

Yeats County Hockey Club
Terms and Conditions for all Members
2023/2024 Season

Table of Contents

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ALL MEMBERS.....	2
PARENTAL CONSENT	3
APPENDIX 1 HOCKEY IRELAND CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.....	4
APPENDIX 2 HOCKEY IRELAND CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS.....	6
APPENDIX 3 HOCKEY IRELAND CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES FOR SPORTS LEADERS	8

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ALL MEMBERS

Yeats County Hockey Club would like everyone involved in hockey to have a positive experience. We also want to make sure that our players, teams and supporters maintain our reputation as a club that plays tough but fair. So that everyone is clear on their responsibility when at the pitch, ALL players & members are asked to read and agree to the statements below.

All Yeats County Hockey Club players and members are expected to behave in an appropriate and sporting manner, which includes the following:

- Conduct themselves in a manner that takes all reasonable measures to protect their own safety and the safety of others
- Never use foul or abusive language or gestures
- Never use physical abuse or threatening or intimidating behaviour
- Respect the spirit of fair play
- Respect the rights of others, including umpires, officials, team management, other players and spectators
- Promote the reputation of hockey and take all possible steps to prevent it from being brought into disrepute
- Follow all hockey specific hockey pitch/venue guidelines

All Yeats County Hockey Club players and members are advised to read Hockey Ireland's Code of Ethics (link below) and abide by the guidelines set out in the Code as appropriate.

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PARENTAL CONSENT

I hereby give permission for my child to be a signed up member of Yeats County Hockey Club, and for the following:

- For Yeats County Hockey Club to act on my behalf in case of an Emergency or accident and to take such action as may be necessary for the benefit of my child. This decision will be taken by the person/coach in charge at the time of the emergency
- For my child to travel with Yeats County Hockey Club on a bus to tournaments and matches which are organised by the club
- For my child to receive a text from Club Coach or Team Manager for Training / Matches information
- For my child's photograph to be taken for Club use only. (Photos will not be distributed)
- For my child to be in Video/DVD recordings of club members playing hockey. (Material will not be distributed)
- For my child's photograph to be placed in the paper/facebook for club use only, for clubs achievements and for club advertisement

I have read the Hockey Ireland Code of Conduct for Young People and agree that my child will abide by the guidelines set out in the Code (Appendix 1)

I have read the Hockey Ireland Code of Conduct for Parents / Guardians and agree to abide by the guidelines set out in the Code (Appendix 2)

Full Hockey Ireland's Code of Ethics can be accessed via link below

http://sportlomo-userupload.s3.amazonaws.com/uploaded/galleries/8089_uploaded/38db60c284b90b69d15d8c9f9be7c75ccc7cae27.pdf

APPENDIX 1 HOCKEY IRELAND CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Hockey Ireland wants to provide the best possible environment for all young people involved in the sport. Young people deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse of any kind. These participants have rights, which must be respected, and responsibilities that they must accept. Young people should be encouraged to realise that they have responsibilities to treat other participants and sports leaders with fairness and respect.

Young players are entitled to:

- Be safe and to feel safe
- Be listened to
- Be believed
- Have fun and enjoy hockey
- Have a voice in relation to their activities within hockey
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect
- Participate on an equitable and fair manner, irrespective of ability, disability, gender, religion, social class, etc.
- Experience competition at a level at which they feel comfortable
- Make complaints and have them dealt with
- Get help against bullies
- Say No
- Protect their own bodies
- Confidentiality (see section on confidentiality)

Young players should always:

- Treat Sports Leaders with respect, (including administrators, coaches, umpires, managers, children's officers, club officials, etc.,)
- Look out for themselves and the welfare of others
- Play fairly at all times, do their best
- Be organised and on time, tell someone if they are leaving a venue or competition
- Respect team members, even when things go wrong
- Respect opponents, be gracious in defeat

- Abide by the rules set down by team managers when traveling to away events, representing the club, school, province or country, etc.
- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing hockey in any way into disrepute
- Talk to the Children's Officer within the club if they have any problems

