

A PARENTS GUIDE TO CHILD PROTECTION IN HOCKEY

Hockey provides a great opportunity for young people. Playing Hockey provides opportunities for enjoyment and achievement and it also helps develop valuable qualities such as self-esteem, leadership and teamwork in all those involved. These positive effects are more likely to occur if the people leading the activity place the welfare of all young people first and adopt practices that support, protect and empower them. Coaches, Officials and Volunteers can have a great influence on young people and therefore their conduct is important.

Scottish Hockey, Districts and Clubs are working hard to ensure that hockey is a safe sport for young people to participate in. To do this hockey needs everyone to be involved. These guidelines will help you be aware of the standards you should expect of the hockey club, the coaches and other volunteers when they are responsible for your children.

1 CONDUCT TO BE EXPECTED BY COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS

- make sport fun, enjoyable and promote fair play
- treat all children equally, with respect and dignity
 - involve parents wherever possible
 - build balanced relationships based on mutual trust that empower children to share in the decision-making process
- always work in an open environment. Avoid private or unobserved situations
- put the welfare of each child first before winning or achieving performance goals
- be an excellent role model including not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of children
- give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- All forms of physical contact should respect and be sensitive to the needs and wishes of the child
- provide support openly, with the child's understanding and consent
- educational instruction should be delivered verbally and by demonstration
- where necessary, 'hands on' physical contact should be proportionate to the task and accompanied with an explanation to the child
- recognise the developmental needs and capacity of children and avoid excessive training or competition and either pushing them against their will or putting undue pressure on them.

2 WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT FROM THE CLUB?

- Well Organised Sessions
- Start and finish on time
- Enough coaches, volunteers and helpers for the number of children
- Gather relevant information about the children at the start of the season
- Maintain a register for each session
- Maintain a record of any injuries that occur
- Communicate plans of training, matches and social events regularly
- Give parents the opportunity to become involved in sessions
- An appropriate response to any concerns or complaints about the club in line with the Child Protection Policy Guidelines
- Coaches and volunteers who are appropriately qualified, recruited and selected

3 WHAT THE CLUB NEEDS FROM YOU

- Ensuring the club has appropriate information about your child at all times (Contact details, Details of injury or medication etc)
- Put appropriate arrangements for the collection of your child at the end of sessions
- Support and attendance at training, games and social functions to ensure appropriate supervision is provided

If you are unhappy with the conduct of sessions or activity, you should first discuss this with the coach in charge of the sessions. If you are still unhappy you should take the matter to the club's youth convenor or organiser. If the matter is a child protection issue you should raise it with the clubs Child Protection Officer. ParentLine Scotland (0808 800 2222) also provides a confidential advice service if you have any concerns.

Further information regarding the clubs Child Protection Policy and a copy of the policy is available from the clubs Child protection Officer.