

East Grinstead Hockey Club Junior Section

Parent & Carer Code of Conduct

Welcome to the EG Hockey Family!!

At East Grinstead Hockey Club, our Junior Section is first and foremost about **enjoyment, belonging and developing a love of hockey**.

We want our young players to have fun, make friends, grow in confidence and enjoy playing competitive hockey in a positive and supportive environment.

We are fortunate to have an experienced and committed coaching team who will nurture and support your child throughout their hockey journey. Every player develops differently, and our aim is to help each child progress at the right pace for them while feeling happy, valued and part of the club.

East Grinstead prides itself on its **supportive club-family ethos**. Parents and carers play a really important part in helping us create that environment.
By working together, we can make EG a great place for every young person to play hockey.

Your Responsibilities as a Parent or Carer

We ask parents and carers to help us by making sure that:

Getting to hockey

Your child arrives **on time for training and at the agreed meet time on match days**.
If you are going to be late, please let your Team Manager know as soon as possible.

If your child is lift-sharing or travelling home with another family, please also let your Team Manager know.
This helps us make sure that every young person arrives and leaves training and matches safely.

Kit & Equipment

Please make sure your child comes appropriately dressed and equipped for hockey.
This includes:

- Gum shield
- Shin pads
- Protective glove for the left hand
- Appropriate hockey footwear
- East Grinstead Grays Hockey Club kit for matches

If you have any questions or difficulties regarding purchasing club kit, please speak to your Team Manager.
Please also make sure your child brings **water and appropriate snacks** for training and match days.

Teamo & Availability

Please keep your contact details and your child's relevant medical information **accurate and up to date on Teamo**.

We would be grateful if you could respond to requests for match availability **as promptly as possible.**
Team Managers need to pass this information to our coaching team so that squads can be selected and communicated in good time.

Please also ensure that all relevant **consent forms and photo/video permissions** have been completed.

Communication & social media

Please use our club communication channels, social media and apps responsibly and respectfully.
Remember that messages can easily be misunderstood.
We want our online communication to reflect the same friendly, inclusive and respectful culture that we expect at the club.

What We Encourage

Help us create a positive environment

We want every child to feel **safe, happy and included** during their time at East Grinstead.

Parents and carers can make an enormous difference to a young person's experience of sport.

We encourage you to:

- Talk to your child about their hockey and what **they** would like to achieve.
- Ask them what they enjoyed about training or a match rather than focusing only on the result.
- Listen if your child says they do not want to do something and ask them why. A sudden change in behaviour or enjoyment may sometimes indicate that something else is going on.
- Encourage your child and their teammates positively.
- Celebrate effort, teamwork, improvement and resilience as well as goals and wins.
- Remember that children develop at different rates, both physically and as hockey players.
- Help us make hockey somewhere children look forward to coming each week.

Positivity from the Sidelines

We love having parents and families supporting our junior teams.
Please keep that support **positive and encouraging**!

We ask that you:

- Encourage all our players positively.
- Show respect towards opposition players, coaches and supporters.
- Respect and accept the decisions of the umpires.
- Avoid coaching your child from the sidelines. Let our coaches do the coaching and enjoy being their supporter.
- Never enter the field of play unless invited to do so by an official or coach.
- Remember that junior hockey is about development and enjoyment as well as competition.

Cheer them on, encourage their effort and let them play.

Supporting Our Coaching Team

We are extremely fortunate to have an experienced coaching team at East Grinstead, with a depth of experience coaching players across many different levels of hockey.

Our coaches give a significant amount of time and commitment to the Junior Section alongside their work, families and other responsibilities.

Training groups & team selection

Training groups and match-day squad selection are the responsibility of our coaching team. Our coaches work together to make these decisions and aim to ensure that every player is playing and training at a level that is appropriate for their current stage of development.

Our priority is to develop **happy, confident young players who enjoy playing hockey at EG**. We appreciate that there may occasionally be decisions that you or your child find disappointing.

Being selected for a particular team or training group that you feel doesn't meet your childs needs does **not** mean that we do not value your child as a player, nor does it determine their future potential.

Junior players develop at different rates. Teams and training groups will change and fluctuate throughout their hockey journey.

We ask parents to trust our coaches to make these decisions with the development of the players and teams in mind.

We politely ask that parents and carers should not contact coaches directly by private message or telephone to discuss team selection, playing time or an individual player's performance.

We want these conversations to **come through the relevant Team Manager**, who can then liaise with the coaching team appropriately.

Please where possible do not approach coaches individually immediately after matches or training sessions to discuss team selection, playing time or individual performance concerns.

Emotions can understandably run high around competitive sport, and the end of a match or training session is rarely the best environment for these conversations.
Pre-planned chats are fine!

We are not discouraging communication with our coaching team!

We absolutely want a **friendly, approachable and inclusive club**. It is about making sure that conversations happen **through the right channels, at the right time and with appropriate boundaries for everyone involved**.

Feedback

Our coaching team are happy to provide constructive feedback where this would be helpful for your child's development.

Please initially speak to your Team Manager, who can help arrange this with the appropriate member of the coaching team.

Safeguarding & Welfare

The safety and wellbeing of our junior players is everyone's responsibility.

If you have **any concern about your child or another child at the club**, however small it may seem, please speak to your Team Manager or contact our Junior Club Welfare Officer:

Hannah Burrage
Junior Club Welfare Officer

hannah.burrage@eghockey.co.uk

You do not need to be certain that something is wrong before raising a concern. We would always rather you speak to us so that we can offer appropriate support.

Thank you for Choosing East Grinstead Hockey Club!

Parents and carers are a hugely important part of our Junior Section.

We are always happy to have new volunteers at the club to lend a hand. We have regular club socials and would love you see you all there!

We are fortunate to have our adult First Teams playing in the Premiership Division.
Please do come down and support our senior section at home games.
Kids get in for free! There is also the opportunity to be a club mascot or be part of our ball patrol at these home games.
Please look out for social media posts and links on the WhatsApp Community page for these opportunities.

By joining East Grinstead Hockey Club, we ask you to help us create an environment where our young players can:

Have fun. Make friends. Feel safe. Develop their hockey. Build confidence. Compete positively.

And love being part of EG!

Thank you for supporting your child, our coaches, our volunteers and each other.

Together, we can make sure East Grinstead remains a **friendly, inclusive and supportive hockey family for every young player.**