

Inter-Pro Player Development & Competitions 2021-22

DATE

August 2021

Introduction

Planned changes for the Provincial player development programmes are being rolled out for 2021-22 season. These have been agreed by the High Performance Committee and the Inter-Pro working group.

The overall format is changing from a weekend competition to matches spread throughout the season, culminating in a final at season end.

There will be NO overnights for any team.

A revised hooked for life training and development curriculum will be followed by each province.

- National coaches will be actively engaged with the provinces
 - o Outlining required curriculum
 - o Visiting training on a regular basis
 - o Attending competition matches

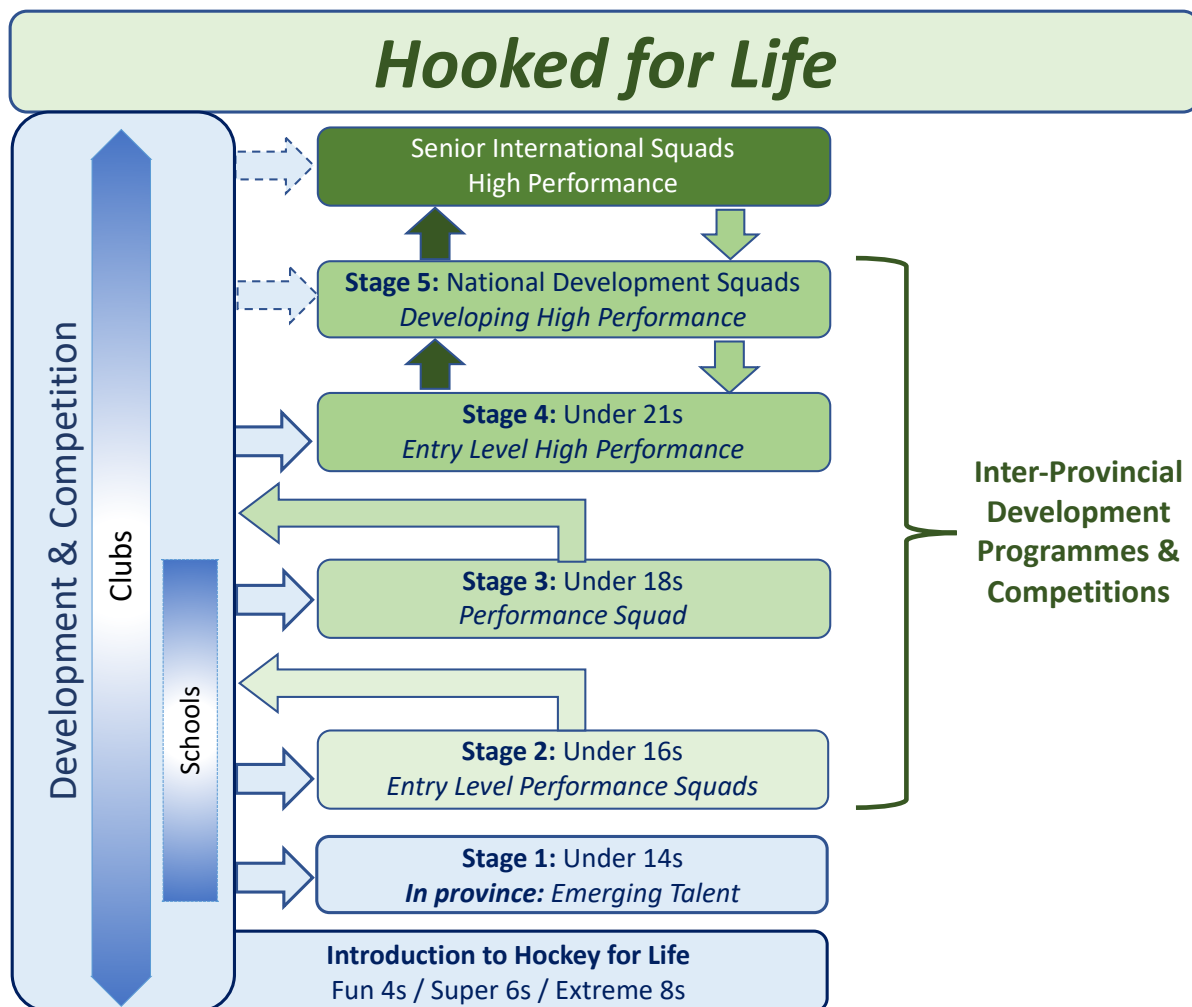
- National panel players will be training with their provincial panels as part of a move to regionalise their programmes
 - o *Some modifications for U21Gs who have international competitions during the season and already have an extensive development squad*

- Training panels in the province to include
 - o a competition panel: typically players born in the 2nd year of eligibility
 - o a development panel: typically players born in the 1st year of eligibility

The competition age groups for 2021-22 are as follows

2021-22	2022-23	Intl Age 01-Jan mid season
2008	2009	U14
2007	2008	U16
2006	2007	
2005	2006	U18
2004	2005	
2003	2004	U21
2002	2003	
2001	2002	
2000	2001	National Development Squad
1999	2000	
1998	1999	

Player Pathway / Hooked for Life



Stage 1: Under 14 Emerging Talent Development

Provinces will be responsible for the development of the emerging talent group within their province – In the 2021-22 season this will be for players born 2008.

