



Parent Club Guide

Most parents want their children to enjoy the sports of their choice. These guidelines provide you with key information when selecting a club /playing opportunity for your child. It provides you with ideas of questions to ask and ensure that both you and your child understand the way the club works, and your roles and responsibilities.

What can we expect from the club?

- A friendly welcome, an opportunity to meet new friends play and watch hockey
- Opportunities for your child to have fun and develop their game as much as they want to
- A safe environment
- Qualified coaches and responsible volunteers
- Relationships based on trust, honesty and respect where your child is valued and listened to
- Your child's welfare and safety is paramount (but only the club's focus when the child/ren are on the AstroTurf training or playing)
- Club members will recognise your child's rights, whatever your age, gender, culture, ability, language, religious belief, racial origin, and/or sexual identity
- Opportunities for you to get involved in the club
- Safeguarding and Protecting Young People / Child Protection Policy and Complaints Policy are available for you on request
- Clear lines of communication with you about your child, fixtures, training and events

What do the club expect from my child?

There is a guide for young people which details the club's expectations which include:

- fair play
- listening to the coaches
- adhere to the young people's code of conduct
- adhere to the rules of the game and rules of the club

What do the club expect from me?

The club does expect you to....

- accompany your child to and from the AstroTurf for training, and the designated drop-off and collection point for matches – PLEASE do not just drop them off in the car-park, as you will have no guarantee that the session for that day is definitely on, or that the coaches are there to look after your children (as they may have been unavoidably detained for some reason).
- Adhere by the club rules and codes of conduct
- Register your child on the club website (by registering yourself) AND MAINTAINING ALL REQUIRED EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS AND MEDICAL INFORMATION that the club should know about – it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to ensure it is up to date on the website, as this is the source the club will use for its most up-to-date information
- Be aware that the club and its coaches only expect to look after the wellbeing of your child/ren whilst they are on the AstroTurf training/playing – at all other times they are YOUR responsibility. If children are unsure of where toilets are, they may be accompanied by a coach/assistant to ensure they do not get lost, but otherwise if a player leaves the AstroTurf at the session they attend, the responsibility for their safety lies with you as parents/carers/guardians.

The club may expect you to....

- stay with your son/daughter when they are at the club
- ensure that your son/daughter is dropped off and picked up promptly from the club and matches
- contact the club if you are running late to collect your child
- adhere to the rules of the club
- adhere to the codes of conduct within the club, in particular the Parents Code of Conduct
- accept the guidance that coaches provide and umpire's decisions within matches



- use correct language at all times
- stay off the pitch during training and matches
- never force your child to participate
- provide emergency contact details and any relevant information about your child including medical history.

The Club would like you to...

- become involved in the club as much as possible. This provides your child with the support to enjoy their hockey
- support the coaches by ensuring your child enjoys their hockey and plays within the rules of the game
- encourage fair play
- encourage your child to recognise good performance, not just results

Always Check

- The qualifications and experience of the coaches
- The ratio of adults to young people complies with EH guidance
- How young people are looked after if they are not playing
- The club has clear codes of conduct stating expected behaviour of members, players and coaches
- What happens if there is an accident?
- Does the club have a child protection policy?
- How does the club manage any issues, which may arise i.e. bullying?
- The club's policy on screening and CRB checking adults working with young people

Club's Social Media Policy

- It is accepted that Social Media is a significant aspect of modern communication
- OSHC has very active Social Media accounts on Twitter (@silshockeynews and @silshockeyclub) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/Solihull.Hockey.Club)
- These accounts are monitored on a regular basis, and only certain users have access to publish information on behalf of the Club however, comments etc. posted by others cannot be fully controlled, but will be removed if in breach of the Club's Social Media policy (see

Questions to seek clarification

- My child has never played hockey before; can they come along and try out a couple of sessions?

Absolutely no problem at all – we have a coaching staff and set up which caters for players of all ages and abilities, and can even provide all playing kit for the first few weeks if required as well.

- When is training?

As a standard, training is 10am – 11am (for U6s, U8s, U10s) and 11.15am – 12.45pm (for 10-14 year olds) on Sunday mornings at the Club; with breaks for holidays. This schedule may change slightly dependent upon matches etc. but the website will contain these details as they come about.

- When are the matches?

OSHC Juniors play 7-a-side matches against local clubs on Sunday mornings; details can be downloaded from the club website under Teams and then the relevant age group – and then select Fixtures & Results. For players aged over 12, for most, adult hockey will be offered, with matches being played on Saturday afternoons, plus there are also the “bridging” options of and some more competitive matches and tournaments played across the Midlands and sometimes Nationally. Please view the relevant information within the Player Development section to view what options there are to provide additional stretch and development for your child,

- What kit do we need to buy?



Initially nothing other than shin-pads and preferably a gum-shield; over time, you may wish to buy a stick, but one of these can be provided initially – you obviously need to ensure that you have suitable footwear for playing on an AstroTurf as well.

- Are the coaches qualified?

We have a great network of coaches who all have England Hockey Board qualifications or accreditations at varying levels, and our coaches are extremely experienced at coaching at all different levels. We follow all the current guidelines around competence of coaches and delivery of Safe Hockey (please see further information here to understand the framework within which we operate - <https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/governance/duty-of-care-in-hockey/safe-hockey>)

- Are the adults helping with the teams checked and trained?

Yes, all key volunteers that regularly assist with Juniors have received the relevant Welfare training, and have clear DBS checks, whilst all other Volunteers are carefully monitored and are never left alone with children without fully qualified coaches being around.

- Does my child have to share changing facilities with adult players?

No – in line with Child Protection and Safeguarding guidelines, separate changing is provided for those U18s who require it.

- Do the club have social events?

Yes, we currently have a limited number of annual events including an annual awards' dinner, a Charity quiz, and a Mixed Hockey festival – some of these have age restrictions on, but we do also ensure we have a social calendar which includes plenty of age-appropriate events for our junior members as well.

- How much does it cost to be a member of the club?

This depends on when you join and what level of involvement your child has, as well as their age – please review the various other pages to see exactly how much each tariff is; but most importantly, if financial cost is a barrier to your child playing, we do also have a hardship fund with which we can help families out – we do not want cost to be a reason for not playing hockey.

- How are away matches organised?

Away matches are organised by our Head of Juniors and co-ordinated with our Age Group Team Managers. Please review the Player Development section and documents to see how we provide suitable options for your child to play (Right Athlete Right Environment – RARE).

- Is there a first aider on site?

All our Lead coaches are 1st Aid trained, as are a key number of clubhouse staff; though it is not necessarily strictly guaranteed that there will always be a qualified 1st aider on site at all times.

- Is the club affiliated to England Hockey?

Yes, and is also ClubsMark accredited.

- Who should my child or I speak to if we have a concern?

Please see the final question below.

Communication

The club will need to ensure they can contact if required, so they should ask you for your contact details. It is part of the hockey philosophy that you are involved in your child's interest. Please ensure that you build a relationship with the coach and support the club by completing all paperwork required.

Communication is two way and if you have any questions or concerns about your child's participation in hockey please talk to his/her coach.

What do I do if I am concerned about my child's safety, well being or behaviour?

- The Club has a Welfare Officer – Cara Bowley: 07976726783 or carabowley1@aol.com
- Please ask to speak with them and explain your concerns
- All concerns will be taken seriously and investigated
- All concerns will be treated in the strictest confidence, with only the people who can help the situation becoming involved if required