



Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Eligibility Guidance

Updated April 2024

Introduction

This guidance has been written to provide an update and clarity on the roles working with young people (under 18's) that require a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

The introduction of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 brought several changes to the way the DBS is approached and implemented. This document is designed to help you understand the eligibility criteria and ensure that any individual who should undertake an Enhanced DBS (with or without barred list) check does so.

Changes to the checking process:

- Definition of 'regulated activity' – i.e. what activity requires a DBS check.
- Under 16's are NOT eligible for a DBS check

The DBS enables England Hockey and its clubs and organisations to make informed recruitment decisions. Any individuals wishing to work with young people in hockey are required to undertake an enhanced DBS (with or without barred list) check.

Please remember DBS checks should not be used in isolation, they should be one part of the process to determine if someone is suitable to work with young people in a particular role.

England Hockey is committed to providing guidance and support to hockey clubs and organisations to ensure that all children in hockey participate in an environment that is both safe and enjoyable.

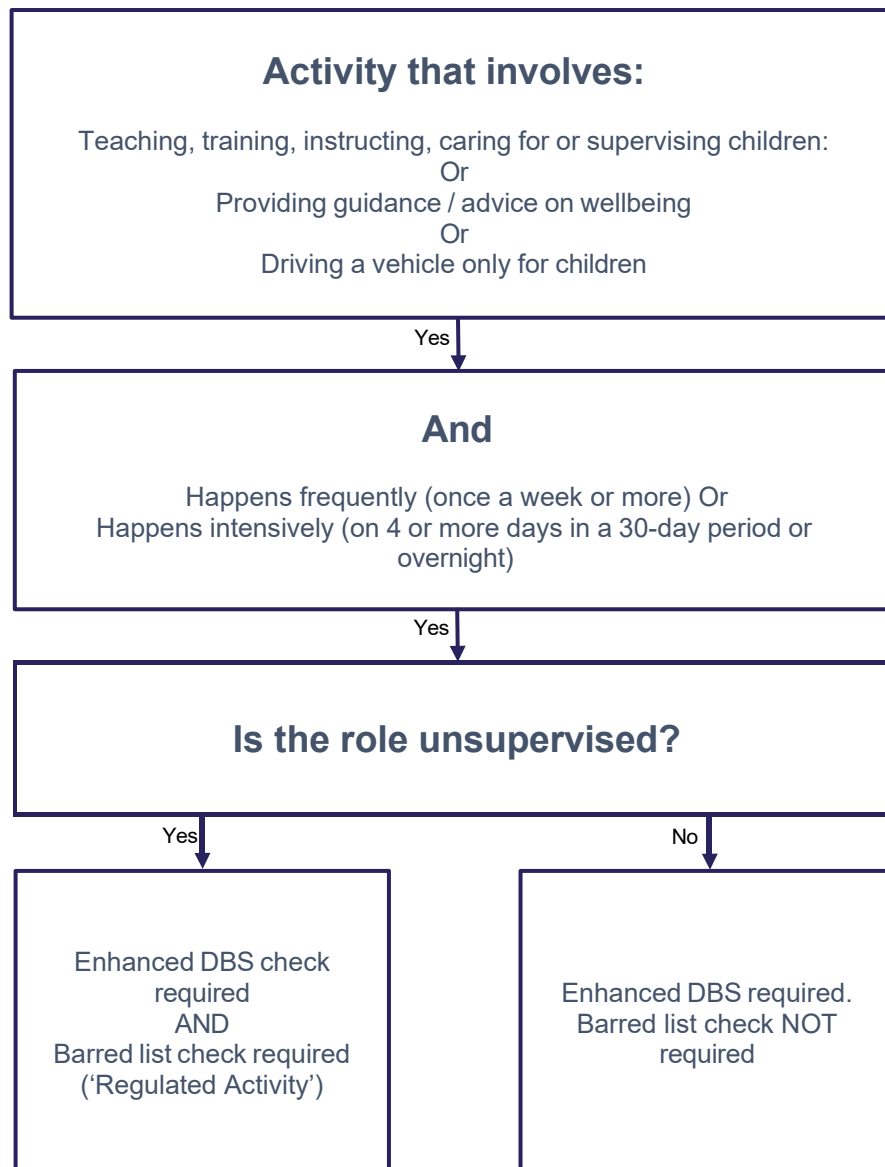
Who Is Eligible For A Check?

