

Parents Information Pack 2024/25



Summary of key info for parents

If you only have 2 minutes....

Welcome!

1. Please ensure that you register your child on Pitchero and pay subs. Please respond quickly to availability requests on Pitchero.
2. Please make sure you are on your child's squad WhatsApp group.
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 for toilet trips (or nominate another adult) and collect your child from the pitch. For older ages, please do remain contactable throughout training, collect your child from the pitch not the car park OR give consent for them to leave alone (u12s and above only)
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 by the deadline
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 from Chelmsford Hockey Club



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Junior Club Mission

To provide a fun, quality and safe hockey experience for all children of all ability levels in the Chelmsford area, supporting them to be the best that they can be



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: Over 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.
Happy to chat, answer questions and receive feedback!



Coaching Sessions 24/25 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 Tues 6.30-8pm CHC pitch
Girls Wed 6.30-8pm CHC pitch

U16s (year 10 & 11)
Boys & Girls training separately
Sunday 1-2.30pm CHC pitch

Extra Opportunities

Pay and Play
Mondays 5-6pm
Year 2 to 6
CHC pitch

Skill Booster 1
(Year 6)

Mon 6-7pm
CHC pitch

Skill Booster 2
(Year 7/8)

Mon 7-8pm
Council pitch

Skill Booster 3
(Year 8/9)

Mon 7-8pm
Council pitch

Skill Booster 4
(Year 6/7)

Thurs 7-8pm
Council pitch

Senior training
Men's 5-8s Mon 8-9.30, 3s/4s Mon 8.30-10pm, 1s/2s Tues & Thurs 8-9.30
Ladies 6/7s Thurs 6.30-8, 2/3s Mon 7-8.30pm, 1s and 4s/5s Wed 8-9.30

Keepers

U10/12s incorporated into
regular training plus
additional monthly separate
sessions on Sundays

U14 & U16 twice a month
on either Mondays 6-7pm
or Thursdays 6.30-8pm

- Sundays start on 8th Sept unless coach advises otherwise
- Week-nights starts w/c 9th September
- Please book onto U14/16 keeper training as places limited

Extra Opportunities to play

- **Pay and Play**

- Pay on the day sessions for primary school aged children
- Ideal for beginners, those who cannot make Sundays or children year 5 and below looking for extra practice
- Mixed boys and girls
- No subs payment required
- £3 a session or £5 for 2 siblings.

- **Skill Booster**

- Extra sessions for years 6 - 9
- Mixed boys and girls
- Small group sessions to boost skills
- Places limited and booked and paid for in advance
- Those attending senior training are not eligible to attend
- Prioritised for those not getting hockey at school esp in older groups
- Groups reviewed each half term



Selection Policy

- **At U8s**
 - We aim to give all year 3s (who want to) the opportunity to play in some tournaments throughout the season. Strong year 2s may be given the option to join them to make up numbers but they are not the priority.
- **U10s – U16s**
 - Where squads are big enough, we often create teams at different levels. We then enter them into competitions, leagues and arrange friendly fixtures so that all players have multiple opportunities to play matches at the most appropriate standard of hockey for them.
 - However, players are continually assessed and movement between levels is still possible, temporarily or permanently. Some players may be moved up a level to stretch them or down a level to give them a leadership role or development challenge at a playing standard they are comfortable with.
 - Occasionally, if the squad has lots of players at a similar level then the teams may be at the same level and entered into the same league. It will be up to the coaches to decide what approach is best.
 - **U10s/U12s (5 a side and 7 a side, usually 1 hour of hockey broken into matches of between 10 and 20 mins)**
 - In tournaments (which at this age group are friendly fixtures and no results or league table are maintained), we aim to give everyone equal amounts of game time
 - The only exception is the In2hockey championships (a cup and an opportunity to progress to East champs) where we enter one team only and we select the best players. Playing time will be determined by the coach on the day. All players should get a reasonable amount of game time (at least half the available time), even if not exactly equal.
 - **U14s and U16s (11 a side, 2 x 35 mins)**
 - With 11 a-side hockey, match-day squad management is more complex; there are additional factors to consider such as playing strength in certain positions, fitness in longer matches on a bigger pitch, the need to take players off temporarily to give feedback, the strength of the opposition in certain positions and the player's own in-match performance. The coaches' focus on individual playing time is then only one factor considered. However, anyone selected to play in a match should expect to have a reasonable playing opportunity in both halves of a game
 - League and Cup competitions are inherently competitive, and we and the opposition do play to win. However regardless of outcome, the club's ethos is that winning is not the sole objective and key outcomes for the whole squad prioritise the development and enjoyment of both individuals and the group as a whole