An inter-regional, *non-competitive* festival will be held in May to provide an opportunity for multiple teams from each province to participate in.

It is expected that provinces will then bring forward a selection of those players to their 2022-23 provincial panels

Stage 2 & 3 : Under 16 and Under 18 Development & Competitions

From 1st June all players will roll forward into new age groups based on their *year of birth* and provinces will run development programmes in the summer months

- Challenge matches may take place informally between provinces in July/August

No matches in September to allow all squads to re-group and make final selections

- Squads to attempt to include 50:50 split on year of birth – comprising a competition panel and a development panel (players typically with 2 years in the relevant age group)
- This will split of birth year naturally evolve in the years ahead
- Provinces can add players to their panels during the season and play a different squad in each game

No matches scheduled to clash with All Ireland schools

- All Ireland Schoolboys are typically held the week before October mid term
- All Ireland Schoolgirls are typically held the week after St Patrick's day

No matches scheduled for March as this is typically a high intensity period for schools and clubs

Provinces should not arrange matches outside of the agreed dates without the prior approval of the HPC or IPWG

It is anticipated that Intl Camps and Matches will take place at mid-terms and during holidays (dates to be confirmed).

- Development squad (e.g. U15, U17) matches may be scheduled on these dates
- These will be arranged directly between provinces

Boys: U16 & U18 Inter-Provincial Competition

- Squads to play each other twice during the season (6 match days)
- Squads from Leinster, Munster and Ulster
- Finals to be scheduled end of season

Girls: U16 & U18 Inter-Provincial Competition

- Squads to play each other once during the season (5 match days)
- Squads from Connacht, Leinster, Munster, South East and Ulster
- Finals at end of season: 1st vs 2nd and 3rd vs 4th

Stage 4 & Stage 5: U20/U21/U23 Development & Competitions

Women's U20/U23 Competitions

The national women's programme already have an extensive panel at U21 and U23 so the inter-pro competition will in the main be for an U20 age group

The majority of the players ageing out of U18s will not have played any provincial or international hockey for over 2 years (since they were U16s). A concentrated U20 programme within provinces will give those players a chance to develop and be considered for selection into the national U21 programme mid-season

The women will have two competitions in 2020-21 season

Women's August U20/U23 Development Competition

- Plan to run an U20/U23 competition over one week in August
- Munster and Connacht panels will include up to 6 players under 23

- Ulster have opted out in favour of participating in a GB Schools competition; Leinster will replace with a 2nd team
- Players will be assessed in matches and added to National U21/National development squads following this competition

Women’s u20 Inter-Provincial Competition to be played during the season to January

- Players on national U21 or national development team will not be eligible for this competition
- Ulster have opted out and will be replaced by a 4th team (e.g. National U18 selection)
- Players will be assessed in matches and added to the national U21 programme following the finals in January

Men’s U21 Inter-Provincial Competition

The Men’s programme will have an U21 competition running through the season and culminating in a final circa 2 weeks after EYHL finals (with no matches in January)

- Confirmed squads from Leinster & Munster
- Ulster have opted out of the competition due to player availability and will be replaced by a 3rd team (e.g. potential for National U18 selection) and occasional 4th guest team

Provisional match dates (to be confirmed by HI competitions group)