The Government has set the criteria to determine who is eligible for a DBS check and have a definition of 'regulated activity' to assist. The new guidance introduces consistent safeguarding and vetting requirements for all those working with young people, whether they are in a paid or voluntary capacity. Please see grid overleaf to see a more detailed breakdown of who needs a check and at what level on page 3.



What is 'Regulated Activity'?

The definition distinguishes between roles that meet the definition of 'regulated' activity AND whether they are deemed supervised or unsupervised roles. The supervision distinction determines the level of check required i.e. enhanced DBS (with or without barred list) check. See diagram below for eligibility:



Eligibility For A DBS Check By Role:

England Hockey has taken the new definition and applied the criteria to the hockey environment to provide a list (not exhaustive) of roles. Each role has been broken down to determine what level of check is required.

Role	Enhanced DBS check	Child Barred List required?	Notes
Coach	Yes	Yes	See Flow Chart on page 2 if unsure
Team Captain (club)	Yes (check notes)	Yes (check notes)	All teams involving under 18's must nominate a person to be responsible for them. If not the Team Captain, it must be a named person.
Team Manager	Yes	Yes	
Welfare Officer	Yes	Yes	
DBS Coordinator / Verifier	No	No	If stand-alone role (admin only)
Parent Helper	Yes	No – only needed if the role involves supervision of children that is frequent and/or intensive (See Diagram on Page 2).	
Young Leaders	Yes	No	Aged 16 and over only
Umpire	See guidance	Possibly Needed if regulated activity is undertaken frequently or intensively . See above and separate England Hockey guidance 'DBS Officiating Guidance.'	
Technical Official	Yes		
Umpire Coach / Manager / Assessor	Yes		
Junior Administrator	No	No	If stand-alone role. Just because some of the roles listed above do not qualify for a DBS check, it does not mean that there are no safeguarding policies that your club can put in place for them. Please see the England Hockey Website for useful information and templates for these roles.
Photographer	No	No	
Chairperson / President	No	No	
Secretary	No	No	
Membership Secretary	No	No	
Treasurer	No	No	
Website Administrator	No	No	
Bar staff	No	No	

NOTE: U16's are NOT eligible for a check.



What Are Your Responsibilities As A Club /Organisation?

- Ensure all those that are eligible complete a DBS check to the appropriate level (checks should be completed every three years).
- Do not deploy (paid or unpaid role) anyone in 'regulated activity' unless you have completed a barred list check.
- Inform people prior to taking on a role, if it will require a DBS / barred list check.
- A DBS check should not be used in isolation for recruitment. Use as just one part of the process.
- To ensure that good practice is maintained and exceeded throughout the club.
- Ensure all young people at your club are safe while in a Hockey environment.
- Inform England Hockey if you have a concern about a person and they are working with young people.

How Do You Get Checks Processed?

If someone does not have a DBS check or has one that is not on the DBS Update Service, all DBS checks need to be completed through England Hockey's DBS System. England Hockey use a company, First Advantage Online Disclosures, to process all our checks. If your club does not have access to the DBS System, please contact the Safeguarding Inbox (contact details below).

If someone had a DBS certificate that is on the DBS Government Update Service, then they will need to have their status check completed by England Hockey's Ethics and Welfare Team, NOT the club/organisation. The person will need to contact Sara Davies to get their status check completed. Please consult our DBS Government Update Service FAQ for more information.

If you are a Welfare Officer and require a DBS check, please contact Sara Davies to discuss the options available for your check.

Useful Contact Details:

First point of contact for all DBS enquiries:

Safeguarding Inbox

Email: safeguarding@englandhockey.co.uk

Organisation that processes all online checks on behalf of England Hockey

First Advantage Online Disclosures

Email: support@onlinedisclosures.co.uk Tel: 0115 969 4600

To report concerns about a person that is working with young people:

Alison Hogg, England Hockey – Ethics & Welfare Manager

Email: alison.hogg@englandhockey.co.uk

Tel: 07738 644171

Sara Davies England Hockey – Ethics & Welfare Administrator

Email: sara.davies@englandhockey.co.uk

Tel: 07702 258457

