



Information for parents/guardians of young players (under 18)

Abingdon Hockey Club welcomes young players under the age of 18 and endeavours to ensure that the club is a safe and friendly place for young people to develop their hockey skills and enjoy playing. We would also like to encourage parents/guardians to support their child and the club.

Parents and guardians should be aware of the following information.

Membership details

A parent/guardian must sign the membership form of a young person to give consent for them to take part in club activities and to give consent to the club seeking emergency medical treatment for the young player if necessary. The parent must provide emergency contact details for use in a medical or other emergency.

The contact details (particularly email address and mobile phone details) provided for a young player on the membership form should be those of the parent/guardian. These will be used to communicate details of club activities and changes of arrangements which parents need to be aware of. The details of many club activities (including matches) can be seen on the club website: www.abingdonhockey.org.uk.

Clothing and kit

All players other than goalkeepers are expected to provide their own kit, including shirts, shorts/skirt, socks, and footwear. Although shirts and socks of the correct club colours can usually be borrowed for the first few matches, if a player is expecting to play regularly then they should purchase at least a shirt and socks in home colours (these are available through the club). Although the club does not have spare sticks for loan, there are usually individual players who can loan a stick for a couple of weeks if a player is new and does not have one; after that a stick can be purchased relatively cheaply from most sports shops or over the internet.

We play all matches on astro turf surfaces, and proper astro turf boots (available from sports shops) are recommended as ordinary trainers tend not to have enough grip and lead to a player slipping. Traditional boots with studs are not allowed on an astro turf surface as they would damage it.

Players should come expecting to play outside regardless of the weather. Matches continue despite heavy rain or wind, so if the weather is poor it is a good idea to bring a complete set of dry clothes for changing into afterwards. On a cold day a player can wear extra layers underneath their club shirt to keep warm and should have warm clothes to put on before and after the match, and if they are substituted off the pitch at any time.

It is important to wear appropriate protective clothing to ensure that the risk of injury is minimised. Most players wear shin guards with ankle protection and a mouthguard and this is strongly recommended by England Hockey. Mouthguards fit better and offer better protection if they are fitted by a dentist, but they can be bought relatively cheaply from sports shops and moulded into a reasonable shape. Some players use gloves to protect knuckles against grazes from the astro turf surface, and again these can be bought relatively cheaply from sports shops.

Changing facilities

Where young players play alongside adults (e.g. in a regular adult team or in a development team which includes supporting adults), it is not usually possible to provide separate changing facilities for the young players. If a young player feels uncomfortable changing alongside adult players, then they will need to come already changed.

Accidents and injuries

Unfortunately due to the nature of the game accidents and injuries can occur during play.

- In the case of a minor injury such as a graze or bruise, first aid such as a plaster or ice pack is generally applied at the scene, unless the player does not want this or the club has been informed by a young player's parent/guardian that this should not be done.
- For injuries that do not appear to require immediate medical attention but where the young player appears to be in pain or is upset, the club will attempt to contact their parent/guardian to arrange for them to be collected as soon as possible.
- If a serious accident or injury occurs where a young player appears to need immediate medical treatment, the young player's parent/guardian will be contacted immediately. If for some reason this contact cannot be made then the club will seek emergency medical treatment (e.g. an ambulance) for the young player. The club must be authorised to do this by the young player's parent/guardian signing the consent form.

Transport

The club does NOT provide any transport of young players to training, home or away matches or any other club event (e.g. teas after a match). Getting a young person to the match or other venue is entirely the responsibility of the parent/guardian. For venues away from the home pitch at Tilsley Park, players usually make informal arrangements to meet beforehand to share lifts but if a young player wishes to do this it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian of the young player to ensure that they know who is giving a lift to their child and to satisfy themselves that the arrangement is suitable. It should also be noted that the club does not cover the expenses of those players who do offer lifts to away matches so anyone who regularly gets a lift to away matches should be prepared to offer to pay a share of the petrol costs.



Club members would very much appreciate it if the parents of young players could take their turn to offer lifts so that no-one has to drive to the majority of away matches.

At the end of a training session or match the club allows young people of an appropriate age to leave on their own if they are expecting to make their own way home. If a young player is expecting to be picked up, the club will ensure that they are not left on their own after the other players have already gone, so long as the player stays with the main group of players (i.e. does not leave the venue on their own and is clearly visible) . If for some reason a parent/guardian is likely to be late to collect their child, they should attempt to ensure that their child/the club is aware of it and to make other arrangements if a late arrival of more than a few minutes is likely.

Behaviour

Unaccompanied young people are expected to behave sensibly and to stay with the team group. They are expected to remain under the supervision of the coach or team captain at all times.

Concerns

If you have any queries or concerns about any aspect of the club's provision for young people, or you are worried about an incident involving your child, then please contact the club welfare officer.

For the 2010/2011 season, the club welfare officer is:

Sarah Wilson

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Email: sarah.j.wilson@talktalk.net