

# Parents Information Pack 2023/24



# Summary of key info for parents

If you only have 2 minutes....

Welcome!

1. Please ensure that you renew your child's membership (or if you are new that you register on our system) and that you pay subs. Please do **not** do this before 1<sup>st</sup> Sept but as soon as you can in September. The deadline is the end of September.
2. Please make sure you are on your child's squad WhatsApp group and SPOND to be kept updated. Please respond quickly to match availability requests
3. Please ensure your child has a gum shield, shin pads and a facemask if appropriate (ask your coach)
4. Please ensure your child's manager/coach knows of any additional needs your child has, both mental and/or physical
5. For parents of U8s and U10s, you must remain at the training session and collect your child from the pitch. For older age groups, please remain contactable throughout training, collect your child from the pitch not the car park OR give consent for them to leave alone
6. Please do volunteer some time throughout the season to help in the tea hut or at tournaments - our club is 99% run by volunteers
7. For U14 and U16 age groups please make sure you register your child on the Game Management System before 16<sup>th</sup> September
8. For U14 and u16 age groups please read the 'Transition to Senior Hockey Guidelines' and particularly the Changing Room and WhatsApp policies referenced within
9. Please do read on for more detailed information and to help your child fully benefit Chelmsford Hockey Club



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# Club Ethos

We are a club that:

- Develops junior players
- Is focused on performance/elite hockey
- Plays hockey for fun

We also aspire to be a club that uses hockey as a way to include children and adults from all backgrounds.

The formation of a new fund to help implement this is underway.



# Club Values



**Enjoyment:** We play hockey first and foremost for enjoyment – this includes enjoying being part of the club and playing hockey to the standard you enjoy



**Teamwork:** We work together on and off the pitch where everyone contributes what they can to the whole team, including parents



**Community:** We are a welcoming, inclusive club with a strong community feel



**Respect:** We respect the rules, our teammates, the opposition, coaches, officials, volunteers and our facilities



**Safety:** We provide a safe environment for everyone involved



# Basic Club Information

- One of the largest clubs in Essex with around 600 members
- Junior club: About 400 junior members from ages 4-18
- Senior club: 10 men's teams and 7 ladies' teams
- 2 hockey pitches at Chelmer Park, Beehive Lane
- Clubhouse and Changing Facilities
- Junior outreach coaching in local schools
- Chair of Juniors: Sally Dalton 07854060783. [Sally.Dalton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Sally.Dalton@blueyonder.co.uk).  
Happy to chat and answer questions, receive feedback!



# Coaching Sessions 23/24 Season

## Regular Training

U8s (up to & incl year 3) incl 'Little Gems'  
Sundays 9-10 CHC pitch

U10s (year 4 & 5)  
Boys Sun 9-10.30 Council pitch  
Girls Sun 10-11.30 CHC pitch

U12s (year 6 & 7)  
Boys Sun 9-10.30 Council pitch  
Girls Sun 10.30-12 Council pitch

U14s (year 8 & 9)  
Boys Sun 11.30-1 CHC pitch  
Girls Wed 6.30-8pm CHC pitch

U16s (year 10 & 11)  
Boys & Girls 6.30-8pm CHC pitch/  
Council pitch

Keepers incorporated in regular training.  
U10/12 GK training once a month

## Extra Opportunities

Pay and Play  
Mondays 5.15-6.15pm  
From age 7  
CHC pitch

U12 Extra sessions  
Mon 5-6pm & 6-7pm  
CHC pitch

Junior Academy\* Yr 7  
Monday 7-8pm  
Council pitch

U14 Extra sessions  
Tuesdays 6.30-  
7.30pm CHC pitch

Youth Academy\*  
Yr 8 & 9 Mondays  
8-9pm Council pitch

Senior training  
when ready\*

Senior training

Performance Academy\*  
Yr 10-13  
Monthly Fridays CHC pitch

Youth keepers (U14 & U16) once a month Wed 6.30-8pm CHC pitch

Sunday training starts on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept unless coach advises otherwise

