

SAFETY GUIDANCE FAQs

Updated May 2021



ENGLAND
HOCKEY

In hockey, in most instances there is only a very low risk of injury taking place. However, there are steps that our players, clubs and everyone associated with the sport can take to make the game as safe as possible. This document shares best practice and information relating to frequently asked questions. These cover:

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Safety Clothing & Equipment, including Face Masks

<p>What is the ENGLAND HOCKEY policy on the wearing of face masks?</p>	<p>In line with the FIH rules of hockey (The Rules of Hockey 4.2), ENGLAND HOCKEY strongly recommends that face masks should be worn across all age groups and playing formats when defending a penalty corner.</p> <p>It should be noted that a face mask can be worn throughout a match if there is a medical reason why it is appropriate.</p> <p>ENGLAND HOCKEY recommends that clubs undertake and evidence a risk assessment in relation to the wearing of face masks across all age groups and playing formats. For a template risk assessment form please click here.</p> <p>England Hockey ClubMark is a hockey specific accreditation system, designed to set a minimum operating standard for clubs to achieve and ensure that the appropriate risk assessments policies and procedures are in place. It is a tool for clubs to check that they have the basics in place.</p> <p><i>For details on how to complete England Hockey ClubMark please click here.</i></p>
<p>Should coaches/clubs/ Player Pathway Centres be providing face masks for penalty corners.</p>	<p>We would strongly recommend that players involved in defending penalty corners should wear face masks and we would recommend that players own their own face mask. Clubs/ Centres should only provide face masks as a last resort and we always recommend the player takes the responsibility for their own face mask.</p>
<p>Do I have to wear a gum shield and shin pads to play hockey?</p>	<p>ENGLAND HOCKEY strongly recommends wearing shin, ankle and mouth protection whilst playing hockey. See The Rules of Hockey 4.2.</p> <p>There is lots of evidence to suggest that gum shields prevent a number of injuries. It is recommended that gum shields should be replaced every year, be shock absorbable and fitted by a dentist or purchased through a reputable provider.</p> <p>Gum shields are available from England Hockey's Official Supplier Opro, please click here to visit their website.</p> <p>Schools should refer to their School Policy and/or Local Authority Policy.</p>
<p>What is the ENGLAND HOCKEY policy on protective glasses?</p>	<p>Please refer to The Rules of Hockey 4.2 which allows protective goggles in a soft covered frame and plastic lenses.</p>

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What is the ENGLAND HOCKEY policy on jewellery?

Players must not wear anything which is dangerous to other players [The Rules of Hockey 4.2](#)

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Injuries

<p>Should all injuries be recorded? If so, how should they be recorded and how should the information be stored?</p>	<p>There is no requirement to legally report sporting injuries, however it is deemed good practice and there is excellent guidance on health and safety issues for sports clubs on the Health and Safety Executive website.</p> <p>It is recommended that accident report forms are used, and full details of all accidents/injuries are recorded. Forms should be stored for a minimum of 10 years or until the individual is 25 years old.</p> <p>Because it is such an important issue, England Hockey needs to collect as much evidence as possible to respond to questions on safety and is working to collect information in a way that creates minimal workload for volunteers.</p> <p>We would ask all bodies to log injuries requiring a hospital visit through our injury reporting page, which can be found here.</p> <p>Please complete the England Hockey Injury Monitoring Form in as much detail as possible when such injuries are sustained. This will allow England Hockey to continue to monitor injuries in the sport and to analyse the data for trends. It is shared with the FIH. This information will empower the England Hockey Board and the FIH to implement changes to the rules when and where the evidence supports it.</p>
<p>How many serious injuries are there in hockey every year?</p>	<p>The NHS reports that just 2% of admissions to A&E are caused by sports and the last government survey of A&E admissions for females aged 0-19 years found that hockey only accounted for 4% of sports injuries behind football 15%, horse riding 11%, netball 8%, ice skating 6%, swimming 5% and basketball 4%. Hockey was outside of the top ten for males and not separately recorded. However, there is a lack of detailed evidence across sport in general because it is played in so many different environments.</p> <p>As outlined above, England Hockey is working to capture details of serious injuries and will complement work being done internationally by the International Hockey Federation (FIH)</p> <p>We would ask all bodies to log injuries through our injury monitoring page, which can be found here.</p>
<p>Does ENGLAND HOCKEY have a policy on concussion?</p>	<p>Yes, policy and associated guidance is available under Safe Hockey or please see Sport and Recreation Alliance Guidance.</p>

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First Aid & Injury Management

