

Selection Policy

Objectives

The objective of selection is to create the best possible teams by selecting the best possible players available and to ultimately win matches. Selection aims to be objective and in so doing will consider a number of factors including versatility, skill, fitness, teamwork, contribution, attitude, commitment and availability. Attendance at training is considered a key factor in teamwork so this may be taken into consideration. This is not an easy task as these attributes cannot be measured objectively and the Club has an ever-growing number of talented players. We operate a squad-based system, and these guidelines aim to clarify the basis of selection for any team within the Club.

Selection

The Team Captains and Coaches work together to offer opinion and input from what they observe and squads are selected as appropriate. Selection should give the chance for players to settle into a new team as well as providing opportunity for movement between squads under the discretion of the Captains and Coaches.

Captains are responsible for ensuring that they update the Club Captain of their teams availability in a timely manner to assist fellow Captains. All the information will then be added to an availability spreadsheet, which will be used at the selection meeting. There will be a selection meeting held either on a Monday or Tuesday, to which all captains must attend.

After teams are finalised for the week (best efforts to be made to do this by Wednesday evening) Captains will inform players which team they have been selected for. This may require some delicacy, especially when players are selected down a team and may require a phone call (please note phone call and not email/text) from both the old and new Captain.

Selection Principles

Team selection during the regular season follows these principles:

- Only fully paid members will be selected after 3 league games having been played (unless otherwise agreed with the Treasurer)
- The best available match-fit players will be selected for the 1XI, then 2XI, then 3XI etc
- Attendance and performance at team training
- Availability and commitment to the team on match days
- Ability or potential to play at the level of the team
- Adherence to the Hockey Club Code of Conduct
- Outfield players will normally move up or down by no more than one team in any given week. Players asked to join a lower squad in a permanent capacity will not again be dropped to a lower squad for at least 3 matches (note this does not apply during friendly or pre-season matches)
- Players 'dropped' from a team will receive feedback from the captain of the 'higher' team
- Captains will have the discretion on selection of 'squad' players in instances of crucial league decision games, and will have the support of fellow Captains and Coaches
- Players are expected to continue to be available to play when selected for a team other than their regular team or position when required to, assuming adequate notice has been given. Failure to do so will be taken as the player making themselves unavailable for any team both that week and the following week

Please note that selection principles apply equally to both field players and goalkeepers. In saying this, where goalkeepers are concerned sometimes common sense will need to prevail depending on availability for the weekend's matches. For example, a goalkeeper may be required to move up more than one team due to lack of availability one week will then go back to their regular team the next week.