



## Safe Practice in Hockey

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In light of a very tragic incident involving a young goalkeeper during a hockey coaching session in England, Scottish Hockey wishes to highlight the importance of Safe Practice in Hockey, particularly at youth level.

Following the death of a twelve year-old hockey goalkeeper and the subsequent inquest into the incident's circumstances, the England Hockey Board has provided us with summary findings and recommendations from the inquest so we can communicate the key learning points to those actively involved in the delivery of youth hockey at schools and clubs in Scotland.

For your information, the key findings of the inquest were as follows:

- Following the incident, two hockey goalkeeper helmets were withdrawn by manufacturers. These were the Gray International G200 Junior Goalkeeping Helmet and the TK GX5 Goalkeeping Helmet. If you are currently using these helmets, it is recommended that these are replaced with immediate effect.
- The inquest highlighted the need to re-emphasise the importance and requirement for proper helmet care:
  1. Always thoroughly check for damage to the helmet before use.
  2. Always read the manufacturer's instructions for each helmet to ensure it is appropriate for the age of the players, the weight of the ball being used, and the drills being undertaken.
  3. Make sure helmets fit goalkeepers properly. Again, please refer to manufacturer's instructions.
  4. Implement a proper helmet replacement cycle, recommended every 3 -5 years depending on usage and condition, but again, please refer to manufacturer's instructions for guidance.

The inquest also considered the nature of the drill being undertaken at the time of the incident. It is standard practice to make sure drills are performed in a safe environment. Moreover, it is also vital to ensure these drills are correctly supervised by appropriately qualified staff. Please ensure that you continue to follow these practices.

Please do disseminate this information across your hockey contacts at schools and clubs in Scotland, in order to ensure that this information reaches all those involved in coaching youth hockey.

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