



Developmental Selection Policy

This policy demonstrates Shefford & Sandy Hockey Club's commitment to the development of young players as they are the future of our club, and of hockey in general. The club will always act in the best interests of the individual.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that our junior members are given every opportunity to reach their full potential whatever level that may be (regional, county, social or otherwise).

We will:

- Take a long term view of the development of all its young players in line with the principles of Long Term Athlete Development adopted within England Hockey's Single System.
- Ensure that no young person under the age of 13 (on 1st January of the season being played) is to play in adult only competition.
- Only play a junior in a senior game / competition when it is in the best interest of that player. If an adult team is short and the only option is a young player who is not ready either physically, mentally or socially, then the adult team will play short.
- Abide by England Hockey recommendations regarding player eligibility and competition rules.
- Ensure that for young players eligible to be involved in adult teams, careful consideration will be given to ensure that the distance travelled is proportional to the likely pitch time for the young player. As a guide, it is suggested that players who will play less than half a game should not travel for longer than 60 minutes.
- Ensure all selection will be made in line with the principles outlined in the EH Equity Policy and EH Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy adopted by this club.
- Seek to ensure that each member of the squad is given as equal as possible an amount of pitch time per match or per event to ensure every individual has the opportunity to develop. Winning is important but not the only gain.