Competitions

U8s Friendlies

- When we can, we try to organise 4/5 a side friendly tournaments for year 3s in the U8s
- 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. The tournament replaces training for that Sunday
- There are 2 leagues: North Essex (lower) and Essex (higher) for U10s & U12s
- U10s in the North League will play 5 a side. U10s in Essex league and all U12s play 7 a side
- The dates of tournaments for the 24/25 season are: 22nd Sept, 13th Oct, 10th Nov, 1st Dec, 19th Jan, 9th Feb, 23rd March (finals day)
- There is an additional East league for U12s – dates tbc
- There is also an In2hockey Championships (a cup) typically in February. The top 2 teams progress to an East tournament



Competitions

U14s and U16s

- Matches are played on Sundays - often afternoons or late morning
- We enter tier 2 and tier 3 competitions (tier 1 is the highest level and distance to travel much greater)
- Tier 2 team dates pre xmas
 - East fixtures: 6th Oct, 13th Oct, 3rd Nov, 24th Nov, 1st Dec (may not all be used)
 - Eng Hockey Champs Cup/Plate: 20th Oct, 10th Nov
 - Additional friendlies may be arranged
- Tier 3 team dates pre xmas
 - Local Essex fixtures: 3-4 fixtures have been circulated for pre-xmas. Managers are arranging the precise dates and times
 - Additional friendlies may be arranged

U18s

- If any parent wants to organise and manage an U18 team for the Eng Hockey Champs (a cup) competition please let Sally know before 4th September when entries are due. There must be commitment from players to fulfil fixtures. If a team is willing, we will find a coach to take the team for the fixtures
- Regan Galbraith has explored this for the boys so far but numbers do not look high enough



Communication

Pitchero

- We use the Pitchero app and for gathering availability for fixtures & communicating times and venues
- Your prompt response to availability requests is appreciated
- There are also options to receive club news and newsletters through Pitchero

WhatsApp

- We use WhatsApp to communicate more urgent messages
- Please do not add any non-parent/guardian members to this group

Website

- This is to become a site more for non-members whilst Pitchero is the site that should contain all information for members
- However, basic info on subs and training times can be found on both



Membership & Fees

- **Please register and pay subs on Pitchero**
 - New members must register even if still doing their 3 week trial period before paying
 - There is a small increase in subs to cover increasing costs
- **Discounts**
 - Goalkeepers who have bought their own kit don't need to pay subs
 - If a keeper has a mixture of borrowed and own kit please speak to your manager
- **Extra sessions**
 - These will be available to pay via Pitchero
 - Pay and Play will also be available to pay via Pitchero and no annual subs are required



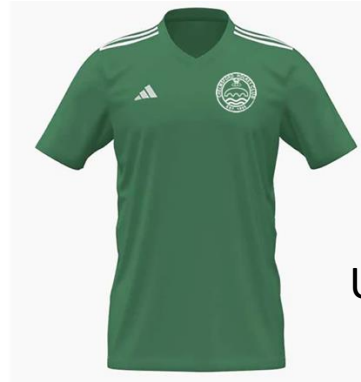
Club Kit (adidas)

- 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, socks and other training kit <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 or call Richard on 07929203455



U8/10/12

* New lower price
£15.75*



U14+ shirt in line with
seniors £30



£19.95 -
£31



£26 -
£33



£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 but no obligation to change until it no longer fits!



Other options

- Preloved sale to take place at start of season
- Please ask parents to hand in preloved kit the first 2 weeks of training to managers and Annabelle/ Emma will collect from you



Welfare and safeguarding



- **Safe Kit**

- All players must have gumshields and shin pads, including 'Little Gems' in U8s
- 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 the pitch unaccompanied. Remember that the pitch is in a public park and it will be dark after U14 training on week nights. If you don't give permission, parents must come to the pitch to collect
- We ask that you are prompt to collect children, even if they have permission to walk to the car park. We have a duty of care to ensure children are collected.

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

- **Photo Permission**

- Please ensure that your photo permission is up to date on Pitchero. There are specific questions for different channels and purposes (Whatsapp groups, social media, for coaching purposes). This consent applies to club officials and channels only. However, we can only ask other parents to be considerate and not share photos widely - we cannot enforce these rules. In addition, we cannot share which parents have not given consent.

- **Code of Conduct & Welfare Policies**

- We have [Club codes of conduct exist for volunteers, parents, players](#). You will be asked to consent to these when you register on Pitchero
- England Hockey have a [Safeguarding policy and guidelines specifically for volunteers](#)
- England Hockey have a [Code of Ethics and Behaviour](#)
- Fundamental principles are
 - We are here to have fun (can but doesn't have to include winning!)
 - 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

- **Welfare Officer**

- For any safeguarding concerns please contact Gemma Butterworth 07452 814219
gibutterworth@gmail.com 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
- Comprehensive instructions are available

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 the hockey
- An umpire qualification is not required for U10s and U12s but information can be found / an online course can be easily taken to help you understand the rules. Taking a course (online) is required for umpiring U14s matches and above. Go to: <https://hockeyhub.englishhockey.co.uk/officiating>
- We will pay £10 per U10/12s match/tournament to an umpire who has done a course (does not need to be assessed)
- We will pay £20 per U14/16 match to an umpire who has done a course (does not need to be assessed)
- Of course we welcome people not claiming the fee to reduce costs to the club but recognise that this fee, especially for teenagers, may help encourage umpiring!
- Fees are to be claimed from the club (and not by parents as before) as they have been incorporated into subs. Email the treasurer on e_e_emu@hotmail.com, copying in the manager to confirm

