



## Playing Junior Hockey at Ryde: Answering Some Frequently Asked Questions

**What Equipment Do I Need?** A hockey stick, shin guards and mouth guard are essential. Shin guards and mouth guards must be worn on the field. Players will need a club shirt and socks which can be purchased at the club. Plain black shorts, or a skirt/skort complete the uniform. Normal joggers (not boots) are worn. There is a FHE hockey shop at our home ground.

**What Are the Age Divisions?** We participate in five age divisions – U7s, U9s, U11s, U13s, U15s and U17s. A player's age division in 2017 will be determined by their age as at 1 January 2017.

**Are the Teams Mixed (Girls and Boys)?** Yes. Players participate in mixed team competition up to and including U17s.

**What Competitions do Ryde Juniors Participate In?** All teams participate in competitions administered by North Area Junior Hockey (NAJH) and primarily involve clubs in the northern areas of Sydney. The two exceptions are our U15 Panthers and U17 Panthers team which participates in Sydney wide 'Metro' competition administered by a sub-committee of NAJH.

**What Occurs in U7s & U9s?** Our younger members participate in a Minkey skills session on a Wednesday evening (5.30-6.30pm). These players are also able to participate in a twelve week competition. This competition comprises shorter, modified games on a smaller field using a soft ball and is played in a carnival atmosphere – no competition points are recorded. From 2017 some U11 matches will also be scheduled in a modified half-field format and competition points will be recorded for these matches.

**Where Do We Play?** NAJH administered matches are held at Ryde, Pennant Hills (Pennant Hills Park), Gordon (Kuring-gai High School) and Cintra (adjacent to Concord Rugby Stadium). Metro competition matches are held at the above venues in addition to Sutherland, Moorebank, Kyeemagh, Homebush and Daceyville. Approximately one half of a team's matches will be scheduled at our home ground at Ryde.

**When Do We Play?** Junior hockey is scheduled either on a Friday night or a Saturday morning. Over a season we tend to work on the assumption that one half of the games will be on a Friday night, one half on a Saturday morning. This however will not be exact across every team and it is most likely that all Metro matches will be scheduled on a Friday evening.

**Are There Specific Timeslots For Each Age Group?** On a Friday evening U11s most likely play at 6.30pm, U13s most likely at 7.30pm, and U15s/U17s most likely at 8.45pm. On a Saturday morning there are no specific timeslots for each age group but all junior hockey is concluded by 1.00pm.

**How Long Are The Matches?** U7s, U9s – two 15 minute halves, U11s & U13s (excl. 13As) – two 25 minute halves, U13A, U15s, U17s - two 30 minute halves,

**When Does the Season Start and Finish?** The draw is not yet available but the season generally runs from mid to late March to the second weekend in September. We do not play on the middle weekend of the school holidays.

**Does Ryde Have More than One Team Per Age Group? If So Are They Graded?** We generally do have more than one team per age group and teams are generally graded based on selection trials. Our teams in each age group are named Panthers, Tigers, Lions, Jaguars. In 2016 we fielded 16 teams.

**What If I Have Other Commitments on a Friday Evening or a Saturday Morning?** This is often a dilemma and we appreciate too that some players have compulsory school commitments. What we ask is that players and families think carefully about their ability to commit to a team. If you proceed with hockey we ask that you advise your team manager of your availability in a timely way.

See our website [www.rydehockey.com.au](http://www.rydehockey.com.au) or contact Kirrily Pereira - Junior President for more information [kirrily.pereira@rydehockey.com.au](mailto:kirrily.pereira@rydehockey.com.au) ph: 0417 808 587