



Portrane Hockey Club

Selection Policy

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Introduction

This document will outline the Selection policy for all Senior teams and juvenile teams over the age of 14.

All Juvenile sections, and Senior teams if required, are played with mixed ability until 2nd year and Portrane HC promotes inclusion and enjoyment in all sessions. Our aim is to actively support youth health and wellbeing through sports development....and fun!

The age Group over 14 is recognised by Hockey Ireland as an age Group that you can call onto higher performance teams and panels to improve the level the Club is playing at.

This selection policy is based upon a club structure where the 1st team (Senior and Juvenile) have the authority to select their chosen squad (of up to 16 players) followed by the 2nd team etc.

The teams will be subject to an early season and weekly selection, where the 'overlap' of players will play for the team below.

The teams are subject to a continuous review and are subject to the Bye laws of the Leinster Hockey Association for team structures.

Policy items

1. It is club policy that the highest teams play with the best players, the best player is an assessment by the coaching teams that are involved with the teams and are based on a continuous assessment of
 - Availability
 - Commitment
 - Fitness levels
 - Ability
 - Tactical / Team awareness
 - Behaviour
 - Training attendance (For 1st and 2nd team)
 - Subscription / Insurance
 - Injury / Illness
 - LHA Bye laws regarding juvenile player in to Senior Hockey (Current age 15)
2. It is in the Club's interest that no team should play with a shortage of players when there are players available from a lower team to fill in. This is according to the Bye laws of the Leinster Hockey Association.
3. Selection of players will be carried out in order of the club's teams starting with the 1st XI and working down to the last 11 in Senior and Juvenile Hockey.
4. No Captain or coach running a lower side can refuse the promotion of a player to a higher team. To make sure that there is no impact on the player's engagement the player will have the final say in case of a dispute. Please note that in case U15 players the parent will be allowed to assist the player in the decision.

5. In the case of late selection due to player shortage the order of selection will be with the highest team. It is the duty of the coach and the Captain that is short of a player or players to inform the lower team captain as soon as possible.
6. The Captain who will lose a player must select from the next lowest team, this may result in a last team postponement according to the bye laws of the LHA. Please take in to account the notification period
7. As all teams within the club are playing league hockey it is essential that every captain and coach cooperates with the club policy.
8. Parents/Guardian please refer to the Parents/Guardians code of Conduct in relation to coaches and captains decision process.

Return from Injury

A player who is recovering and returning from injury should follow the recommended medical advice. It is the clubs recommendation to commence in a team lower than the current team, again in accordance to the LHA bye laws. The decision will be made by the coach and the captain once a player is fully recovered and the above policy items will apply.

Player communication

It is critically important to communicate with the relevant players and be clear and concise of any decision that are made surrounding the selection of the teams. The announcement and team selection should be done in group context and the policy should provide the required guidelines.

There is no requirement to advise an individual player on any prior selection of the teams. The team selection and communication should occur on the training or in the relevant Group Communication channels (Eg. Whatsapp).

No player should make any assumptions on which team they will play in the next match based on previous selections.

If a player is looking for an explanation it is the duty of the coach or the Captain to advise on any decisions.

Players' Responsibilities

- All players should make themselves familiar with the Player code of Conduct
- Players must advise captains and coaches of their availability one week in advance, and are responsible for informing their captain or coaches of any changes as soon as possible. It is not the Captains responsibility to chase players
- Players must advise their Captain on return from a period of unavailability
- All players must pay their annual subscriptions prior to the start of the season
- Players should notify their captain of any planned absence during the season at earliest opportunity to allow the playing committee to plan/prepare for these absences
- Players should be prepared to assist the club when necessary and have a desire to be competitive at a higher level within the club structure

- Players and parents must respect the selection policy
- If there are challenges the players under the age of 8 will need to be accompanied by the parents or guardian

Selection Points

In the case of players advising of absence on a Friday night then it is that Captains and Coaches responsibility to organise the replacement their and lower teams. Players should not assume they have been selected in their favoured position or team. The selection of players will be to ensure the strongest team is available and players are requested to assist with this process.

Guidelines

Portrane Hockey Club aims operate a fair selection policy allowing for all members to have a chance of playing in a fixture for the Club and adhere to the following guidelines regarding selection:

- The Club will take a long term view of the development of all its players in line with the principles of Irish Hockey Development plan
- A junior member is one under the age of 18, a player is eligible to play Senior Hockey at the age of 15.
- The Club will enforce that no young person under the age of 15 is to play in the Senior competition
- Junior members playing in Senior teams will in theory play for both teams with a priority for the junior team
- Once again it is the aim of the Club to give all members a game when possible. Portane Hockey Club aims to give junior members confidence to enjoy and play to their best ability in matches which can result in (especially in senior teams) players being dropped to a lower team if they are not meeting the selection criteria
- The Club will abide by the LHA calendar and the priority this provides to ensure that young players at each stage of their development are given the opportunity to play and train at the right level for them without being overplayed.
- All selection will be made in line with the principles outlined in the Irish Hockey Equity Policy and Irish Hockey Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy adopted by this Club
- Where a younger player is close in ability to another player in the team then consideration of dropping a senior player will be made based on the Selection Criteria outlined above.
- Where a youngster has good commitment AND shows potential to be as good as or better than the senior player by the end of the season; and that junior is likely to be at the club for the next season then the junior player should be retained and the senior player dropped when captains and coaches are considering their teams.

Internal Selection Discipline

Any player bringing the Club into disrepute may be subject to disciplinary action by the Club Committee. As a guideline, any player receiving 3 or more yellow cards in half a season will be expected to attend a meeting and may be subject to further action.

Safety

As a club, we recommend the following for safety reasons:

- Warm up and stretch before a match
- Warm down after a match
- Wear astro trainers, shin pads and a gum shield
- Remove jewellery such as earrings, watches etc
- Bring a drink to avoid dehydration