

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 (please see site specific information as Cheltenham Ladies College do not allow the use of an air horn any longer). There will be no delay for injuries. Penalty corners in progress at the finish of the game can proceed for no more than 2 injections; 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. Festivals are an ideal opportunity for young umpires to get practice, but they need help and support to develop. GHA no longer has any role in Officiating so it is up to clubs to provide this, ideally through an Umpire Developer.

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 the event of a player going down in the goal scoring area and the ball is in that area or close, umpires should stop the game if the player does not

immediately get to their feet. If a player is clearly injured to the extent that they need treatment in situ, then the game must be stopped to allow first aid to be given. Restart with a bully or similar.

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. If due to space limitations teams are on the side of the pitch when not playing they must not allow balls to run onto the pitch.

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.

GHA Festivals – Guidance for running sites

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

General

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, this 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! Teams must have their own copies of the schedule, but ideally the venue organisers should have available a few spare copies as back-up.

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 signal the start and stop (but please see further details on CLC below)!

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 (not CLC), 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.

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.

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.

Entrance to the car parking is off Malvern Road and is behind the Sports Centre. Space here is limited so parking in the surrounding streets may be necessary. However, beware of parking restrictions and particularly residents' permits. Please read the roadside signs very carefully as I have misunderstood them before now!

Those running the site should have checked for themselves the exact postcode reference in case an ambulance is required and a defibrillator can be found by asking at Reception.

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. CLC have now asked us not to use airhorns and have committed to procuring a bell to use which will be stored in Reception. If this is not available then it will need a loud whistle and two extra people, one for each pitch to ensure the games on the two halves 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).

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.

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

Entrance to the car parking is off Warden Hill Road and is spread around the site and the sports centre which is located at the back of the school, the access road is to the left of the main school buildings when viewed from the road.

Those running the site should have checked for themselves the exact postcode reference in case an ambulance is required.

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.

Dean Close

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

Entrance to the car parking is off Hatherley Road and is either in the limited area by the pitches at the changing room end or continuing along the road and up the hill past the theatre and into the railway (tennis courts) car park where there is usually plenty of space.

Those running the site should have checked for themselves the exact postcode reference in case an ambulance is required and a defibrillator can be found next to the Medical centre up the stairs on the way to the swimming pool, Code: c195x to access to the defib.

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.

On both pitches pitch 1 is at the end nearest to the changing rooms.

When running the site at Dean Close all hockey on the 1st astro (nearest to the school) requires pitch 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.



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