



HOCKEY GEELONG SHARKS

2024 Junior Sharks

The Hockey Geelong Sharks have been entering Junior teams in the Hockey Victoria winter metropolitan competition in excess of 25 years. Through our affiliation with Hockey Victoria, we aim to promote junior hockey for participation, inclusion and **FUN**.

Junior Sharks teams play on Friday nights during school terms 2 and 3, in a home and away competition against the best players in boys and girls only under 14 and under 16 age divisions in the highest level of weekly junior competitions in the State.

The Junior Sharks had a very successful season in 2023 with all two teams competing in the Grand Finals.

All Junior Shark nominees undergo two pre-season trial sessions (In February) consisting of skills training and modified match-play. No matter which local club you play for, all players from around Geelong are encouraged to attend the trial sessions. Trial sessions are an opportunity for all junior players to improve your skills, learn new skills and practice these with other players who are keen to do the same.

As the Sharks games are played on Friday nights, this enables you to play your regular club hockey.

Come and join the junior Sharks to develop friendships on and off the pitch.

Junior training is held on Tuesday nights at Stead Park from 6.00 to 7.00pm.

The Junior Shark trials sessions for 2024 have been scheduled for Sunday 11th and Sunday 25th of February.

All Junior Sharks teams have a coach, assistant coach and team manager, all supported by Hockey Geelong to guide junior player development, teamwork and skills.

The junior Sharks season commences on Friday 3rd May with the Grand final on Friday 6th September. It is 14 rounds competition culminating in a two-week finals series. There is a mid-season break for the July school holidays.)

This is the pathway.

Weekly training and playing with the junior Sharks is a 'next step up' from the local junior competition and provides players with development opportunities that can prepare them to trial at State Championship and National levels. Many of our junior players have been selected to play with the 'Western Metro Wildcats' in the Victorian Junior State Championships.

From this pool, players are encouraged to try-out for the Victorian Junior Academy training squads in preparation for State team selections. We regularly have Junior Shark players in these teams.

At these State Championships, players are identified as possible future national players.

The Junior Sharks program is also the next step on the pathway to the Senior Sharks teams who compete in the Hockey Victoria competition. In 2023 the Sharks' senior Men's were promoted to the highest level in Victoria, of Premier League, for the first time in their twenty plus year history. This means they regularly play against National players and Olympians.

The Senior Women Sharks have also played at the highest level and are currently again knocking on that door.

There are many ways families can be involved and Hockey Geelong often have functions for the enjoyment of all. There are also planned holiday clinics to enable Junior Sharks to learn more advanced skills from those who have played at the very highest levels.

Please consider nominating for the Junior Sharks, especially those who have not done so before. You will then commence your exciting pathway to your hockey future. For those players who have played for the Junior Sharks before, we urge you to again nominate and continue your **FUN** with Hockey.

For further information please contact Nette Williams on nwilliams3228@gmail.com or on 0419 590 057.

All of the Sharks wish you the best.

GO GEELONG !! GO SHARKS !!

Regards,

Nette Williams

HG Sharks Junior Co-Ordinator