



SELECTION OF YOUNG PLAYERS FOR WOMEN'S ADULT TRAINING SQUADS

This document outlines how young players will be assigned to adult training squads for pre-season, what criteria will need to be met for players to remain with that squad after pre-season and how these players will be managed and supported as part of the full playing community.

Initial Selection

An initial selection is made based on a player's performance and potential in training and matches. Selection is also based on the attitude, coachability and commitment of the player. Whilst this assessment is subjective, nominated coaches, senior players and managers have been asked to look specifically at the junior players during summer training, league matches and sticks in sessions. Furthermore, player performance in the EH pathway and input from schools is also sought to ensure the Club has the most comprehensive picture possible. This information is gathered by the Head of Girls Junior Performance, presented to, and reviewed by adult team coaches.

Pre-Season

Players will be invited to join a specific adult team for pre-season. Pre-season is important as it is the optimum opportunity to train and stake a claim to be maintained in the training squad for the regular season. During pre-season, it will be possible for players to be moved up or down squads to better match their progress and harmonise with their ability to train at a particular level. As we move towards the start of the season, all-round playing standard, commitment at training and projected availability will be key selection criteria. The better the playing standard of the team, the more demanding the availability requirement will be. Ongoing discussions with schools and parents will help clarify availability. Generally, 'If you are good enough, committed enough, you are old enough'.

Start of the Season

To be ready for the season, teams will have shaken down their pre-season numbers to smaller training squads. These training squads are necessarily larger than a match day squad. This provides cover for injuries and other unforeseen occurrences, competition for places and training opportunities for a larger group of players. Squad sizes will be published and reviewed during the season.

This means that players (adult and junior) who train with a higher squad may play competitively for the next team down. The expectation is you will have given your availability to the Club and remain available for whichever team you are selected for on the Saturday. Every effort will be made to

select early in the week to enable players to train with the team that they will be competing with that week.

Regular coaches' meetings will take place during the season to review player performance and progress. The Head of Junior Performance will attend those meetings. Junior players that merit an opportunity to train up, will be offered a specified opportunity of say 3 sessions to see how they get on. They will either be retained or released back having gained experience and the process repeated during the season. Similarly, players may be moved down a squad. These decisions will be made on a player-by-player basis, as players develop at different rates.

Player Support

We are aware that not every player wants to commit to adult hockey or can meet the availability requirements. Furthermore, the Club also recognises that playing in adult teams requires a level of emotional robustness and physical maturity that is in addition to hockey ability, and so may need to give some players a little more time to adjust. Age Group and Academy opportunities and possibly occasional adult matches will still be open to these players.

Players identified as being 'on the Club Performance Pathway' will be asked to maintain their own profile with a focus defined by goals and processes that will be agreed, used and reviewed with their with them by the Club Coaches and, where appointed, mentors.

Summary

The Club is committed to help players develop through its unrivalled adult competitive opportunities and seeks to manage this effectively within the context of team goals and targets. There is an FAQs section below, but should you wish to discuss the approach we are taking, please make early contact with one of the coaches.

July 2021

FAQs

How old do I have to be to play adult hockey?

The minimum age for someone to play adult league hockey is 13. This is an agreed standard in line with both welfare considerations and associated physical and mental maturity levels and agreed longer term athletic development reasons. That said, there are opportunities for players aged under 13 to play in matches with adults in specific development formats such as Vixens, or friendly leagues.

How old do I have to be to play national league?

Currently, a player must be aged 15 or above to be eligible to participate in the Premier Division of the EHL and aged 13 or above to participate in the lower national divisions.

What is the EH Player Pathway?

There are plenty of changes planned by EH and so the best thing to do is link up to the EH website to see the answers to FAQs about the pathway.

<https://www.englishhockey.co.uk/search?query=what+changes+are+taking+place+to+the+player+pathway>