Monday Academies and Extra sessions start 11<sup>th</sup> Sept

Youth keepers starts Wed 7<sup>th</sup> and U16s starts Thurs 8<sup>th</sup>

\*Invite only

# Pay & Play and Extra Sessions

- **Pay and Play**

- Pay on the day sessions for ages 7-11
- Ideal for beginners, those who cannot make Sundays or young children looking for extra practice
- Mixed boys and girls
- No subs payment required
- £3 a session or £5 for 2 siblings. Pay by card on the day

- **Extra Sessions**

- Extra opportunities for year 6 and 7s (Mondays) and year 8s (Tuesdays) to play
- Mixed boys and girls
- Small group sessions for technical and tactical coaching from 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> team players
- Open to all (except those invited to Academy sessions) but must be booked and paid for in advance on a half term basis





# Academies

- **Junior Academy and Youth Academy**

- For high potential year 7s (junior) and high potential year 8s and 9s (youth) to support their development
- Mixed boys and girls. Invite only
- Small group sessions for more technical and tactical coaching from 1<sup>st</sup> team player or coach
- Paid for in advance on a term basis
- Formal feedback provided at least once a year to help development
- Commitment required to maintain place
- Groups reviewed at Christmas

- **Performance Academy**

- For year 10-13 juniors in senior performance teams to support their development
- Mixed boys and girls. Invite only
- Small group sessions for more technical and tactical coaching from 1<sup>st</sup> team player or coach



# Competitions

## U8s Friendlies

- When we can, we try to organise 5 a side friendly tournaments for U8s
- The priority is for children in year 3 to participate in these
- The tournament will typically take 60 but no more than 90 minutes

## U10s and U12s

- These age groups play in tournaments roughly once a month instead of training
- Developing U10s will play 5 a side. More advanced U10s & all U12s play 7 a side
- The dates of tournaments for the 23/24 season are: 24<sup>th</sup> Sept, 15<sup>th</sup> Oct, 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 24<sup>th</sup> March (finals)
- There are 2 leagues/divisions for U10s and 3 leagues/divisions for U12s
- Coaches decide which leagues to enter each year and select teams based on their ability. They may move players between teams depending on their progress
- There is an In2hockey Championships for all Essex clubs typically in February



# Competitions

## U14s and U16s

- Matches are played on Sundays - usually afternoons
- 1<sup>st</sup> team league dates
  - U14G: 24<sup>th</sup> Sept (Away), 15<sup>th</sup> Oct (Home), 5<sup>th</sup> Nov (Away), 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec (Home),
  - U14B: 24<sup>th</sup> Sept (H), 5<sup>th</sup> Nov (H), 26<sup>th</sup> Nov (A), 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec (A)
  - U16G: 24<sup>th</sup> Sept (H), 5<sup>th</sup> Nov (A), 26<sup>th</sup> Nov (A), 14<sup>th</sup> Jan (H)
  - U16B: 24<sup>th</sup> Sept (A), 15<sup>th</sup> Oct (H), 5<sup>th</sup> Nov (A), 26<sup>th</sup> Nov (H)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> team league dates
  - Dates will be communicated by managers
- England Hockey Champs (Cup & Plate)
  - U14G and U14B: 8<sup>th</sup> Oct and 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. Also 19<sup>th</sup> Nov if successful
  - U16G and U16B: 29<sup>th</sup> Oct and 19<sup>th</sup> Nov
  - Awaiting draw that will determine opposition and venue
  - More dates post xmas if teams progress
- Please note U14 boys training on a Sunday will usually still go ahead for those not involved in the match



# Selection Policy

- We aim to give everyone equal amounts of competitive hockey within their tier/level
- For In2hockey and England Hockey Championships/Cup games we enter one team only so select the best players
- You can refer to our [Developmental Selection Policy](#) for more details



