

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

GHA U12, U10 and U8 Festivals – Rules, Regulations and Guidance notes.

Tournament rules and regulations.

Gloucestershire Hockey Association is affiliated to England Hockey and has adopted all policies, rules and regulations that have been issued by England Hockey, any and all that are in force at the time of any event are assumed to be applicable. It is an entry requirement that all teams are affiliated to England Hockey and have adopted the England Hockey policies, rules and regulations and will comply with the requirements arising. In addition, it is the responsibility of all teams to be aware of Covid-19 requirements, both the guidance issued by England Hockey and any applicable UK government requirements in England.

Tournament playing rules for U10s and U12s shall be the current England Hockey In2Hockey rules; U8s will use the current EH Quicksticks rules except that a standard weight ball shall be used.

Age qualifying dates are that players must be under the age (U8, U10, U12 or U14) on 31st August 2022, please do not play anyone over age unless you first contact GHA Festival organiser.

Matches shall be typically 12 minutes one way - 3 minutes between matches. Please check the individual Festival schedules in case of any changes. Pitch availability in 2022 – 23 may cause this to be varied in each Festival and Covid-19 restrictions and regulations may similarly impact arrangements.

There will be central timing – a hooter will signal the start and finish of each game. There will be no delay for injuries. Penalty corners in progress at the finish of the game can proceed for one injection only, even if a further offence by the defending team occurs the penalty corner is over.

First named team to provide match ball. Second named team to change or wear bibs if there is a colour clash.

Each team to provide an umpire who will umpire own teams matches.

Each team is responsible for providing first aid – including ice packs. All teams shall adhere to the England Hockey policies and document any incidents.

In U10s, U12s each team may have a squad of 10 players – 7 players only at a time on the pitch one of **which must be a fully kitted GK**. If teams do not have a goalkeeper they must borrow one, they cannot play with 7 outfield players. U8s play without GKs and no more than 6 players at a time on the pitch from a squad of 10.

U8s, teams should ideally have equal numbers of boys and girls on the pitch although a 4 / 2 split either way is also acceptable. In the event this balance cannot be achieved then please contact the GHA Festivals organiser.

U10s, girls can play in boys teams, ideally with no more than 2 on the pitch at the same time. If it possibly could be more than this please contact the GHA Festivals organiser. Boys cannot play in girls teams.

U12s, girls cannot play in boys teams and vice versa. Under special circumstances if a Club wants to play a girl in a boys team please contact the GHA Festivals organiser. Boys cannot play in girls teams under any circumstances.

Over age players in any age group are not allowed except in special circumstances, please contact GHA Festivals organiser before the event.

Players should remain outside the pitch areas whilst they are waiting to play observing Covid-19 social distancing rules if these apply.

Spectators are allowed, but teams are requested to try to keep the numbers to a minimum.

No food to be taken onto the playing area.

No dogs are allowed anywhere at any of the venues.

Anyone taking photos on any kind of device should register with the Festival organiser

Guidance.

The aim of the Festivals is for all the children to enjoy themselves, teams should be of mixed ability. In U8s and U10s if a team is completely dominating the game then the coaches of that team should consider taking off the strongest players or setting objectives for the team which will reduce the number of goals scored.

The use of short corner masks must be decided by the clubs according to the latest England Hockey guidelines. If teams do not have masks then they should consider whether short corners should be replaced by free hits 5m from the goal scoring area, this should be agreed between teams at the start of each match.

Please remind all players (and their parents), team managers and coaches to pick up their kit at the end of the Tournament, the organisers will not take any responsibility for lost property. This particularly applies to water bottles which seem the most frequently forgotten piece of kit.

Please remove all rubbish from the pitches and place in bins provided. If bins are full please take the rubbish away and dispose of it appropriately.

Each Festival should start with a team briefing for all coaches, managers and umpires approximately 15 minutes before the first matches begin. The person running the event should go through the rules and arrangements in case someone has not been given the guidance document. Teams must have their own copies of the schedule, the venue organisers cannot provide spare copies. At CLC because the pitches are separated having a helper on each pitch just for the first game is really useful as they

can organise people to get goals in place and also ensure they are all ready for the first game. After that it can be run by one person as all they need to do is to blow the horn!

When briefing team managers / coaches, make a point to ask them to keep their players under supervision and to apply any social distancing rules if these remain in place. Also since teams will be typically around the pitches emphasise they should ensure their players do not knock balls around, it is dangerous if balls get onto the pitches by mistake.

As regards an air horn, Clubs running the venues are asked to provide their own. However, I sometimes have spares and can send them via one of the Cirencester teams assuming I am around and I am informed. If a Club is going to buy one, the best most easily available ones are Firechief from Screwfix. They usually have one in stock, but can get more in 24 hours. Typically one horn will last 2 tournaments or even more if used sparingly. It is good practice to always have a spare, failures are not infrequent! Amazon also have them available and these are generally higher capacity.

When running the site at Dean Close all hockey on the 1st astro (nearest to the school) requires watering, unless it is raining or recently been raining. The water storage and operating switches are situated between the pitches at the changing rooms end, the water is operated by a press button arrangement (see below pictures). Press this button before play starts, it is a 6 minute cycle, first cannon starts in the opposite corner to the water hut then stays on the same side, but the other corner before reverting to the water storage end before finishing up in the middle. A strong southerly wind will blow this back towards the school so something to be aware of if spectators are early. Attached are photos of where to find the button to turn on the cannons, simply press the green button.





Ian Harvey
GHA Festivals Organiser
29th September 2022