



Cambridge Nomads  
Hockey Club

## Cambridge Nomads Hockey Club - Juniors FAQ

- Can my child give hockey a try for a few weeks before joining?
  - Yes absolutely. We want to give as many kids as possible an opportunity to try hockey. However, we still would like you to register with the Club via our website so that we have your contact information and other important things like medical information.
- How do we register?
  - Go to our website ([www.cambridgenomadshockeyclub.co.uk](http://www.cambridgenomadshockeyclub.co.uk)), and click on Join Club. This will ask you to register with Pitchero which is the system we use to manage the club. You need to register as a Parent (in your name) and then it will enable you to create your child's account which is a separate account. Further instructions are available on the website or we can email them to you.
- What age groups do you run?
  - We start at U8 and run through to U15/16 which is when we transition juniors into the senior club. Each age group for the season is defined by your child's age on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.
- When is coaching / training?
  - U8 to U12 train on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 8.30pm for U8-U12 and 8.30pm to 9.30pm for U14/15
  - Training is at the Cambridge University Sports Ground on Wilberforce Road (map on the website).
  - Please try and be there just before the start of the session so we can make a prompt start and if you are disappearing to keep warm.
  - Please also be there on time at the end to collect your child – our coaches don't provide a childcare service!
  - Training runs all season – which is from the start of September to the end of March
  - We don't run sessions on the weeks that fall in the school holidays.
- Are your coaching sessions run by age group?
  - Yes, to a degree. Our groups are broadly defined by the age groups but also consider experience and ability.
  - With sessions on two nights, we will talk to you if we think your child needs to train on a different evening.
  - We can try and accommodate your child in a different session if the timings aren't convenient but there are limits to this!



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- In terms of matches we have teams at U8, U10, U12 and U14 with some U16 games.
- Your child is not limited by age group – we'd encourage the stronger players to play matches with an older age group if they felt confident enough to do so. It's all about finding the right level for your child where they are enjoying their hockey.
- **Are the coaches qualified?**
  - Each group is led by an England Hockey qualified coach.
  - A number of our other coaches also have England Hockey qualifications
  - All coaches and helpers are DBS-checked
- **What does my child need to bring?**
  - The main things are a gum shield and shin pads. These are mandatory for safety – if they don't have them, they may not be allowed to play.
  - If you don't have a stick, we have some they can borrow for the evening until they get their own. Coaches can provide advice on buying a stick if you need it.
  - It will be cold during the season so warm clothing to wear before and after is important.
  - A bottle of water is always good to have
- **When there is bad weather, will training & matches always be on?**
  - Not always. If the pitch is icy or there is snow it may be unsafe to play. A notice will be put on the website and an email/notification sent out via Pitchero. Please check your email or the Pitchero app before you travel.
- **Do we need to buy club kit?**
  - No, it's not essential but we do encourage the kids to look part of the club.
  - The main kit relevant to kids is available on the Samurai club shop website - <https://samuraiclubshops.com/uk/cambridgenomadshc/>. You can order directly from there and it will be delivered to you in 2-3 weeks.
  - We also have playing kit which is more aimed at the seniors although juniors are welcome to buy a shirt, shorts or socks. These are ordered through the club not the Samurai shop – an order form can be found on the website along with instructions.
  - We provide playing shirts for matches so no need to buy anything for these.



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- **How much does it cost & how do I pay?**
  - Subscriptions are paid to cover the whole of the season and covers the cost of pitch hire as well as tournament entry fees etc.
  - The subscriptions for juniors are £70 per child. If you pay before 31<sup>st</sup> October, there is a discount taking it down to £64.
  - Once you have registered on Pitchero and have decided to stay, you will be sent a request to pay through the site. You can also find the subs on the Shop page of the website.
  - There may be match fees payable for specific tournaments which should also be paid through Pitchero – your coach will let you know about these.
  
- **Are there tournaments or matches? When are they?**
  - Yes, we do have a number of tournaments throughout the year against other clubs. Our U14 teams play in the local England Hockey league. Our U8, U10 and U12 teams play friendly tournaments.
  - The dates of these are posted on the website
  - Before each one, the coach leading each age group will message you via Pitchero asking for availability. You'll then be informed on selection. Our policy on selection is guided by our philosophy of making sure everyone plays and experiences playing the tournaments – we don't pick just on who is the best.
  - You'll get an email on selection with details of where and when you need to be.
  - If your child is selected it is really important that they then play. Pulling out, at the last minute, unless for something unavoidable like illness, is not acceptable and is a real hassle for our volunteer coaches.
  
- **My child is unwell for training or a tournament. Do I have to tell someone?**
  - For training, no you don't need to tell anyone.
  - For tournaments it is really important that you tell your coach asap. You must give us as much notice as possible as we may need to find other replacement players.
  
- **How do I make sure my child is left safely with you each week and collected by myself?**
  - We take the safety of your children very seriously. Please make sure your child gets safely onto the pitch – please walk them to the pitch-side or at least to the pitch gates.
  - After training, please meet your child on the pitch or at the gates. Don't meet them in the car park or in the leisure centre.



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- We are not able to monitor who children leave with after a session – please make sure you are there in good time to collect your child from the pitch.
- **How is communication with the club done?**
  - Most communication will be via email and the Pitchero app. So, it's important that you are registered and we have all your details on Pitchero.
- **How does Pitchero work?**
  - Pitchero is a platform for lots of different sports clubs. You may also be registered on it with another club.
  - Children under 14 can't have their own account – so as the parent you create an account and link it to your child's record on the membership database. All comms will come to you.
  - All club payments are made through Pitchero.
  - We recommend you download the Pitchero app. But you can manage everything through the website.
- **Do you have a club welfare officer?**
  - Yes, Rachel Gooch is the club welfare officer. You can contact her with any questions at [welfare@nomadshc.co.uk](mailto:welfare@nomadshc.co.uk)
  - We adhere to all safe guarding guidance from England Hockey and our policies can be found on the website
- **What happens when my child reaches 14 and wants to keep playing hockey?**
  - We want to make sure your child continues to play hockey long after they finish with the juniors. The speed at which they make the transition into senior hockey is up to you and them.
  - Once they are 13 years old they are allowed to play adult hockey if they want to.
  - We try and provide a range of options including U16 matches and Badgers hockey (a mix of juniors and coaches) to support the transition.
  - There is a specific pdf on transition that you can download from the Information section of the website
  - Each child is welcome to explore each option in parallel until you have worked out what you think is best and you can change at any point as well.
  - We strongly encourage you to discuss the options with one of our coaches as they approach this period.



**Cambridge Nomads  
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- **Can I help?**
  - **Yes, you can. You will be welcomed with open arms! You don't need to have hockey knowledge – there are plenty of admin or organisational roles. If you do have some hockey experience, we are always looking for more coaches and can support your development as a coach if that interest you.**
  - **Any volunteering you do may require a DBS check depending on the role.**