# Communication

## WhatsApp

- We use WhatsApp to communicate to parents

## Spond

- We use the Spond app and for gathering availability for fixtures & communicating times and venues
- Your prompt response to availability requests is appreciated

## Website

- Basic info on subs and training times can be found on our website

## Newsletters

- We may send a few email newsletters throughout the year to those who consent to receive them when you register. These are typically at the start and middle of the season
- You can sign up to receive them at the bottom of the [website home page](#)





# Membership & Fees

- **Existing members**

- Logon via website and renew from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept and pay. Deadline end Sept
- Payment can be done online. It is a 1-off Direct Debit
- Any issues contact Matt Gore [membership@chelmsfordhc.org.uk](mailto:membership@chelmsfordhc.org.uk)

- **New members**

- Register online clicking on 'Sign Up' top right-hand corner of website homepage
- MUST be completed before starting
- 3 trial sessions are allowed, after which we ask for prompt payment

- **Annual Subs**

- £85 up to and incl year 3, £120 year 4 to year 8, £125 year 9 to year 13
- Discounts available for GK with own kit, coaches & managers

- **Extra charges**

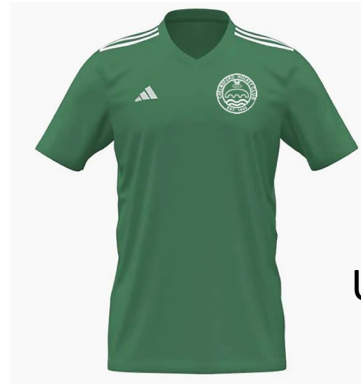
- Extra sessions and Academy sessions are charged separately at approximately £3 a session but paid for upfront before the sessions start
- Monday Pay and Play is £3 a session and no annual subs are required

# Club Kit (adidas)

- Match Kit is a green shirt, navy shorts or skorts and green socks
- We have an online club shop (Intersport) where you can buy club shirts, skorts, shorts and socks  
<https://gameforlife.co.uk/collections/chelmsford-hockey-club-2019-2022>
- U14s and U16s should get numbers on the back for senior games – ask Intersport
- For Customer Service issues email [office@gameforlife.co.uk](mailto:office@gameforlife.co.uk) or call Richard on 07929203455



U8/10/12  
\* New lower price  
£15.75\*



U14 and older shirt in  
line with seniors £30



£19.95



£23



£11.50



£5.83 (not  
adidas but  
much better!)



# Club Kit (non-adidas)

- We also sell kit directly from the club – all optional
- We sell hoodies, training t-shirts and cheaper than adidas shorts and skorts aimed mainly at U8s, U10s and U12s
- We also sell bobble hats and stripey training socks for anyone at the club
- Ideally U14s/U16s start to align their kit (shirts, shorts/skorts, hoodies) with the senior club kit as they play more senior games



## Other options

- Preloved sale taking place 17<sup>th</sup> Sept (please hand in any items on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept)
- We have a few U10 shirts to lend out but not many





# Welfare and safeguarding

- **Safe Kit**

- All players must have gumshields and shin pads (excluding youngest Little Gems group)
- You can buy mould-at-home gumshields (easier when kids teeth are changing regularly) but a dentist gumshield fitting session will be arranged at the club near the start of the season. We are waiting for a date!
- Little ones get very cold in winter. Please ensure you wrap kids up in the winter (incl gloves when cold!).
- Please buy [facemasks](#) for U14s, U16s & more advanced U10s & U12s (ask your coach)

- **Safe Drop off & Toilet Trips**

- Please drop your child off with the manager so they can record them on the register
- Parents of U8s and U10s **MUST** stay for the session to do toilet trips OR nominate another parent to take your child (and let the manager know who this)
- Toilets are in our changing room block (find the door round by the tennis /netball courts) or use the park toilets
- It is anticipated that at U12 level and above toilet trips won't be an issue but parents should be contactable by phone for emergencies

