

Selection Policy

Selection Structure

Team selection will be undertaken by the respective Men's and Ladies Selection Committees. Each Selection Committee will include the Section Club Captain, all relevant Team Captains, section coaches and input as appropriate (particularly for the 1st XI) coming from the Head Coach.

Although both Mens and Ladies selection committees share the same aims and criteria, the implementation of this policy may vary due to the practicalities involved.

The transition of Academy players through to senior hockey will be jointly managed by the relevant Selection committee, the Academy Lead coach and the coaches and team managers of the relevant Academy teams i.e. Badgers. The Academy Lead coach and section coaches will agree the readiness of players to join Senior training and to be considered by the senior Selection Committees. Transition will only commence once this has been discussed with the player and their parent/guardian. Minimum playing ages for Senior Hockey leagues must be complied with at all times.

Selection Aims

At Timperley Hockey Club, the Selection Committee mandate is to produce, with the players available, the best available teams, playing the best standard of Hockey that they can. Selection will be based on the criteria set out below given the requirements of the Club, the individual teams, the development of young or talented players and taking into account league rules to try and avoid "tying" players AND retain flexibility for selection.

The Selection Committee will always strive to be as fair and considered as possible, without damaging the needs of the Club and the Teams. Some disappointment for Members regarding which team they are selected for is unavoidable. It is important that Members understand and accept that if they are asked to move up or down teams it is with the best interest of the Club.

It is reasonable for the Selection Committee and Club to promote the development of committed young players and other talented players, and may therefore seek to ensure their inclusion into appropriate teams. However, it is also important to recognise that we all play Hockey for different reasons and these are equally valid.

It is the aim of the Selection Committees to offer a Saturday League Game and/or Sunday EH Game to all (and only) paid up Members who have confirmed their availability in good time. Squad size will be determined based on a number of criteria and where there is oversupply player rotation will operate.

Selection Criteria

First and foremost, it is each individual players responsibility to make known his/her availability to their relevant team captain and to keep this information current and up to date. Team Captains are not expected to have to chase individual players for this information and this should be done using the method defined by the relevant Selection Committee.

Team Selection will be drawn from the collated information on Member Availability provided by the players themselves using the agreed methodology in place to collate availability. It is noted that the men's and ladies sections use different tools to do this and that process varies for 1st XI squads. It is the responsibility of all players to ensure that they are aware of the process they need to follow and are able to do so.

Decisions concerning selections are based upon a range of criteria, such as but not limited to the following..-

- Playing ability & current form
- Fitness & Athleticism
- Attendance at training
- Availability for matches
- Development Potential
- Fit to team*
- Payment of subscriptions and match fees
- Disciplinary record

*Fit to team covers aspects such as balance of playing positions, experience, objectives of teams for season etc. It is more relevant for the teams that are closer in standard.

Guiding Principles

1. We all play for Timperley Hockey Club and not for any particular team
2. Decisions made by the Selection Committee must adhere to league rules
3. Players should provide a rolling view of availability for 4 weeks. Where availability is not known 4 weeks in advance then players should provide an initial indication and note this as not confirmed.
4. Availability must be confirmed by 6pm on Saturday of the previous week. Should a player's availability change after this time they must contact the captain for the team they have been selected for directly and notify them of the changes.
5. The club will endeavour to fulfil its league obligations get as many members games as possible each weekend, subject to point 3.
6. For players who have limited availability, the Selection Committee will proactively work to get games for the players if the timing does not work out for their game. However, this is not guaranteed.
7. Players are expected to be flexible as to where they play based on the rules above, the league rules, registration constraints and section availability.
8. Selection starts from the top team and works down the sides taking account of criteria
9. All teams with THC are mutually supportive.
10. Team Captains and Squad Managers should recognise that where their decisions have (or are likely to have), an impact upon another team or individuals enjoyment or ability to fulfil a fixture then they have an obligation to discuss this with the relevant team captain or at selection committee in advance and work to mitigate any perceived negative impact.
11. Selection for all EH competitions will follow standard criteria.

Selection Communication

Weekly selection will be published as soon as possible following Tuesday night training. The intention is that for players moving between teams if they are in attendance at training they will be told before selection is published by the relevant coach or team captain. For players not at training they will be contacted by the relevant coach or team captain but it may not be possible for this to be a conversation ahead of selection being published.

It is accepted that when unforeseen circumstances such as late changes or 'drop-outs' do occur, these should be by exception and not a regular occurrence. In normal circumstances, where late changes are required, the higher team shall take preference.

However, it has been agreed by the Mens selection committee that after 20.00 on Thursday, changes must be agreed with the lower team captain, and with particular reference to note (9), above.

Team captains should make every effort to explain to the player concerned the reasoning behind a decision made to move the player down a team and only in very exceptional circumstances should players be dropped more than one team per week.

ACADEMY TEAMS

England Hockey recommends using the 7-a-side format (half pitch) to develop younger players and core skills, prior to the transition to 11-a-side on a full pitch. We recognise that young players develop at different paces and have differing needs so we try to use the variety of teams and formats to help all players develop.

We now run 17-20 mixed, boys or girls teams from U10 to U16 in the academy to give all players the opportunity to develop playing in matches from:

- ✓ fun introductory mini tournaments - under 8/10 (Sundays)
- ✓ Greater Manchester tournaments (GMJHL) U10/11/13 and 15 (Sundays)
- ✓ Regular fixtures Badger, Blue Badgers and Beavers v North West Clubs (Saturdays)
- ✓ England Hockey Regional/National Championships - U10/12/14/16 (Sundays)
- ✓ Senior hockey (Saturdays)

Beavers/Badgers are mixed gender, mixed ability teams playing full pitch 11-a-side hockey. This year we are running three teams Beavers, Blue Badgers and Badgers. Players will often be rotated to give all an opportunity to play – coaches will look at Saturday and Sunday fixtures to try and offer as many players a game as is feasible.

The only teams we select purely on merit and picking our strongest squad are those competing in England Hockey Championship Games.

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