



Sussex Hockey



Boys Development League

Rules and Guidance for the 2017-2018 Season

This League is run under the auspices of the Sussex Junior Development Group. Managers and Captains are reminded the League is non-competitive and for development purposes only there is no trophy for topping the league.

The Boys Development League teams to be confirmed by 30th June for 17-18

East Sussex	West Sussex
South Saxons	Lewes Cubs
Crowborough	Crawley
Eastbourne	Horsham
Brighton & Hove	Mid Sussex
Hailsham	St Francis
East Grinstead	Worthing

Each team will play home and away against the teams.

The following Rules will be enforced *beyond* those of normal hockey:-

- The league is aimed at boys between 11 and 16 (school years 7 – 11) using September 1st 2017 as the key date.
- The team shall be made up of a minimum of 11 boys. 1 adult is allowed on the pitch from the start of the game. Should the goal difference become 3 or more at any time in the game, the adult will leave the pitch until the goal difference then become equal.
- Adults should stay in their own half, hence adults are not allowed to score.
- If an adult keeper is playing then that counts as the adult.
- An adult should not defend a penalty corner (unless playing as a goal keeper).
- **Reverse Stick HITS at goal are banned on the grounds of danger. A controlled push or deflection should however not be penalised. This decision is made on the grounds of safety.**
- Drag flicks at penalty corners are banned. This decision is made on the grounds of safety.
- All matches in the Development league must be played with a **fully kitted keeper**. This decision has been made on the grounds of safety and in the spirit of the development league.
- Where the goal keeper receives a green or yellow card the suspension will be served by the Captain or if the Captain is not on the pitch the Captains deputy. If the goal keeper receives a red card they must themselves leave the pitch and the team will be given 5 minutes to organise a fully kitted goal keeper, and the team will have to play with 9 field players for the remainder of the match. If a fully kitted goal keeper cannot be found the match will be abandoned and the outcome of the match determined by the league organiser and the Sussex committee.
- Face mask must be worn for penalty corners.

U16 and stronger U15 boys who regularly (a couple of times a month) play in men's Sussex division two and above should only play as an Adult, (except in Cup matches where due to the competitive nature there is no restriction on player's ability).

The rules are designed to be simple to apply for an umpire and it is hoped that this will encourage adults to play the game by guiding the juniors on the pitch not controlling all aspects of the game.

Guidelines and Notes for Team Managers and participating adults

Beyond the rules, it is felt that the purpose of the Development League is furthered by issuing some guidelines to enhance the League.

Overall the main aim is that games should be developmental for both sides and that where at all possible we should be attempting to play games. We strongly encourage team managers to contact their opposite number during the week prior to the game to ensure games are developmental.

- By prior agreement with the opposition it is allowable to play 1 or 2 girls, however it should be remembered that this is not mixed league and some boys may find it uncomfortable. It is the team manager's responsibility to ensure the girl is capable of playing at the level and for ensuring that suitable facilities are available at any venue they visit.
- If a travelling team is short it is acceptable to ask if the home club has additional players to make up the numbers.
- The adult should not monopolise the game. This includes such acts as not hitting the ball in to the "D" as hard as they can on attacking set plays or crosses.
- Boys younger than 11 (below year 6) may play at the discretion of their club, but clubs are asked to consider player safety at all times. Clubs are strongly advised to obtain a signed consent form from the parents.
- The adult is on the pitch to help develop the juniors.
- The juniors are on the pitch to develop as players. Therefore playing a team of "County" standard players (or higher) in their usual positions might not be seen as developmental.
- Although the position of goal keeper is a specialist one, it is hoped that all teams will try and play a junior keeper during the season where possible.
- Teamsheets will not be required.
- Adults should be identified to the umpires before a game to avoid confusion with mature Under 16 players. They should wear something to identify themselves (light coloured bib for example)

A fully kitted goal keeper must be played and for guidance this means a Goal Keeper wearing whatever protective equipment he or she sees fit to wear but: helmets with a throat guard; abdominal protector; gloves; leg pads and kickers must be worn. It is also advised that elbow and shoulder pads be worn. Those wearing arm pads should wear a long sleeve top to avoid figure entrapment.

Umpiring

- Clubs are encouraged to provide the most competent umpire they can for a game. This is an umpire who can apply the rules correctly but understands the development nature of the league and adapts to this accordingly. It is preferred that an umpire shall have or be working towards a recognised EH umpiring qualification
- Young umpires are to be encouraged, however they should have completed their Level 1 (unassessed) umpiring qualification and above. Mentoring by an experienced umpire can be provided and coaching can be given during the game.
- Development League players should be encouraged by their clubs to undertake the Level 1 umpiring qualification.
- Adults playing in the Development League should be encouraged by their clubs to undertake the Level 1 umpiring qualification.

Specific Guidelines for cup competitions:

During the season cup competition will be played for U14 and U16 teams from the league.

The League rules will apply to all Cup Competitions. The rules on age will apply to those player and U16 will mean U16 at 1st September 2017 and U14 will mean U14 at 1st September 2017. No adults will be allowed to join the cup games.

Due to the competitive nature of the cup, there is no restriction on player's ability.

Results

- **The FL texting system is no longer active.** See <http://w.fixtureslive.com/support.aspx?articleid=204> for further information. Results will be recorded as they are. (no limitation on goal difference). All results should be entered by logging into the Fixtureslive results system by 20:00 on the day of the match.
- For any postponed matches or walkovers or if there is a problem entering the result please email the League Organiser at the preferred email sdl@sussexhockey.co.uk (please clarify this is for the Boys league)
- The league organiser must be informed and receive confirmation of both teams in case of walkover.

Queries

- All queries should be sent by email to the League Organiser on sdl@sussexhockey.co.uk