

## Guide for junior players moving up to the senior teams

Sutton Coldfield Hockey Club aims to provide competitive and fun hockey to players of all ages and abilities. We want junior players to have the opportunity to play for the senior teams once they are old enough to do so. This leaflet is designed to let you know how this process works and what you can expect.



<http://www.suttoncoldfieldhc.co.uk/>



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# Sutton Coldfield Hockey Club

**Age requirements** – players can play for the Badgers team from age 12 and in senior league teams from their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday (not the whole season they turn 13). Whilst players can play senior hockey from age 13, the club will do so when we are confident they are ready.

## **Badgers hockey**

Badgers hockey is a great introduction to senior hockey, teams are composed of up to 3 adult players and the rest of the team are juniors. Badgers hockey is designed to encourage junior players and with this in mind, for example, the adults are not allowed to shoot/score. The league runs Badger fixtures in a non-competition format – there is no league although the games themselves are competitive. Both girls and boys can play in Badger games.

The number of Badger teams depends on the availability of adult players (men & ladies) to run the teams and transport players to fixtures. **The more parents willing to pick up a stick and play, the more Badger teams we can run, so if you are keen, let us know.**

## **Senior league hockey**

We know that junior players love to play matches and playing for the senior clubs gives them the chance to play regularly. With 8 men's and 7 ladies' teams, the senior clubs offer them the chance to play competitive matches weekly.

The ladies' teams play in the Warwickshire, Midlands and National leagues, the men's teams play in the Midlands league. Teams play home and away fixtures, typically 18-22 league matches per season depending on the number of teams in each division, plus pre-season friendlies. Friendlies start in September and the league season usually runs from late September/early October to the end of March/early April.

Normal league matches take place on Saturdays, with start times between 10am – 5pm for ladies matches and 11.30am – 4pm for men, if fixtures are postponed due to bad weather, the rearranged game will usually take place on a Sunday.

## **Senior Summer league**

The Summer league runs from May to August on weekday evenings. There are currently three ladies' and one men's Summer League teams. Players interested in playing Summer league should let their captain know before the end of the main season.

# Sutton Coldfield Hockey Club

## Selection

Selection is based on age, experience and ability. The intention is to allow juniors to start playing senior hockey at a level that they will find enjoyable and have the right level of challenge. Younger or more inexperienced players will start in lower teams where the game will be at a standard and pace that will allow them to learn and adapt to senior hockey.

Whilst we prefer consistent sides to play every week, this is not always possible. Players can sometimes be selected for a different team week to week. If a captain is short of players, junior players may be called into a higher team for a week and then return to their previous team, this is normal and we encourage young players to treat it as an opportunity to gain experience at a higher level. Depending on how fixtures fall, players moving between teams can end up with a run of away or home fixtures in a row, this will tend to even out over the whole season.

## Progress

At SCHC we provide hockey for all abilities and that the selection process is designed to allow each player to play at a level that is suitable for them and progress at their own pace. As junior players get older, more experienced and physically bigger/stronger they will be considered for higher teams. There are many factors that go into selection of juniors, including ability, experience, physical/emotional maturity, position played, commitment to training and availability - **players who play regularly will be considered ahead of those who rarely make themselves available.**

Players and parents should not worry if others in their age group are playing in a different team, the many factors listed above will influence this. Juniors starting league hockey at age 13 have 6 seasons before they finish their secondary education, there is plenty of time for all young players to develop and progress. If your child is promoted to a higher side but would be happier playing with friends in a lower side then please have that discussion with the relevant captain.

## COMMUNICATION

The captain for each team contacts the players selected (usually by text or WhatsApp) to confirm the time of that week's match and players must respond to confirm availability. For players under 16 this communication will be with parents. For players 16-18 parents can give consent for their child to be contacted direct. On match days please make sure your child knows their availability for the following Saturday so they can let their captain know.

## Travel to matches

### Home fixtures

These take place at Wyndley Leisure Centre, Bishop Vesey Grammar School and Doug Ellis Sports Centre (at Birmingham City University, Perry Barr campus). Players are expected to get themselves to home matches but let your captain know if you have a problem.

Players taking part in home matches have teas provided after the match back at the clubhouse in Rectory Park. We encourage and welcome all players and parents to come to the clubhouse as it helps with teambuilding and it is an opportunity to socialise with the rest of the team, other teams and the opposition.

### Away fixtures

Depending on the league the team is in, can take place across Warwickshire or the whole Midlands region. The principle is generally the lower sides play more local matches. For away matches, teams meet at the clubhouse in Rectory Park, the captain will set a meet time. Senior players drive the team in their cars. For teams with lots of juniors, occasionally the captain may ask parents to help drive players to matches.

Some parents like to attend matches and opt to take their child direct to the venue, if you are going to do this, please let the captain know, they will confirm the location and required meet time at the pitch.

It is very important that players are available to play home and away. You should liaise with your captain as to the time that they will get back to Sutton. Young players can go into the clubhouse whilst they wait to be picked up.

### **Safeguarding**

We take the welfare of all players seriously and the club has in place a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check in place for all team captains. Captains also complete England Hockey's Safeguarding course. If you ever want to discuss the club's arrangements for safeguarding or any other welfare issue then please contact the welfare officer –

Ladies' club: Karen Slater, 07799574503, [karenslater9@hotmail.com](mailto:karenslater9@hotmail.com)

Men's club: Peter Westbrook, 07710811249, [peter@key-performance.com](mailto:peter@key-performance.com)



# Sutton Coldfield Hockey Club

## Playing kit

For league hockey all players must wear the correct home and away colours. All away teams play in white shirts & socks to avoid kit clashes.

### Ladies' kit –

Home – pink shirt, purple skort, pink socks (hence the nickname The Mighty Pinks)

Away – white shirt, purple skort, white socks

### Men's kit –

Home – red shirt, navy shorts, red socks

Away – white shirt, navy shorts, white socks

Our kit supplier will issue players with a squad number when the shirt is ordered. A range of training kits is also available. Details of current kit supplier will be available at registration.

## Training

The cost of Senior training is included in membership

### Ladies

Junior development training every **Tuesday** evening from **6-7pm** at Wyndley Leisure Centre.

This session is targeted at U13, U14 and U16 girls and welcomes new players.

Junior players with a game at the weekend then train with their team from **7-8pm**

Development Goal-keepers: Tuesday 6-7pm

### Men

Junior development training every **Tuesday** evening from **6-7pm** at Wyndley Leisure Centre.

Weekly training for all members on **Wednesday** evenings from the beginning of September, from 19:00 till 20:30 at Wyndley Leisure Centre.

## Membership and subscription

To play for the senior clubs junior players need to complete a membership form and pay their subscription, this is in addition to junior membership. Representatives of the senior clubs will be at the Junior Club registration events so you can find out everything you need to join the seniors.

Details of current senior subscriptions are available on the club website:

<http://www.suttoncoldfieldhc.co.uk/information>