Young players should never:

- Cheat
- Use violence or physical contact that is not allowed within the rules
- Shout or argue with officials, team mates or opponents
- Harm team members, opponents or their property
- Bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another player or gain advantage
- Take banned substances, alcohol, smoke or engage in sexual behaviour
- Keep secrets, especially if they have caused or could cause harm
- Tell lies about adults / young people
- Spread rumours
- Discriminate against other players on the basis of gender, disability, social class, religion

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APPENDIX 2 HOCKEY IRELAND CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Hockey Ireland Guidelines for Parents / Guardians

Hockey Ireland believes that Parents / Guardians should:

- Be role models for your child and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with young people, other parents, officials and organisers
- Always behave responsibly and do not seek to unfairly affect the outcome of a game, a player or the opponent
- Never intentionally expose any young participant to embarrassment or disparagement by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks
- Always recognise the value and importance of the officials and volunteers who provide sporting and recreational opportunities for your child. Do not publicly question their judgment or honesty.
- Respect Children's Officers, Designated Persons, coaches, umpires, youth organisers, managers and other players.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Teach your child that honest endeavour is as important as winning and do all you can to encourage good sportsmanship.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides. Encourage mutual respect for teammates and opponents.
- Take an interest in your child's sport and support the child's participation in their chosen activity.
- Parents / Guardians should support all efforts to remove abusive behaviour and bullying behaviour in all its forms.

Hockey Ireland Code of Conduct for Parents / Guardians

Parent(s) / Guardians(s) will:

- Respect the rules and procedures set down in the Code
- Respect my child's teammates and leaders as well as players, parents and coaches from opposing teams. Parents / Guardians will encourage their child to treat other participants, coaches, children's officers, officials, selectors and managers with respect.
- Give encouragement and applaud only positive accomplishments whether from my child, his/her teammates, their opponents or the officials.
- Respect my child's leader(s) and support his/her efforts
- Respect the officials and their authority during sessions and events within the club and under the auspices of Hockey Ireland.
- Never demonstrate threatening or abusive behaviour or use foul language

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APPENDIX 3 HOCKEY IRELAND CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES FOR SPORTS LEADERS

Hockey Ireland Guidelines for Sports Leaders

HI recognises the key role leaders (coaches, youth administrators, captains, selectors and team managers, etc.) play in the lives of young people in sport. Leaders in hockey should strive to create a positive environment for the children in their care. They have an overall responsibility to take the necessary steps to ensure that positive and healthy experiences are provided. All Leaders should have as their first priority the children's safety and enjoyment of hockey and should adhere to the guidelines and regulations set out in the HI's Code.

Leaders should:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every child and must treat everyone equally, regardless of gender, disability, ethnic origin, religion, etc.

Leaders working with young people in hockey should:

- Be suitable and have the necessary qualifications. Leaders will be expected to go through appropriate recruitment and selection procedures, (see page 13 of HI Code of Ethics), that apply to all persons with substantial access to young people, (known as regulated positions in NI), whether paid or unpaid. References will be needed and will be followed up
- Comply with a 'sign-up' procedure, whereby the appointed/reappointed leaders agree to abide by the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children in Sport and to the HI Code.
- Know and understand the child protection policies and procedures in hockey
- Act as a role model and promote the positive aspects of hockey and maintain the highest standards of personal conduct
- Develop an appropriate relationship with young people, based on mutual trust and respect. Remember your behaviour to players, other officials, and opponents will have an effect on the players in your care
- Report any concerns they have to the Club Children's Officer / Designated Officer

As a role model they:

- Will be required to display high standards of language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation
- Ensure that players in their care respect the rules of the game. Insist on fair play and ensure players are aware that you will not tolerate cheating or bullying behaviour
- Encourage the development of respect for opponents, officials, selectors and other leaders and avoid criticism of fellow trainers and coaches. Do not criticise other leaders
- Must actively discourage the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity
- Must avoid the use of alcohol and banned substances, before coaching and training, during events, while supervising trips with young players

