

RICHMOND HOCKEY CLUB

Founded 1874

Astro: University of Westminster Sports Ground, Hartington Road, Chiswick, London, W4 3UH

www.richmondhockeyclub.com

JUNIOR SELECTION POLICY

1. Team selection for U9s-U11s

A number of fixtures are available to these groups, including friendly matches, Home Counties Mini Festivals and the EH Club Mini Championships. The purpose of this Selection Policy is to set out clearly how players are selected for fixtures for the benefit of players and parents alike. The underlying aim of our Selection Policy is to ensure that it is fair and inclusive.

Team selection

Player selection for each of these age groups will be made by the coaches using the following criteria:

1. Skill level
2. Playing experience
3. Attendance at training
4. Effort and commitment
5. Fitness

Players will be asked whether they are available for matches approximately 2 weeks before the match.

Inclusivity

Every child should have the opportunity to play in matches at the appropriate level. Playing a fixture against another club is in itself an important part of a player's development.

Excellence

Coaches have a duty to play their strongest teams at some fixtures eg EH Club Mini Championships. Coaches have the right to select their best team based on their knowledge of the players and, when requested, will explain their decision to players and parents. Players not selected for these teams have the right to ask where they need to improve in order to gain a place on such a team.

Friendly fixtures

A chance to play in these fixtures will be made available to all players in a group, regardless of their ability. It is the aim of all RHC coaches to ensure that, over the course of a season, as many children as possible are given the opportunity to play in a fixture. Unexpected cancellations of fixtures may, however, affect the extent to which this aspiration is achieved.

Movement between teams

Reference to teams as A, B, C etc is generally avoided in these age groups and as an alternative we try to use alternative names such as Richmond Hawks, Ospreys etc. Movement between teams is encouraged and players should not take their place in any team for granted. All players are expected to willingly play for whichever team they have been selected for.

2. Team selection for U12s and above

All teams from U12 upwards play League games either entering into the Home Counties Girls Leagues or the Mercian Leagues for boys.

The Club still aims to provide match exposure for all its junior members at these age levels, but the selection emphasis changes so that all children are grouped into teams according to their ability. Age groups are combined to reflect the approach taken by the local leagues, so for example, U13/14s are combined, U15/16s are combined etc. Selection within these age groups is based on ability and commitment, but we ensure that we enter enough teams into the various leagues so that players of all abilities get to play matches.

3. What to do if you are concerned

Where a parent is concerned about anything to do with the selection of their son or daughter to any team, please contact their squad leader and lead coach in the first instance.

Failing that, please contact Ricky Juttla, Director of Junior Coaching.