



3.3 SELECTION POLICY – JUNIOR PLAYERS

1 General Guidelines for Selecting Juniors

- 1.1 Yeovil and Sherborne Hockey Club aims to operate a fair selection policy allowing for all junior members to have a chance of playing in a fixture for the Club and adhere to the following guidelines regarding selection:
- 1.2 The Club will take a long-term view of the development of all its young players in line with the principles of Long Term Athlete Development adopted within England Hockey's Single System.
- 1.3 Junior members playing in junior team will in theory all be given a chance to play in a fixture. Generally there is only one junior team per age group.
- 1.4 The Club will abide by the England Hockey centralised calendar and the priority this provides to ensure that young players at each stage of their development are given the opportunity to play and train at the right level for them without being overplayed.
- 1.5 All selection will be made in line with the principles outlined in the EH Equity Policy and EH Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy adopted by this Club.

2 Juniors Playing in Senior Teams

- 2.1 The Club will enforce that no young person under the age of 13 (on 1st January of the season being played) is to play in an adult competition.
- 2.2 **Juniors Attending Senior's Training.** Individual junior members who meet the minimum age requirements laid-down by England Hockey AND who are deemed capable may be permitted to train with seniors on the recommendation of the Director of Hockey/Head Coach.
- 2.3 **Juniors Playing in Senior Teams.** Individual junior members who meet the minimum age requirements laid-down by England Hockey AND who are deemed capable may be permitted to play in senior matches on the recommendation of the Director of Hockey/Head Coach.
- 2.4 **Selection.** Junior members playing in senior teams will be picked at the Captains' Weekly Selection Meetings in consultation with the Director of Sport/Head Coach and Club Coaches: It is the aim of the Club to give all members a game whenever possible.
- 2.5 The Club aims to give junior members confidence to enjoy and play to their best ability in senior matches which can result in players being dropped to a lower team if they are not performing well to give them their confidence back and allow them to rebuild their skills.

- 2.6 For young players eligible to be involved in adult teams, careful consideration will be given to ensure that the distance travelled is proportional to the likely pitch time for the young player. As a guide, it is suggested that players who will play less than half a game should not travel for longer than 60 minutes.

3 Internal Selection Discipline

- 3.1 Any player bringing the Club into disrepute may be subject to disciplinary action by the Club Discipline Sub-Committee.

4 Safety

- 4.1 For safety players should:
- 4.1.1 Warm up and stretch before a match.
 - 4.1.2 Warm down after a match.
 - 4.1.3 Wear astro trainers, shin pads and a gum shield.
 - 4.1.4 Remove jewellery such as earrings, watches etc.
 - 4.1.5 Bring a drink to avoid dehydration.