	01-Aug	08-Aug	15-Aug	22-Aug	29-Aug		02-Jan	09-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan
U16G							U16G Intl Camp		Match 4		
U18G							U18G Intl Camp		Match 4		
U20G			Start 15-Aug	End 21-Aug			U20G		FINALS	IRL Indoor 21-23	
U16B							U16B Intl Camp	Match 4			Match 5
U18B							U18B Intl Camp	Match 4			Match 5
U21B							U21B				
	05-Sep	12-Sep	19-Sep	26-Sep			06-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	
U16G							U16G Match 5	Intl - Midterm Camp	Intl - Midterm Camp		
U18G	UK Schools						U18G Match 5	Intl - Midterm Camp	Intl - Midterm Camp		
U20G	UK Schools						U20G				
U16B							U16B	Intl - Midterm Camp	Intl - Midterm Camp	Match 6	
U18B	UK Schools						U18B	Intl - Midterm Camp	Intl - Midterm Camp	Match 6	
U21B	UK Schools						U21B Match 4			Match 5	
	03-Oct	10-Oct	17-Oct	24-Oct	31-Oct		06-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	27-Mar	
U16G		Match 1		Intl Camp	Intl Camp		U16G Schools Finals	Schools Finals	Schools Finals	All Irl Schools	
U18G		Match 1		Intl Camp	Intl Camp		U18G Schools Finals	Schools Finals	Schools Finals	All Irl Schools	
U20G		Match 1					U20G				
U16B	Match 1			Intl Camp	Intl Camp		U16B Schools Finals	Schools Finals	Schools Finals	Schools Finals	
U18B	Match 1		All Irl Schools	Intl Camp	Intl Camp		U18B Schools Finals	Schools Finals	Schools Finals	Schools Finals	
U21B	Match 1		All Irl Schools	Intl Camp	Intl Camp		U21B		Match 6		
	07-Nov	14-Nov	21-Nov	28-Nov			03-Apr	10-Apr	17-Apr	24-Apr	
U16G		Match 2					U16G FINALS		Easter		
U18G		Match 2					U18G FINALS		Easter		
U20G		Match 2					U20G		Easter		
U16B	Match 2						U16B	Match 6	Easter		
U18B	Match 2						U18B	Match 6	Easter		
U21B	Match 2						U21B		Easter		
	05-Dec	12-Dec	19-Dec	26-Dec			01-May	08-May	15-May	22-May	29-May
U16G		Match 3					U14G	Festival (08-May)			
U18G		Match 3					U16G				
U20G		Match 3					U18G	EYHL Finals			
U16B	Match 3						U20G	EYHL Finals			
U18B	Match 3						Adults			Junior Inter-Pros	
U21B	Match 3						U14B	Festival (07-May)			
							U16B		FINALS		
							U18B	EYHL Finals	FINALS		
							U21B	EYHL Finals	FINALS		
							Adults			Junior Inter-Pros	

Event Planning & Logistics

Work is ongoing to plan out next season and referencing plans that were in place for 2020-21 season. It is anticipated that an event manager will be required to manage and oversee the organisation, match schedules and financials/budgets etc.

Venues:

- No overnights / minimise travel
- Matches arranged at mid-way points
- Where possible play U16, U18, U20/U21 matches on same day and venue (12:00, 14:00, 16:00).

Competition Rules/Variations

- All tied matches go to 1v1s to force a result (same as inter-pro tournaments, 1 point for a draw and a bonus point to winner of 1v1s)
- Match day squad of 18 permitted, selected from larger provincial panels (e.g. can have a different 18 players for each match)
 - o For the Women's development competition in August, the same 18 players for all 4 games
- Development Matches at U16/U18 to be scheduled between provinces for 'reserve' players
- Finals day to be 1st vs 2nd from round robin stages and where feasible 3rd vs 4th

Match Officials and Umpires

- Technical tables if possible (depends on covid and technical officials availability)
- IHUA to appoint officials for provincial competitions – ideally appointing local umpires to reduce costs and environmental impact of travel if not needed
- Umpire travel and expense costs to be shared between the provinces
- Where IHUA cannot appoint umpires, provinces to provide their own umpires

Video

- All matches to be videoed with streaming where possible
 - o Sponsorship to be arranged (some already secured from 2020 for U16/18) to offset the costs
- Video standards to be agreed and complied with (e.g. from a height, ideally from behind both goals)

Attendance

- Managed in line with government guidelines in operation at the time
- Review of process and procedures for the cancelled 2020 games may be required

Programmes

- Electronic programme to be produced
 - o Features each provincial panel and their sponsor
 - o Match day centrefold for each team on the match day
 - o All provinces to provide team photos and headshots for inclusion
 - o Provinces may also provide a 1 page advertisement for their main sponsor

Income / Expenditure

Accommodation: Not required – matches to be scheduled within 'reach' of each provinces on the basis of a day return trip

Transport: Provinces to fund their own transport

Pitch Hire: Ideally pitches would be provide free of cost – but any pitch hire to be pooled and overall costs shared equally between all provinces

Officials Expenses: Umpire and technical official expenses to be shared equally between all provinces

Video: Video costs shared between provinces – offset by sponsorship wherever possible

Programme: Costs to be shared between provinces – ideally offset by advertisements / sponsorship

Gate: Income to be used to offset the direct competition costs and the balance shared equally between provinces on a pro-rata basis