

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## GHA Festivals – Guidance for running sites

Running a site is fairly straight forwards although there are always variations which may need some flexibility.

### **Covid**

As we start the 2022 – 23 season Covid seems to have become a manageable disease with vaccination being widespread and an on-going programme from the NHS to ensure people are protected. However, it remains endemic in the population and some people will not be vaccinated. Therefore please practice good hygiene and take protective measures where appropriate. Please refer to the EH and government websites for the latest guidance.

### **Cheltenham Ladies College**

It is good practice to report to Reception and check which toilets are available.

There is a top pitch (blue) and a bottom pitch (green). The schedules try to have one group of teams on the top pitch and one on the bottom. This removes the need to keep the two pitches synchronised on times, but those running the event should be prepared for having to do this as until the number of teams is known it cannot be certain whether teams will have to move between pitches. As a result the organiser should have two people and two air horns, one for each pitch to ensure the games on the two halves at least start and stop together. Whether synchronised or not it should be central timing with no allowance for stoppages as there will be little time between games (typically 3 minutes!). There really needs to be two people for this even if synchronised (leader and follower).

As regards the goals they may already be in position, but the organiser needs to ensure they are there early enough with helpers in case there is a need to move them into position. A good rule of thumb at the end of the Festival is to put the goals back whence they came! Each full pitch is divided into two of course and the schedule will define the green (lower) and blue (top) pitches. On both pitches, pitch 1 is at the end furthest from the sports centre reception entrance.

### **Dean Close**

Normally toilets are available in the changing rooms beside the pitches, but sometimes it may be necessary to go into the school.

The two pitches are of course side by side so synchronisation is easy. You should provide an air horn for managing start and finish times. As regards the goals they may already be in position, but the organiser needs to ensure they are there early enough with helpers in case there is a need to move them into position. At Dean Close the goals really should be put back whence they came! You need also to warn people about trekking mud onto the pitches and ask team managers and coaches to check the footwear. Parents should stay off the pitches altogether.

The pitch nearest the school is water based and may need watering (see Rules and Regulations Guide for details). On both pitches pitch 1 is at the end nearest to the changing rooms.

with buildings in between so synchronisation between pitches is very difficult. If both pitches are in use then it will be better to run them separately relying on having an organiser for each pitch and then keeping their watches synchronised.

### **Bournside**

Bournside is typically only used for U8s.

It is good practice to report to Reception in the Sports Centre and check which toilets are available

There is only one pitch at Bournside, but it has a large area surrounding so there is opportunity to mark out a variety of areas with cones or throwdowns. The number of goals though is limited.

U8s play on quarter pitch. This does though mean that the organiser needs to be there in good time to get set up and have with them throw-downs to mark shooting areas and cones for goals.

### **General**

There should be a briefing 15 minutes before the start to remind the teams about the rules for colour clashes (bibs) and who provides the match ball and to confirm which pitch is which of the two halves (or 4 quarters for U8s). The organiser can decide this on the day, but the schedules will assume the pitches are grouped 1 and 2, 3 and 4!. Each team should have their own umpire so this should not be the concern of the organiser, similarly first aid kits and accident reporting procedures.

Starting and stopping matches is done with air horns, these can be bought from Screwfix or Amazon.

Ensure there are copies of the schedule to be able to give every team at least 2 copies.

EH In2Hockey rules apply for U10, U12. U8s will play Quicksticks rules.

If any teams want to wear face masks at penalty corners then ask them to ensure that the players have practiced putting them on and taking them off. Taking several minutes to put on face masks is at a minimum unfair to the attacking team as it puts them off and at worst could be gamesmanship. Also the games are too short to lose minutes in something that is not match play.

Otherwise there is not much else to do as scores are kept by the teams for their own interest.

If you have any other questions please email or call me.

Regards

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