



Southern Districts Hockey Club Junior and Youth Playing Policy

1. Objective

The objective of the Southern Districts Hockey Club Junior and Youth playing policy is to detail the guidelines that should be used for the training, management and guidance of youth and junior hockey players within the Club.

2. Club Junior and Youth Hockey Policy

- A. The policy of Southern Districts Hockey Club shall be to promote Hockey at junior and youth levels for all
- B. It shall be the Club policy to encourage junior players to progress to the senior playing sides and to higher levels where possible with the support of the Club.
- C. All players shall have equal opportunity.
- D. The guidelines contained in this policy shall be applied in conjunction with the Constitution of Southern Districts Hockey Club where rules apply to membership, registrations, and playing matters, and match fees.

3. General

- A. All players, managers and parents will be expected to follow the guidelines for spectators and officials
- B. The number of teams entered in any competition will be decided by the Club Management Committee annually depending on the number of players available and the parental support.
- C. The structure of the Club and its management is based on a single Club basis with junior players progressing to Youth teams from the older junior teams.
- D. In competitions coaches and managers shall be actively encouraged to include all squad members in matches throughout the season to ensure all players have the same opportunity to develop equally.
- E. All junior and youth are expected to be 'financial' at the start of the season with fees paid at registration. Players shall not be barred from junior hockey activities at the Club where special financial considerations need to be considered. Decisions relating to these issues shall be kept confidential and a matter between the team manager, treasurer and junior club captain only in so far as it affects the rules of the Club on membership.

3.1 Support

Four areas will support the Youth/Junior Policy:

1. The management committee
2. Junior/Youth Sub Committee
3. Team coaches, managers & assistants
4. Parents

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Management Committee

- A. The management committee shall have responsibility for the appointment of coaches and managers and shall ensure as far as they are able that the person is suitable personally and skilled in hockey skills to a sufficient standard.
- B. The management committee shall endeavour to ensure that a person suitably trained in first aid is in attendance at all training and matches to provide first aid or life saving should the need arise. The management committee will actively support coaches and managers, who wish to attend courses by recognised bodies.
- C. Coaches of junior teams shall normally be appointed annually
- D. The Club Management Committee shall be responsible for all administrative and financial matters relating to junior teams.
- E. The Management Committee shall be responsible for providing playing equipment for junior teams and making available suitable training facilities and equipment (subject to financial constraints). Equipment etc. over and above that normally supplied by the Club shall be the subject of discussion by the full Management Committee.

4.2 Parents Responsibilities

The parents shall have the following responsibilities:

- To ensure players are guided through their games with sympathy and encouragement
- To ensure players are allowed to play without constant hindrance from the sidelines
- To ensure players are supported and applauded for good play and good behaviour
- To ensure players are not criticised for mistakes
- To set a good example as adults

Parents are expected to collect their children from training, matches, etc. promptly at the appropriate time. (Coaches/Managers shall be responsible for ensuring that no child is left alone at the end of training, matches, etc. A suitable adult must be left with the child until they are collected or taken home by an adult.)

4.3. Team Managers Responsibilities & Guidelines

- A. It shall be the responsibility of junior and youth team coaches/managers to develop the hockey skills of the junior players and promote sportsmanship and social recreation amongst its members.
- B. All coaches/managers should be aware that the way in which young players are trained throughout their hockey career can influence the way they approach life as whole.
- C. Senior Team coaches/managers may be required to assist the junior policy by encouraging senior players to provide assistance with junior training and to include older age group players in senior squads as a way of introduction to senior hockey
- D. It is the responsibility of all coaches/managers to ensure that junior/youth players are **NOT** overplayed.
- E. Junior Team coaches' responsibilities shall include the following:
 - Provision of suitable training plans, drills and small games for the team to allow their hockey skills to develop.
 - Ensuring that parents are kept fully informed of arrangements for meeting on match days and training sessions
 - Co-ordination of transport for the players to and from matches
 - Ensuring that suitable first aid equipment is available at training and matches to deal with minor incidents
 - Administrative matters relating to the junior team on match days
 - Accordance with the relevant hockey organisations rules
 - The safety and welfare of players while at training sessions and matches
 - Complying with the rules of all competitions in which they are entered and the rules of the Club that may be based on the administration of the competitions in which they are entered
 - Safety of the players within their squads at training sessions and matches
- f) It is not the Club policy that coaches/managers should reward their teams for winning matches.

5. Training Sessions

- A. The emphasis for training sessions organised for junior and youth teams shall be to
 - Encourage the players to enjoy their hockey
 - Improve their hockey skills
 - Aid their physical and mental development
- B. Training exercises shall be organised to include all squad members irrespective of skill level.
- C. Training sessions shall be varied to keep players interest. This is especially important at the younger age groups.
- D. Team coaches/ managers shall ensure that sufficient equipment e.g. hockey balls are available to include all team members in training drills.

- E. Coaches should make use of assistants/helpers where teams are divided into groups for training sessions. Coaches should monitor the progress of each group making sure that drills are carried out correctly.
- F. During training sessions team coaches are advised to stop play in matches to explain to players why something has been done incorrectly or to provide positional advice.
- G. Team coaches should make use where possible at all age groups of small-sided games during training sessions to develop skills.

6. Playing Structure

- A. Junior hockey within the Club shall be played in accordance with the structure of the Auckland Hockey Association Junior Competition (Small Sticks competitions).
- B. Youth hockey will be played in accordance of the rules of the AHA competition structure.

7. Complaints procedure

- A. If parents or players have any concerns regarding their team or the team their child is playing in, they should in the first instance contact the team coach or manager to discuss and resolve. If the concern remains unresolved, then contact the Grade Delegate. If still unresolved the concern should be taken to the Junior Club Captain who will work with the Club Management Committee to resolve.

If the concern is about a coach or manager, then the parent or player should contact the Grade delegate.