Protection for leaders and young people:

- Leaders are responsible for setting and monitoring the boundaries between a working relationship and friendship with players. It is advisable for leaders not to involve young players in their personal life i.e. visits to leader's / coach's home or overnight stays. It is important to realise that certain situations or friendly actions could be misinterpreted by the participant or by outsiders
- Avoid working alone and ensure there is adequate supervision for all activities
- Where possible work in an open environment and ensure that physical contact is appropriate and has the permission or understanding of the young person
- Care must be taken not to expose a child intentionally or unintentionally to embarrassment or disparagement by use of sarcastic or flippant remarks about the child or his/her family
- Physical punishment or physical force must never be used. Never punish a mistake - by verbal means, physical means, or exclusion

A positive environment

- Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or for losing a game. All young players are entitled to respect.
- Be careful to avoid the "star system". Each child deserves equal time and attention.

- Remember that young players play for fun and enjoyment and that skill development and personal satisfaction have priority over highly structured competition. Never make winning the only objective
- Set realistic goals and appropriate challenges for the participants and do not push young players. Create a safe and enjoyable environment
- When approached to take on or taking on a new player, ensure that the relationship with the previous club/coach has been ended in a professional manner
- When young players are invited into adult groups/squads, it is advisable to get agreement from a parent/guardian. Boundaries of behaviour in adult groups are normally different from the boundaries that apply to junior groups/squads
- Leaders who become aware of a conflict between their obligation to their players and their obligation to the club/organisation must make explicit the nature of the conflict and the loyalties and responsibilities involved, to all parties concerned
- Leaders should communicate and co-operate with medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their players' medical or related problems. Avoid giving advice of a personal or medical nature if you are not qualified to do so. Any information of a personal or medical nature must be kept strictly confidential unless the welfare of the child requires the passing on of this information. Any referral to medical and ancillary practitioners requires parental consent
- The nature of the relationship between leader and a participant can often mean that a leader will hear confidential information about a player or player's family. This information must be regarded as confidential and must not be divulged to a third party without the express permission of the young person/family, except where abuse or neglect is suspected

Sports Leaders Code of Conduct

Leaders should familiarise themselves with the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport and the HI Code, and follow procedures if they suspect or receive complaints of abuse.

Leaders should:

- Be positive during sessions and competitions, praise and encourage effort as well as results
- Put welfare of the young person first, strike a balance between this and winning / results
- Encourage fair play and treat participants equally
- Recognise developmental needs, ensuring activities are appropriate for the individual
- Plan and prepare appropriately
- Anyone working with children should do the child protection awareness course and hold up-to-date qualifications and be committed to the values and guidelines of Hockey Ireland
- Involve parents where possible and inform parents when problems arise
- Keep a record of attendance at training and competitions
- Keep a brief record of injury(s) and action taken
- Keep a brief record of problem/action/outcomes, if behavioural problems arise
- Report any concerns in accordance with this Code's reporting procedures
- Encourage young people to respect one another and to expect respect for their worth as individuals for their worth regardless of their level of play
- Be acutely aware of the power that you as a coach develop with your players in the coaching relationships and avoid any sexual intimacy with young people that could develop as a result
- Actively discourage the use of performance enhancing drugs, the use of alcohol and tobacco and any illegal substance
- Encourage young people and other coaches to develop and maintain integrity in their relationship with others

Where possible Leaders should avoid:

- Spending excessive amounts of time with children away from others
- Taking sessions alone
- Taking children to their home

- Taking children on journeys alone in their car

Sports Leaders should not:

- Use any form of punishment or physical force on a child
- Exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward
- Engage in rough physical games, sexually provocative games or allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind, and /or make sexually suggestive comments about, or to a child. This includes innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms
- Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adult and permission of the parent(s)
- Undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of children
- Do not exploit any coaching relationship to further personal, political or business interests at the expense of the best interest of your players
- Never communicate or form a “friendship” with children online with the intent of arranging to meet in the “real world”
- Never ask anyone to keep secrets of any kind

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