What is the Club/Player Pathway Centre role in relation to First Aid?	<p>Every club must assess their own need for First Aid provision. It is recommended that there is a minimum of one First Aid trained person per match or training session. The following factors should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do we play? • Is First Aid provision covered by the facility provider? • Consider home and away fixtures. • How many people does the Club/Player Pathway Centre need to train in First Aid? <p>First Aid kits are available from England Hockey's Official Supplier Physique, to visit their website please click here.</p>
Should every coach and umpire have a First Aid qualification?	<p>ENGLAND HOCKEY recommendation can be found at First Aid provision.</p>
Does ENGLAND HOCKEY have a policy on whether a club should have a defibrillator?	<p>It is not a requirement.</p> <p>If a club has one, we would recommend the club communicating the location of this to its members. People should know how to use it and it should be checked regularly for battery life.</p>
Do we need to have medical consent forms? What do we do with them?	<p>It is good practice to have medical details for all your membership (adult and young people). It is essential to collect information for all people that are under 18. Collect information that is relevant to know in order to safeguard your membership in case of an accident or injury.</p> <p>Information should be collected annually either electronically or hard copy, with the onus on the individual to advise of any changes. Next of kin/emergency contact details should also be collected and the information should be kept confidentially and only shared on a 'need to know' basis. Old or out of date information should be disposed of in a secure manner.</p> <p>All personal information should be processed, stored and retained in accordance with GDPR and the England Hockey Privacy Notice and associated policies.</p>

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Insurance

Am I insured if I am seriously injured playing hockey?	<p>It depends on whether your Club has taken out personal accident cover for its players. This is offered to those that use the England Hockey scheme administered by Howden Group, please click here for further details.</p> <p>If your Club has not taken out the Howden scheme it would still be possible for them to take out personal accident cover. All schemes are different and provide different levels of cover for different types of injury.</p> <p>All players should be aware of the insurance cover provided and take out their own Personal Accident insurance if required.</p>
Is our Club/Association insured if the coach is not qualified?	<p>England Hockey strongly recommends that all coaches be insured through individual insurance or a Clubs/Associations insurance. To find out more about the coaching membership scheme, including insurance cover, click here.</p> <p>Unqualified coaches can still access insurance, via England Hockey, if they are NOT delivering entirely independently (e.g. they are not by themselves and with no support framework around their delivery), have accessed a relevant England Hockey CPD workshop and have completed approved safeguarding training and hold a valid DBS check.</p> <p>Clubs/Associations should always check with their insurance provider that they do not have specific reference to qualifications (as a minority of providers do).</p>

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Workforce

What is the umpire's responsibility with regards to safety?	<p>It is not the umpire's responsibility to administer first aid. It is their responsibility to stop the game if someone is injured.</p> <p>The umpire is responsible for the safety of all players, officials and spectators within the confines of the pitch. The umpire should ensure that the rules of the game are adhered to with regard to dangerous play and that play is stopped in the event of an injury.</p>
What are the coaches' and organisation's responsibility with regards to safety?	<p>It is the coach and body (i.e. club/school/player pathway) responsibility to ensure ALL the following are in place prior to the start of each session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A risk assessment has taken place with regards to the facility, players and equipment • Suitable and appropriate procedures are in place to manage any injuries or issues that occur • Ratios are adhered to of 1:8 (coach/assistant coach/helper to player) for coaching children under 8 years old (minimum of 2 adults), 1:12 for children over 8 years old (minimum of 2 adults) and 1:16 for coaching adults • There is appropriate insurance cover • There is current and maintained First Aid cover, and that coaches have a relevant safeguarding certificate and DBS check.
Can we run a session with an unqualified coach?	<p>ENGLAND HOCKEY recommends that no coach except those at UKCC Level 2/ENGLAND HOCKEY Sessional Coach/ENGLAND HOCKEY Coach, or above, should coach independently (which means that the coach is delivering entirely by themselves, with sole responsibility for the safety of the group, and with no additional adults in attendance to help monitor and control risk and safety)</p> <p>For coaches who need to lead sessions but are not qualified to deliver as an independent coach, the following should be in place to ensure a safe, engaging session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lead coach should have attended a Coaching Club Workshop or Course related to the population they are coaching (i.e. Engaging Games for Children if coaching children) • Have a current and maintained First Aid Certificate, Safeguarding Certificate and DBS, in addition to relevant body or personal insurance cover. • Deliver against recommended ratios and not alone if coaching children • The coach is supported by the organising club or Player Pathway Centre through appropriate risk management processes, and incident management frameworks.

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What is the ENGLAND HOCKEY guidance for coaching my own son/daughter(s)?

