



Droitwich Spa Hockey Club **Child Protection Policy**



This policy adheres to the primary principle of the Children Act 1989, in that:
“The interests of the Child are Paramount”

Aim

The overarching purpose of this policy is to ensure that the interests of all children under the age of 16 years of age, associated with Droitwich Spa Hockey Club are safeguarded and promoted.

Statement of Policy

Children are encouraged to participate in the life of Droitwich Spa Hockey Club. Their participation should be a positive experience for the child's Sporting and Social Development.

To ensure that the experience is a positive one, Droitwich Spa Hockey Club makes this commitment to protect its child members from any form of abuse, which includes:

Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse and Neglect

The following principles extend to the ethos of the Club as a whole:

- ⇒ Discrimination is damaging and will not be tolerated in any form.
- ⇒ Inappropriate language is unacceptable. This includes racist, sexist or abusive language.

The responsibility for preventing and reporting any suspected cases of abuse lies with all DSHC members. The club, through the committee and members, shall be proactive in ensuring that child members are not exposed to abusive or damaging situations. All adults working with Children in a coaching role will be subject to the appropriate security checks. The club will ensure that any coach without the official vetting will not be expected or allowed to work with children unless an appropriately qualified person is present.

Parental consent

It is an unfortunate fact that Hockey players do receive injuries from time to time on the field of play. Usually these injuries do not extend beyond minor cuts and bruises. Coaches should monitor the physical condition of a child during training sessions and matches in order to minimise any injuries.

Parental Consent forms must be completed in respect of emergency medical treatment.

Parental Consent will be also be sought with regard to children travelling to away venues with other adult members, or parents of other child members.



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Responding and Reporting

All coaches, leaders, and any other adults working with Child members will be issued a copy of ;

“English Hockey: Child Protection Guidelines for Good Practice”

The following extract summarises the action to be taken in the event of any concern:

If there is any concern that a child is being abused, either by what is said, or any other indicators, the person receiving the information should:

- Take what the Child says seriously
- React calmly so as not to frighten the child
- Reassure the child that they are not to blame, and that they are right to tell
- Do not make promises either of confidentiality or of an outcome
- Ask the minimum amount of questions, ask only questions like: “When did this happen?”, “How did this happen?”, “Who did this?”, “What has happened”. Do not use leading questions that can be seen as ‘putting words in their mouth’
- Make a full record of what has been said, seen or heard as soon as possible
- Find out from the child if immediate protection is needed

If any club member has concerns that a child has been subjected to any form of abuse then the member will report the matter to the *Junior Welfare Officer*. In more serious or urgent cases, it may be necessary to report the concern to the Social Services Department, NSPCC, or to the Police.

The same procedure will apply if the allegation or concern involves a club coach or leader, additionally, the club will officially notify the Chief Executive’s office of the EHA

Club members are not expected to be able to confirm or even allege abuse, they are only expected to report any concerns. Remember that the interests of the Child are paramount.

The *Junior Welfare Officer* will act on behalf of the club to monitor and review this policy annually.

Policy Agreed

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Position:</u>	<u>Signature:</u>	<u>Date:</u>
Simon Blackmore	Club Chairman
Debbie Slater	Club Secretary
Lorna Davidson	Junior Development Manager
Jan Taylor	Junior Welfare Officer

Signed copy of this document will be held in the club file.