

Team Selection Policy

March 2022

1. Purpose

This policy is designed to provide a clear and transparent framework for the selection of players into teams representing Adelaide Hockey Club ('AHC' or the 'Club').

Adelaide Hockey Club has a commitment to selecting players in accordance with our strategic objectives, values and financial sustainability.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to the following teams playing in the following Metropolitan Competitions, winter season:

- Premier League
- Metro 1 to 6
- Junior Competition U18, U15, U13, U11 and U9 (or other such age competition, as run by Hockey SA)
- Masters (the club does not currently field teams in this competition)

Summer and indoor competitions are outside the scope of this policy.

3. Adelaide Hockey Club

Our Strategic Objectives in relation to Team Selection

- Provide a pathway for player and official talent development
 - Our Premier League ('PL') teams will include the best and most talented players in the club
 - M1 (or Premier League Reserve) teams will be used to create depth in our elite squad
- Provide competitive teams in all grades in which AHC nominates to participate, irrespective of competition, with a focus on fun, fitness, friendship and opportunity for continuous skill development
- Provide opportunities for Juniors to transition to Seniors Hockey (subject in all cases to paragraph 4 – Guiding Principles for Team Selection). Subject to those principles:
 - The Club will use reasonable endeavours to provide U18 and U15 juniors with opportunities to play regularly **or** to fill-in for our Senior *teams*. Only in rare circumstances would players eligible for U13 be given an opportunity to play in Senior grades.
 - Players with a history of selection in U15, U16 and U18 State Teams (including 'train ons') will be regarded as '*identified*'.
The Club will seek to provide those *identified* juniors with a pathway to assist their development by playing regularly in senior teams, subject to the recommendations of relevant coaches and selectors.
 - Junior players that are not *identified* may have fewer opportunities to play senior hockey, given the desire to ensure all Senior players are selected in appropriate teams. These opportunities would be prioritised to U18 players first, then U15 players.
- Introduce new players to the game

- Junior Program (to grow participation and performance and retaining juniors as they progress through the junior age groups into senior teams)
- Minkey primary schools program (to grow participation and attract juniors to AHC)
- Opportunities for seniors (new or returning to the game) to join the Club

Our Club Values

Good fair sportsmanship –play fair, with honesty and integrity, and to the best of our ability
Commitment – commitment to the Adelaide Hockey Club and team, before individual (Club above team, team above self)

Fun and Friendship – to build long lasting, respectful relationships across the Adelaide Hockey Club community and to provide a warm welcome to new members, external stakeholders and the public

4. Guiding Principles for Club Team Selection

- The club membership fee includes playing membership for one primary team.
- Representing two teams on a permanent basis (e.g. seniors and juniors or two junior teams) can be problematic in a number of areas, so the opportunity to do this may be limited and will be subject to approval of the Committee. Those junior players aspiring to also play seniors are encouraged to register as Fill-In players.
- Representing two teams may be approved by the Club by decision of the Committee in its absolute discretion. The Committee will take account of what is in the best interests for the development of a player, any need to make up numbers in a team or to make a team competitive, the financial implications of any decision, the recommendations of relevant coaches and any other factor it deems appropriate.
- Members may be asked to fill-in for other teams, within the regulations of the Metropolitan Competition.
- Adelaide Hockey Club is an equal opportunity member club and will use its best endeavours to accommodate request for new memberships. The club will be deemed at capacity when we have fifteen registered players per team (senior, U18, U15, U13), eleven registered players per team (U11) and ten registered players per team (U9).
- For players new to the Club with immediate aspirations to play Premier League, these registrations will not be accepted unless endorsed by the Committee. The Club's preference is to develop and promote to Premier League teams those players that have developed from within AHC's teams.

5. No Pay, No Play

- No player will be allowed to play and therefore will not qualify for team selection until they have registered and paid their registration fees and registered on any system nominated by the Committee for the collection and payment of match day fees.
- Registration fees must be paid in full or a payment plan must be negotiated with the club treasurer.
- Players will be available for team selection once their registration is confirmed by the registrar and the payment of their fees is confirmed by the treasurer.
- A player that is not up to date with their match fees may be disallowed from selection until such time as all arrears have been paid in full.

6. Fill-in Players

- Fill-in players will be required to pay per game played during the season up to 10 games.
- The fill-in player will be required to pay full registration fees to the Club (including for a 'second team') if more than 10 games are played in the same season, irrespective of the number of teams these games have been played in.
- Fill-in players are permitted to play only one game per week.

- Fill-in players may not be selected before full fee-paying players. The only exception to this is where a full fee-paying player is also being considered as a fill in option. This applies to both the regular season games and finals.
- Finals will be included in the number of games played for the season and may result in full fees being payable if more than 10 games have been played.

7. Junior Division

Adelaide Hockey Club runs one of the largest and most successful junior programs in the Hockey SA Metropolitan competition. To continue to provide the best coaching and mentoring program, diversity in the metropolitan competition, and access to facilities for our junior members, the Club has determined that it can optimally support twenty-two junior teams.

The Club has endorsed the following guidelines for nomination of junior teams and team selection:
U9 and U11 Teams:

- Maximum total of eight U9 & U11 mixed teams with a maximum of 10 players per team (7-a-side) for U9 and a maximum of 11 players per team (8-a-side) for U11.
- Team selection will allow for sibling and friendship groups (where practicable)
- Talent will be evenly distributed across the teams
- Juniors will play in their appropriate age group.
- Requests to play in an older age group must be put in writing and be approved by the Committee (in its absolute discretion).

U13, U15 & U18 Teams

Team selection and registration:

- The Club will do its best to ensure selection of a player that either played last season, those with siblings at the Club, or those with parents / carer who play or volunteer at the Club.
- Team selection will be at the discretion of the relevant coaches and selectors with input from the Junior Coordinators, based on previous performance and Junior Trials. The Junior Coordinator has the final decision.
- In the unlikely event a Junior is not selected, and membership fees have already been paid, a full refund will be paid.
- Talent will be evenly distributed across the teams in each competition, unless HockeySA has defined that there is an A and a B competition.
- Maximum of 15 players per squad
- Team selection will be finalised by the week prior to the first game. However, player movement between teams may occur within the first 5 weeks of the season.
- Juniors will play in their appropriate age group.
- Requests to play in an older age group (or regularly in a senior team as a second team) must be put in writing and be approved by the Committee (in its absolute discretion) prior to the commencement of the season.

8. Disputes

Any dispute or queries from or on behalf of a player in relation to selection should be first addressed with the relevant team coach and, if required, then addressed in writing to selectors@adelaidehockeyclub.com.au. Concerns or disputes put into writing to this email address will be considered by the Club's Committee. The decision of the Committee is final and binding on all members of the Club.

These Guidelines will be reviewed each season, to ensure the Club can continue to improve on our Junior program.

9. Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Club's Committee to adopt this policy.

It is the responsibility of the coaching team, led by the Premier League Coaches (senior teams) and Junior Coordinators to apply this policy.