



WEST VANCOUVER FIELD HOCKEY CLUB

WVFC Our Club and community in West Vancouver and across the North Shore (Presentation Notes)

1. WVFC is the largest Field Hockey Club in North America. We offer programming for all skill levels from 5-95, with varying degrees of competition. Pre-Covid we had approximately 2000 members. Currently we have over 1,100 juniors enrolled in Spring League and approximately 400 juniors playing in our Fall programming. We also offer summer and winter programs. We run adult leagues, for men and women as well as recreational programs for the non-competitive. Our youngest member is 5 and our oldest currently is 74.
2. The Club was originally based at Hugo Ray with the best grass fields back when the men's, women's and junior divisions were first established (late 60's and early 70's). Through long consultation with the district, the water-based turf at Rutledge was opened in September of 2011.
3. Rutledge was home field for the 2019 Men's Field Hockey Olympic Qualifier, which saw the Canadian men qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in nail biting fashion. Most recently it was host for 2 games of the U16 Junior Women's series Canada v USA in May 2022. The athletes are grateful for the opportunity to play international field hockey in front of a home town crowd.
4. Rutledge field is the home field for WVFC. We are grateful to all the District staff who support us including Andrew, Ian, Alyssa, Kevin in Parks and Maintenance; Corrine and Clayton in Operations and Christie in Events.
5. School program – Since 2010 (at least), WVFC has been visiting elementary schools across the North Shore to teach elementary school children, mostly K-4, the basics of field hockey. (FREE) From 2017 to 2019, Club coaches visited 34 elementary schools across West and North Vancouver; over the three years, 10,000+ children participated in these sessions. Some schools are visited every year, every other year – it is up to the individual schools to determine the timing and duration of the sessions and which grades/classes will attend. Due to pandemic restrictions, these sessions did not happen in the school years 2020-2022. This year we were back, visiting over 4,000 children. We hope that by going through the school system, we can reach as many children as possible, including members of communities that might not otherwise be exposed to this sport.
6. Academy - WVFC is the service provider for the West Vancouver Schools Premier Field Hockey Academy.
7. Scholarships – we offer scholarships to Grade 12 players continuing their education.
8. Many players go to university on partial or full scholarships to play field hockey.
9. Sport for Life – we actively promote the idea of being Active for Life. We have structured our player pathway in terms of physical literacy goals for each level. One of our Board members describes field hockey as the gateway sport for the unathletic.

10. Cooperation with other Sports - we are a member of the West Vancouver Sports Alliance. We work with soccer to align our programming and game schedules to allow as many of our athletes as possible to take part in both clubs.
11. Inclusivity – we welcome and accommodate players with diverse needs. A number of our players have physical or mental health issues that challenge them (type 1 diabetes, severe anxiety, sports related asthma) as well as neuro-divergent players, and they have found a safe sports home in our Club. Our pitch pals program pairs players who need one-on-one support with a junior coach to shadow them during their program.
12. Gender Equity: We are working hard to develop female coaches and umpires so we can offer the female members of our Club the example of women coaches and umpires.
13. Junior Development – a large part of our junior program in Spring League, is the opportunity for players 13+ to learn to be umpires and junior coaches. We provide in-house training and mentoring for both. It allows our juniors to earn volunteer hours for school, to learn new skills, experience working in a supportive environment and be exposed to other sporting opportunities not directly related to athletic ability. Especially important is the support and mentorship of young women in key sport roles as umpires and coaches.
14. Role Models – as the largest field hockey club in Canada, and with our Club support of both the men’s and women’s senior national teams, our players are given access to elite athletes as coaches and mentors. These athletes demonstrate to our players that hard work and perseverance can lead to great things. We have former junior members of our Club on both senior field hockey teams as well as the junior national teams going to the Pan Am Games in Barbados in April.
15. Community Support – we participate in an annual toy and food drive and raise funds for the Lookout Foundation (tree in Dundarave Tree festival). We also collect used equipment and uniforms to distribute both locally (Vancouver Tech) and across the globe (Tunza Sports in Kenya).
16. We are focused on building community and we are excited to work with the district on future initiatives that will include, increasing access to sport for new immigrants, building out our support for neurodivergent youth, and using sport to facilitate reconciliation.