



# Portrane Hockey Club

## Policy on Transport & Travel

### Contents

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Contents.....           | 1 |
| Policy Aim.....         | 2 |
| Introduction.....       | 2 |
| Key considerations..... | 2 |

## Policy Aim

The aim of this policy is to promote the safety and remove potential risks of all children and young people in Portrane Hockey Club and to protect the coaches and volunteers within the club in their roles.

## Introduction

Portrane Hockey Club in accordance with best practice **do not** recommend that coaches transport a child or young person to and from training/matches. Responsibility for transporting children and young persons to and from training should remain with parents and guardians.

However, Portrane Hockey Club acknowledges that on occasions the Club could not operate without the goodwill of coaches/parents & volunteers in ensuring that children are transported to events and returned home in a private car.

Whilst recognising the potential risks involved for coaches/volunteers and young people and in line with best practice, Portrane Hockey Club have developed the following key principles to reduce these risks:

## Key considerations

*Best practice is clearly to avoid transporting a child or young person to and from training/matches, but we recognise that in some circumstances it is an essential part of a child's participation in training and competition.*

If all alternatives have been exhausted and an adult has to transport a child, there are a number of safety measures that should be put in place to minimise the risk:

- Drivers representing and volunteering on behalf of PHC must be vetted through National Vetting Bureau if driving regularly, and therefore meeting the regulated activity criteria.
- Drivers representing and volunteering on behalf of PHC must have completed level 1 Safeguarding Training.
- Never travel alone with a young person or child; always have more than one child in the car and children should sit in the back seat.
- It is good practice to receive informed consent from parents and young people who will be transporting their child and inform them of the journey details.
- Alternate drivers if possible and which child is dropped off last. Ideally two children would be dropped off at an agreed point such as one of their family homes.
- Driver should have a point of contact/mobile phone.
- If parents make personal arrangements between themselves this is not the responsibility of the club.
- Ensure that children are aware of their rights to be safe and that they have someone to turn to or report any concerns they may have. If a culture of safety is created within the club then the child is more likely to talk to another person if they are feeling uncomfortable about a situation.
- Late collections can present clubs and coaches with particular difficulties. Parents/carers should be provided with guidelines addressing the issue and outlining their responsibility and the consequences of late collections. Clubs should have contact numbers for parents/carers and if possible be provided with an

alternative contact number. Parents/carers should have a contact number for the club/coach to inform them of emergencies and possible late collections.

- The driver must ensure that they have insurance/MOT/valid licence to carry others.
- From 2006, the law in Europe requires all children in cars, vans and other goods vehicles to be carried using an appropriate child restraint until either they have reached the age of 12 years or are 150 cm (5" in Republic of Ireland) and 135 cms (4' 5" in Northern Ireland) or whichever comes first with very few exceptions. The European law allowed countries to opt for a minimum height of between 135 and 150 cm. For more information visit; Republic of Ireland.

For further information on transport guidelines in relation to safeguarding please contact your sport's governing body or visit links to:

- Sports Ireland Ethics Safeguarding for Children and Young People in Sports [https://www.sportireland.ie/Participation/Code\\_of\\_Ethics/Safeguarding%20Guidance/Safeguarding%20Guidance%20for%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20in%20Sport.pdf](https://www.sportireland.ie/Participation/Code_of_Ethics/Safeguarding%20Guidance/Safeguarding%20Guidance%20for%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20in%20Sport.pdf)
- Child protection Sport Unit Guidelines on transporting a children or young people in your car <https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/2013/guidelines-on-transporting-a-childor-young=person-inyour-car/>