

# USA Women's Masters Field Hockey

## USA Women's Masters Players, Squads and Teams

Masters Players -

We recognize that there may be some confusion regarding the new format for squad and team selections, so hopefully this communication will provide some clarity.

There are three levels of participation within the USA Women's Masters community:

- **Player** - Everyone in our Masters database is considered a player and invited to attend any event open to the general membership. Examples of these events are the regional practices that are being posted to Facebook, as well as the annual Masters-only Shooting Star tournament.
- **Squad** - Starting in 2020 and moving forward, squads will be selected through an annual tryout process. A squad will be created every year for each age group (O35, O40, O45, O50, O55, O60) based upon age as of December 31st of that year. There may be practices that are only open to squad members.
- **Team** - A team is selected from the squads to compete in a specific event. Team players may be selected for their own or younger age groups (O40 squad members are eligible to play on O35 teams). The World Cups are examples of events for which teams are selected, and there may be practices that are only open to team members.

The Masters community continues to grow at a feverish pace, which is exciting! The USA Women's Masters Committee has created these levels to provide some structure to our membership, as well as to enable us to take advantage of the various opportunities presented to us. We are often invited to participate in events besides the World Cups, however our volunteer staff simply doesn't have the capacity to organize every event independently.

This new process will enable us to more swiftly identify interest and availability to participate in additional opportunities, especially those offered during non-World Cup years.

Another valuable benefit of setting up this structure is the opportunity to continue improving our program. This will provide consistency across the age groups and enable us to build and maintain skills, rather than starting over every other year when we begin preparing for the World Cup events. Even if there is no World Cup scheduled, or if you are unable to participate in the next event, you will be able to continue playing with your teammates and we will all be able to keep raising our game to the next level.

### **NEW SELECTION FORMAT**

Approximately 2-3 weeks after the tryouts, a squad of 25-30 players from each age group will be announced for the year. For all upcoming tournaments, a team will be selected from these original squads. Each team will consist of a maximum of 18 players.

Our goal is to hold practices once a month for all players at a site and time to be determined. Squad members are encouraged to come to announced practices throughout the year. Smaller regional practices can also be organized - refer to the Official Masters Facebook group for regional practices.

### **2020 TRYOUT DETAILS**

We previously sent an email (and posted a copy to the Facebook group) with details regarding the upcoming tryout in January. Please refer to that communication for specific information related to the tryout, including how to register.

Hopefully this clears up any confusion, and generates both enthusiasm and excitement for the future of USA Women's Masters hockey.

***See you at the tryout in January?***

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