- **Safe Collection**

- All U8s and U10s must be collected by parents from the pitch so we know who has left. Please ensure the coach or manager knows you have collected your child
- U12s and above must have parental consent for child to leave unaccompanied. If not, parents must come to the pitch to collect



# Welfare and safeguarding

- **Additional mental and physical needs**

- Please give managers details of any additional needs your child has, e.g. asthma, dyspraxia, autism
- Please give us any information that would help your child to enjoy and develop their hockey, e.g. how they learn, if they need any medication with them

- **Code of Conduct & Welfare Policies**

- We have Club codes of conduct for [volunteers](#), [parents](#) and [players](#)
- England Hockey have a [Safeguarding policy and information specifically for parents](#)
- England Hockey also have a [Code of Ethics and Behaviour](#)
- The fundamental principles are
  - We are here to have fun
  - We respect each other
  - We are inclusive - ethnicity, gender, cultural background, religion, ability, age and additional needs
  - There should be no touching, swearing, aggressive, abusive, bullying behaviour
  - Please report any issues that concern you to the welfare officer

- **Welfare Officer**

- Gemma Butterworth 07452 814219 [Junior\\_welfare@chelmsfordhc.org.uk](mailto:Junior_welfare@chelmsfordhc.org.uk)



# Volunteering

Our entire club is 99% run by volunteers and we ask everyone to contribute some time to the club during the time your children are here. Thank you in advance for the time you can give.

## Tea Hut

- Each Sunday we need parents to help in the tea hut that raises important funds for the club

## Helpers at tournaments

- Please help the coaches and managers by helping out at tournaments such as being a time-keeper or helping to set up the pitches

## Umpires

- Having help to umpire matches is a huge help to coaches and can help you understand the rules and support your child with their hockey
- An umpire qualification is not required for U10s and U12s but a course can be easily taken online for older age group matches. Please ask your manager or [Susan Maclachlan](#), our umpire co-ordinator, if you are interested

## Socials

- Socials are really good for building a team spirit and help children enjoy their hockey even more
- If you are keen to help but are not confident with hockey why not help arrange a social for your squad? Successful socials have included ice skating, jump street, roller skating or swimming



# Coaches and Managers Who's Who

## Coaches

- U8s Kitch and helpers
- U10B Phil Carden, Natalie Richardson, Graham Storey
- U10G Neil Hurrell, Sally Holmes, Matt Calderwood, Gordon McCarty, Jamie Tunnicliffe, Sarah Fernandez-Grandon, Ed Route, Chetan Kushalappa, Marie Kirkham
- U12B Sally Dalton, Tom Dalton, Richard Hamilton, Stella Jenkins, John Armour, Paul Gumbeer
- U12G Glenn Kirkham, Deb Chambers, Richard Goodey, Kat Hales, Ed Todd, David Tingey, Mark Wright
- U14B Harry Wells, Rebecca Wells, James Lomas
- U14G Richard Ross, Gavin Richards
- U16G&B: Harry Rayner. On Match days: Kath McDonald (G) and David Ireland (B)
- Pay and Play: Nigel Seager and Mark Davis
- Academies: Marcus Bradley-Stevenson (Junior), Harry Rayner (Youth)
- Boosters: Sam Durdle and Claudia Topel (Mondays), Ben Farmer and Vasandan Veerapalan (Tuesdays)
- GKs: Carl Wright (U10/12s), Ashwin Raj (Youth)

## Managers

- U8s Louise Robson, Annabelle Rout
- U10B Nicole Neubelt
- U10G Charlie Hingston
- U12B Ken Eddie
- U12G Paul Kitson
- U14B Nic Seed
- U14G Kate Ashton
- U16B: Claire Gore
- U16G: Helen Conway