ENGLAND HOCKEY has no policy to state that you cannot coach your own child however we would recommend the following as best practice:

- The coach has the right skills and qualities for the role
- They treat everyone involved fairly
- The parent should not be the only person involved in selecting teams for matches

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Safeguarding Young People

What training should I do if I am working with children in hockey?	All people that work with under 18s in hockey should do safeguarding training that is appropriate to their role. England Hockey provides guidance .
What do I do if I have concerns for a child's welfare?	<p>'SafeD' is the name of England Hockey's Safeguarding Young People Policy, Procedures and Good Practice Guidance. All safeguarding documents can be found here.</p> <p>If you have a concern about a child, or about the behaviour of an adult in relation to a child, you should follow our procedures that can be found below:</p> <p>Reporting Procedures</p> <p>Concerns should be reported to the Club/Player Pathway Welfare Officer in the first instance.</p>
Do we need to have parental consent forms and what should they contain?	<p>Clubs should obtain the following information from their junior (under 18) membership to ensure they can fulfil their duty of care to that young person.</p> <p>This information should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The young person's name, address, contact details Their parent / guardians' names and contact details • Details of medical conditions, medications and a note to parents to update the club if this changes • Consent for photography / video – (there may be legal reasons why a young person's image cannot be taken/published) <p>Consent should be obtained via GDPR regulations regarding holding personal information. You can refer to the England Hockey Privacy Policy for more information.</p> <p>Player Pathway: All personal information about players and guardians are collected on the Player Pathway system.</p>
Who needs to be Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked?	<p>England Hockey has guidance on who is eligible for a DBS check.</p> <p>Click here for eligibility guidance</p>

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Policy

Can I play hockey if I am pregnant?	England Hockey has a pregnancy policy
We have a transgender player. Can they play competitive hockey?	England Hockey has a transgender policy
What is the rule regarding junior players playing in adult hockey?	<p>England Hockey policy is that players must be aged 13 or over to play in adult hockey, i.e. Saturday league hockey. This does not include "badgers" style activity where both teams have a set number of junior and senior players</p> <p>A young player may play adult hockey as soon as they reach their 13th birthday.</p> <p>Guidance is available on Juniors playing in Senior teams</p> <p>For more information on best practice guidance please click here</p>

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Discipline

<p>How does the discipline system work at ENGLAND HOCKEY?</p>	<p>There are a number of different discipline Regulations in hockey, depending on the nature of the offence, please see links below:</p> <p>Red Card / Match day misconduct</p> <p>Safeguarding Young People</p> <p>Anti – Doping Policy</p> <p>Disrepute Regulations – deal with breaches of the Disrepute Regulations</p> <p>All hockey activity in England is covered by the Code of Ethics & Behaviour Respect.</p> <p>When a player receives a red card the issue is dealt with by relevant Disciplinary Administrator, usually the County Disciplinary Administrator, but can be Regional or National depending on the competition where the incident occurred. A player receiving a red card is subject to an automatic 16 day ban from the date of the incident occurred. *</p> <p><i>*16-day bans do not occur at the Futures Cup competition.</i></p>
<p>What do I do if I want to complain about someone's behaviour in hockey?</p>	<p>England Hockey has a Code of Ethics & Behaviour Respect.</p> <p>Breaches of the Code of Ethics and behaviour are dealt with under the Disrepute Regulations (depending on what type of activity you are taking part in) and should be reported to England Hockey Head of Governance via disrepute@englandhockey.co.uk</p> <p>If the concern relates to a child, you should report in line with our Procedures as detailed in the 'Safeguarding Young People'.</p> <p>England Hockey also has a complaint process which can be found at the following link.</p>

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Drones

Can I use a drone to shoot footage during a game?	<p>There is a distinction between recreational and commercial purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreational purposes would include a club member flying a drone over a game to shoot footage to be watched afterwards.• Any drone used for recreational purposes must weigh less than 20kg• Anyone flying a drone for commercial purposes (e.g. shooting footage that may be sold or used for commercial purposes) must have a PfCO (Permission for Commercial Operation) certificate issued by the Civil Aviation Authority. To obtain a PfCO, the pilot must attend an approved training course.• You need to pass an online test to get a flyer ID if you want to fly a drone and model aircraft• Register for an operator ID if you are responsible for a drone or model aircraft• Label any drones and model aircraft you are responsible for with your operator ID <p><i>This is to be read in conjunction with the relevant legislation</i></p> <p>When using drones for filming it is important to remember to obtain consent, please review the safeguarding section for guidance on the use of video and photography.</p>
What are the rules for flying drones?	<p>The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) sets the rules on drones in the UK under what is called an air navigation order. For further details click here.</p>