



PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN GUIDE

These guidelines provide you with key information when selecting an opportunity for your child in hockey. They provide you with ideas of questions to ask, and ensure that both you and your child understand the way Gillingham Hockey Club works, and your roles and responsibilities.

What can we expect from Gillingham Hockey Club?

- A friendly welcome, an opportunity to meet new friends and to participate and watch hockey
- Opportunities for your child to have fun and develop their skills as much as they want to
- A safe environment
- Qualified coaches and responsible volunteers
- Relationships based on trust, honesty and respect where your child is valued and listened to
- Your child's welfare and safety is paramount
- Members will recognise your child's rights, whatever their age, gender, culture, ability, language, religious belief, racial origin, and/or sexual identity
- Opportunities for you to get involved
- Safeguarding and Protecting Young People Policy and Complaints Policy are available for you on request
- Clear lines of communication with you about your child, fixtures, training and events
- Appropriately trained to work with young people

What does Gillingham Hockey Club expect from my child?

There is a guide for young people which details expectations which include:

- Fair play
- Listening to the coaches
- Adherence to the young people's code of conduct and behaviour
- Adherence to the rules of the game and rules of Gillingham Hockey Club

What does the Gillingham Hockey Club expect from me?

They may expect you to....

- stay with your child when they are at the venue
- ensure that your child is dropped off and picked up promptly from the venue
- contact the organisers if you are running late to collect your child
- adhere to the rules of Gillingham Hockey Club
- adhere to the codes of conduct, in particular the Parents' Code of Conduct
- accept the guidance that coaches provide and umpire's decisions within matches
- use appropriate language at all times
- stay off the pitch during training and matches
- never force your child to participate
- provide emergency contact details and any relevant information about your child including medical history.

Gillingham Hockey Club would like you to:

- become involved as much as possible
- support the coaches by ensuring your child enjoys their hockey and plays within the rules of the game
- encourage fair play
- encourage your child to recognise good performance, not just results

Always check

- The qualifications and experience of the coaches
- That the ratio of adults to young people complies with England Hockey guidance
- How young people are looked after if they are not playing
- That there are clear codes of conduct stating expected behaviour of members, players and coaches
- What happens if there is an accident?
- Is there a Safeguarding and Protecting Young People Policy in place?
- How are issues managed, e.g. bullying?
- The policy on recruitment and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checking adults working with young people
- Who should my child or I speak to if we have a concern?

England Hockey's Safeguarding and Protecting Young People Policy

Questions to seek clarification

- My child has never played hockey before; can they come along and try out a couple of sessions?
- When is training?
- When are the matches?
- What kit do we need to buy?
- Are the coaches qualified?
- Are the adults helping with the teams checked and trained?
- Does my child have to share changing facilities with adult players?
- Do the club have social events?
- How much does it cost to be a member of the club?
- How are away matches organised?
- Is there a first aider on site?
- Is the club affiliated to England Hockey?
- Does the club hold accreditation e.g. ClubsFirst?

Communication

Gillingham Hockey Club will need to ensure they can contact you if required, so they should ask you for your contact details.

Please ensure that you build a relationship with the coach and support Gillingham Hockey Club by completing all paperwork required.

Communication is two-way. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's participation in hockey, please talk to his/her coach or organisation official.

What do I do if I am concerned about my child's safety, wellbeing or behaviour?

- Each club has a Welfare Officer. Ask to speak with them and explain your concerns
- All concerns will be taken seriously and investigated
- All concerns will be treated in the strictest confidence, with only the people who can help the situation becoming involved if required
- See England Hockey guidance on "Dealing with the concerns of children, young people and parents"

Your Child Welfare Officer is

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