

OLD HALESONIANS HOCKEY CLUB

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GOOD PRACTISE AND CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

The following section sets out Good Practice Procedure which all those involved in the delivery of any aspect of hockey related activities must seek to achieve.

Good Practice Procedures

- OHHC has in place a Child Welfare & Procedures Policy
- A designated officer of the club will be appointed Child Welfare Officer (CWO)
- This Child Welfare & Procedures Policy will be freely available upon request to show the Club's commitment to providing a safe environment for young people
- OHHC will attempt to provide training opportunities for adults who work with young people
- Parent/Carers will be made aware of what the club is doing and also the correct procedure to express any concerns
- OHHC will endeavour to ensure that all discrimination is challenged and prohibited
- OHHC will ensure all adults who regularly supervise young people undertake an enhanced CRB disclosure
- OHHC will endeavour to ensure guidelines are in place to control and monitor the use of photographic images of children through the OHHC photographic images policy
- OHHC may occasionally monitor coaches and provide them with feedback

OHHC Good Practice Procedure for Coaches and Officials

Coaches and Officials should;

- Always be publicly open when working with young people. Avoid situations where you and an individual child are completely unobserved
- Remember hockey is a physical game. Situations may well occur when, in order to teach or coach certain techniques, it is necessary to make contact with the player
- Be aware of contact or touching which is inappropriate (not directly related to the coaching context) or aggressive, will not be tolerated
- Be aware that if groups are supervised in changing rooms, it should be gender appropriate
- Be aware that where teams compete away from home they should always be accompanied by at least two approved adults one of whom should be female in respect of a girls/ladies and one of whom should be male in respect of a boy/men's team

Coaches must place the well-being and safety of the player above the development of performance. Coaches should:

- Avoid overplaying of players (particularly talented players). Prior to Tournament selection, all players need and deserve equal opportunities to play

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- Remember that young people play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only a part of it
- Motivate youngsters through positive feedback and constructive criticism
- Never allow young players to train/play when injured
- Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the age and ability of the players
- Coaches should hold appropriate coaching qualifications or have recognised relevant experience in hockey
- Coaches should keep up to date with knowledge and technical skills and should be aware of their own limitations. Coaches should only work within the limitations of their knowledge and qualifications
- Coaches must ensure that the activities which they direct or advocate are appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of the players
- Coaches should always try to promote the positive aspects of their sport (e.g. fair play), and never condone rule violations
- Coaches must consistently display high standards of personal behaviour and appearance
- Coaches should never overtly criticise players or use language or actions with the intent to cause the player to lose self esteem or confidence

Practice to be avoided

Everyone should also be aware that, as a general rule, it does not make sense to:

- Spend amounts of time alone with young people away from others
- Take young people alone on car journeys, however short
- If it should arise that such situations are unavoidable they should only take place with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge of the player and/or a person with Parent/Carer responsibility for the player.
- If you accidentally hurt a player, or cause distress in any manner, or the player appears to respond in a sexual manner to your actions, or misunderstands, or misinterprets something you have done, immediately report the incident to the CWO and complete an Incident Report Form as a matter of urgency.

Practice that is prohibited by OHHC

Individuals should never:

- Take young people to their home or other secluded places where they will be alone
- Engage in rough, physical games, sexually provocative games or horseplay with young people
- Allow any form of inappropriate touching.
- Make sexually suggestive remarks to a young person, even in fun.
- Use inappropriate language or allow young players to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Allow allegations by a young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded, or not acted upon
- Do things of a personal nature for a young person that they can do for themselves unless you have been requested to do so by the Parent/Carers

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(Please note that it is recognised that some young people will always need help with things such as lace tying, fitting GK kit)

- Depart any hockey training or match until the safe departure of all young people is complete
- Cause an individual to lose self esteem by embarrassing, humiliating or undermining the individual
- Treat some young people more favourably than others
- Agree to meet a young person on your own on a one to one basis

POSITIONS OF TRUST

All adults who work with young people are in a position of trust which has been invested in them by the Parent/Carers, the sport and the young person. This relationship can be described as one in which the adult is in a position of power and influence by virtue of their role.

In hockey most adults in a position of trust recognise there are certain boundaries in the coach/player relationship which must not be crossed in terms of the relationship with the young player. The relationship is no different to that between a school teacher and the pupils in their care.

OHHC Code of Conduct on the Abuse of Trust

Any behaviour, which encourages a physical, or emotionally dependant relationship to develop between the person in a position of trust and the young person in their care must be avoided. All those within OHHC have a duty to raise concerns about the behaviour of coaches, officials, volunteers, administrators which may be harmful to young people in the club, without prejudice to their own position. Allegations relating to a breach of the code of conduct will be investigated according to OHHC disciplinary procedures.

Signed (Club Chairman): Date:

Print Name:

Signed (Club Secretary):Date:

Print Name: