

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE
HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION**

**GHA Festivals - Conduct and Safety
2023 - 2024**

Agenda (1)

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Governance
- 3. Running a Festival Venue
- 4. Safety
- 5. Questions

1. Introduction

- This evening prompted by the incident at Dean Close U10s Boys Festival on 7th October
 - Boy was struck by a car, luckily no serious injury occurred
 - Ian Harvey was running the event so knew what was the procedure
 - Would anyone else have known all the steps required? Who to inform?
 - EH, venue owner, GHA for lessons learned and to pass on to their insurers
- GHA Festivals Guidance document issued to all Clubs
 - Has it been passed on to Team Managers and Coaches?
 - Have the relevant contents been passed onto parents and other responsible adults?

2. Governance

- GHA is an affiliated county of West Area Hockey and England Hockey
 - Has adopted all EH policies and procedures
 - Only West and EH members Clubs can participate in GHA events
 - All Clubs by participating accept to be bound by EH policies and procedures
- What does this mean?
 - All participants must practice “respect” for all those involved
 - All those in charge of teams at a Festival must be DBS checked and have a current safeguarding certificate
 - There should be someone available for each team that is First Aid trained
 - Young umpires must be supervised by an appropriately qualified adult

3. Running a Festival venue (1)

- Clubs are called upon to run Festival venues
 - Need either experienced people or provide those acting with GHA Guidance or a derived checklist of tasks
- What are the tasks?
 - Arrive early with at least 2 strong people
 - Check the pitches and put goals or markers in place
 - Put everything away at the end
 - At Dean Close water the pitch nearest the school if it is dry
 - Generally watch teams preparing and be aware of any safety issues

3. Running a Festival venue (2)

- What are the tasks (contd.)?
 - Convene a briefing a minimum of 15 minutes before start time to remind team managers and coaches of the conduct of the afternoon
 - Quicksticks rules for U8s (standard weight ball), In2Hockey rules for U10s and U12s
 - A fully kitted goalkeeper must be on the pitch at all times
 - Coaches to check equipment fits correctly and is in good condition
 - Reference EH website for latest rules
 - Agree whether short corners will be used or 5m hit outside the D
 - Do any teams need anything such as borrowing a goalkeeper?
 - Do any teams have a first aider who could be shared?

3. Running a Festival venue (3)

- What are the tasks (contd.)?
 - Convene a briefing a minimum of 15 minutes before start time to remind team managers and coaches of the conduct of the afternoon (contd.)
 - Do any teams have a young umpire and equally someone who could supervise and ideally offer development support?
 - Central timing
 - Bell at CLC, air horn at Dean Close and Bournside
 - Teams to be ready to play as soon as the bell / hooter goes
 - No stoppage time
 - Get off and on the pitches quickly
 - No more than 2 short corners at full time
 - Umpires to prioritise safety
 - Stop play if a player is on the ground

4. Safety (1)

- EH Safety initiative
 - EH new Health and Safety training module available on website
 - Recommend that all team managers and coaches do this
 - Particularly recommends supervision of all warm up activities
- First aid is the responsibility of each team and they must have a first aid kit
 - Document accidents or injuries and report according to EH policy
 - Copy to GHA of any reports made
- Personal protection is recommended (prefer Clubs to make this mandatory)
 - Shin pads, mouth guards and face masks for penalty corners
- Umpires
 - Stop the game if anyone is clearly injured
 - Stop the game if a player falls and does not immediately get to their feet, particularly in the area
 - Penalise dangerous play of any kind

4. Safety (2)

- Cars
 - Travel is covered by EH policies and procedures
 - Remind parents that car parks are dangerous places and they should supervise their children at all times
- Pitches
 - Check equipment is safe and there are no hazards
 - Make sure that anyone going to the toilet makes their team manager / coach aware of their departure and return
 - Keep off the pitches and immediate surrounding areas unless playing
- Weather
 - If the weather deteriorates be prepared to abandon the event
 - Children get cold very quickly

5. Questions

- Any questions or points to raise?
 - Discussion