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
- Parents of U14/16 could help arrange 'teas' after the game for opposition if travelling along way



Coaches and Managers Who's Who

Coaches

- U8s Stef, Gemma Butterworth and helpers
- U10B Gregg Clarke, Craig MacKenzie and Cath Allen
- U10G Sally Holmes, Matt Calderwood, Gordon McCarty, Ed Route, Jamie Holland, David Ormrod, Nick Bastian, David Phillips, Kat Hales, Sarah Hurst, Tom Sampson
- U12B Phil Carden, Paul Gumber and Graham Storey and Mahendra Patel
- U12G Neil Hurrell, Glenn Kirkham, Ed Todd, Mark Wright, Sarah Fernandez-Grandon, Jamie Tunnicliffe
- U14B Tom Dalton, Richard Hamilton, Stella Jenkins, Sally Dalton, Rob McKay, James Lomas and Hugh Fillingham
- U14G Richard Ross, Gavin Richards, Kat Hales, Jas Goddard
- U16B: Harry Wells and David Ireland, Dean Rogers, Gordon Young
- U16G: Karen Wells (Matt Calderwood)
- Pay and Play: Nigel Seager and Sam Durdle
- Skills Boosters: Sam Durdle, Sue Rhodes, Ben Farmer, Jess Tuff, Ben Wheadon and Matt Blair
- GKs: Carl Wright (U10/12s), Ashwin Raj (Youth)

Managers

- U8s Alp Kostem
- U10B: Tim Renshaw
- U10G Lauren Hayes
- U12B Nicole Neubelt
- U12G Charlie Hingston
- U14B Nic Seed
- U14G Paul Kitson
- U16B: Claire Gore
- U16G: Kate Ashton
- Pay and Play: Rachel Ready
- Skills Boosters: Rachel Ready , Lianne Almond, Nicole Neubelt, Sally Dalton
- U10/12 Keeper Manager: Charlie Hingston
- U14/16 Keeper Manager: Oliver Parker



Junior Committee & Other Roles

Committee

- Chair and U14/16 fixtures: Sally (U14B)
- Head of U10/12s incl Sunday mornings: Sally Holmes
- Coaching reps: Deb Chambers (U8), Ben Maddison (U16G)
- Parent reps: Nicole Neubelt (U12B, U14G)
- Welfare: Gemma Butterworth (U8s) and Louise Wright (U14B)
- Pitch bookings and Umpire support for U10/12: Susan Maclachlan (U14G, U10G)

Other roles

- Fixtures secretary U8-U12s Gordon McCarty (U10G)
- Kit/Merchandise: Annabel Rout (U10G)
- Tea hut Co-ordinator: Christina Lee
- Camps: Deb Chambers
- Schools Coaching Co-ordinator: Vacant
- Socials: Vacant
- Year 8/9/12 Tour: Vacant
- Indoor Co-ordinator: Vacant



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.englishockey.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 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 16th 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

- 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 at Copper Box or in Sussex
- The standard is HIGH!
- A volunteer is required to lead the entries and book training facilities
- 6 sessions usually best for the squad who want to / can make it
- Not sure if New Hall hiring out facilities

- If you are interested please get in contact with Sally Dalton



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 and will be aware which team/s they are playing for
- 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/when selected for team, then matches are on Saturdays and there are match fees (£8)
- Please note, selection is made on ability not age
- Parents are asked to respond promptly to managers regarding availability
- Parents and players should read the [guidelines](#) for transitioning to senior hockey that answer all questions
- Once your child is playing, if you have questions on selection, please address the senior captains and coaches. Whilst junior coaches communicate with senior coaches and captains, they do not make senior selection decisions.
- Please also read the [Changing Room policy](#) and the [WhatsApp policy](#) before their child starts playing senior hockey matches



County & Talent Academy

County Hockey

- Anyone can trial but it is advised to check with your coach so you know what to expect
- Selection: 3 sessions for each age group of 2 hours each for c. £40 in total
- A fund available for those who need help paying
- Usually 20 children per age group selected for 6 training sessions (usually Fridays), 2 festivals and a final
- Follow Essex Hockey on facebook for updates and to book onto the trial sessions

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 from clubs, counties and schools take place in Spring
- For 15-18 year olds
- They hold trials and select a training squad in September
- 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 would love to re-establish a tour for juniors
- From experience of trying but not being successful over the past few years we feel that a tour for children NOT taking important exams is likely to work best, i.e. year 8/9/10 and 12
- If you would like to volunteer to help organise please contact Sally Dalton
- Venues and dates are up for discussion but experience suggests Easter or May half term would work well and that a UK venue will help to limit the cost



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

