter weather. All sessions are/have been rescheduled. The calendar for 2018-19 is being redrafted to reduce the number of Monday evenings during the winter, especially through December and January.

Squad sizes were reduced to 18 for 2017-18. Not all squads are full, some are marginally higher. The intention is to maintain the playing standard rather than simply fill squads. A small number of players who struggled with the standard, have left the PCs. Many players nominated by Academies have been assessed by Head Coaches, usually at two training sessions and successful players have joined the PC squads. The procedures for nomination by ACs are now established. Players are only assessed for PC during the PC cycle via the AC nomination.

The programme still has a number of sessions remaining including two Cluster Competitions in July before the selection of the Futures Cup Pennine Pumas squads

Selection for 2018-19 is already under way.

U15s will be selected following an assessment day on June 10 of coaching and game play at three venues. 36 boys and 36 girls will be selected (plus reserves) east and west of the Pennines. They will then be allocated fairly to the four centres based on travelling time. This will not necessarily be to their nearest centre.

U17s will be selected from the existing players (plus some who have been nominated following late AC competitions for a final assessment in June) by the Head Coaches. Players will, in the main, remain at the same PC if selected.

All players selected for 2018-19 will be notified before the end of July

The majority of Head Coaches are to be reappointed by EH. Regional coaches' positions will be advertised in July. All are one year appointments but it is hoped that many of the current coaches will choose to reapply. There are also opportunities for coaches to join the PC coaching staff.

Academy Centres

The ACs programme was badly hit by the winter weather with competitions repeatedly cancelled.

Work is being done to raise the standard of ACs. The number of players in the younger age groups are generally strong but retaining older players in the PP remains a concern.

GDPR and the Player Pathway Online System

The PP system has been improved considerably during 2018. It meets the GDPR requirements and it is important that all players are registered during 2018-19 for both PCs and ACs. The system is used for all PC players but ACs who have not yet started to use PPS, are encouraged to do so during next season.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to organisation of all NPC activities. With the PCs, ACs and the competitions, both indoor and outdoor, there are many who have made these run so successfully; including tournament organisers, umpires, and volunteers. Without these and the support of parents, youth hockey in the North could not function so successfully.