# U14s and U16s Specific Extra Information



# Game Management System (GMS)

- Players in the U14 and U16 age groups and those playing for senior teams need to be registered on England Hockey's centralised player database the Game Management System (GMS) as well as on Chelmsford HC's club system
- Parents - please do the following for juniors in U14 age groups and above
  - Go to <https://gms.englandhockey.co.uk/>
  - If you're not registered yourself as an adult, select register and register yourself: select player if you play yourself, otherwise select parent / non-player, and associate yourself with Chelmsford Hockey Club. Then Add your child/children as dependants
  - If you are already registered on GMS please login, click your initials on the top left, go to My Profile, then Relations, then Add Dependant and enter your child's / children's details
  - Please note after the initial login/registration page the website is confusingly called [whostheumpire.com](http://whostheumpire.com) but don't panic you're still in the right place.
  - If you struggle on your mobile please try on a computer - the site tends to work much better
  - Parents must register their children before 16<sup>th</sup> September so they can play in matches
- If your child has been registered on GMS at another club they will need to be 'transferred' to Chelmsford. Please contact your previous club to obtain confirmation that they have no objection to your daughter being re-registered to play for Chelmsford (They may object if you owe them money for example!). Send this confirmation to your manager so they can send it on to England Hockey to update the system manually



# Competitions: Indoor

## **December Indoor tournament at the Copper Box, Stratford**

- Depending on coach availability then a team may be taken to this tournament
- The one-day tournament is typically at the very end of December
- Training is 6 weeks leading up till xmas and usually at New Hall
- A training squad is selected based on who is available for the tournament



# Transitioning to Senior Hockey

## Key points

- Children qualify to play as soon as they turn 13
- Their age group coach will advise when they are ready to attend to senior training
- Often girls start playing senior hockey younger than boys because the ladies sides rely on youth players more than the men and also because often the physical difference between the women and girls is less than the physical difference between the men and the boys
- There is no extra charge for senior training
- If selected for team, then matches are on Saturdays and there are match fees (£8)
- Parents are asked to respond promptly to managers regarding availability
- Parents are advised to read the [guidelines](#) for transitioning to senior hockey that answer all questions
- Parents should also read the [Changing Room policy](#) and the [WhatsApp policy](#) before their child starts playing senior hockey matches





# County & Talent Academy

## County Hockey

- It is worth asking club coaches for advice if a player's ability is good enough to attend the trials BUT anyone can go if they want to
- Selection: 3 sessions for each age group of 2 hours each for £40 in total
- A fund available for those who need help paying
- Selection dates
  - U13 (yr 8) and U14 (yr 9): 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Sept
  - U15 (yr 10) and U16/17 (yr 11 & 12): 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept
  - All age groups: 1<sup>st</sup> October
- 20 children per age group selected for 6 training sessions (usually Friday), 2 festivals and a final
- Booking is open. Email [essexhockeyadmin@virginmedia.com](mailto:essexhockeyadmin@virginmedia.com)

## Talent Academy

- Club coaches, county coaches and school coaches refer a player to an England Hockey Talent Academy (nearest Academies are Old Loughts and Cambridge)
- Referrals usually about twice a year
- For 15-18 year olds
- They hold trials and select a training squad
- There is a cost for the coaching they provide
- Financial help for 2 spaces in the squad
- There are then matches (I think?!) and a festival in the summer



# Tour

- We have a tour committee established
  - Sarah Norman
  - Suzanne Maddison
  - Deirdre McBurney
  - James Collins
  - Nicole Grimes
  - Karin Smithers
  - Gordon MacSween
  - Lee Waite
- Looking to arrange a junior tour for juniors 13+
- Likely to be Spring or Summer
- May be abroad or in the UK
- More details to come during the season



# Anglian Eagles

- Not England Hockey organized but organized by UK Lions @UKLionsHockey1
- For U13 boys and girls (year 7 and 8)
- Squad selected towards end of season
- Play a festival in the summer against other regions
- Keep an eye on Anglian Eagles twitter for trials @AnglianEagles

