**Personal Player Protective Equipment**

In accordance with the England Hockey regulations:

*Field players are recommended to wear shin, ankle and mouth protection in all activity*.  It is the responsibility of all adult players to ensure they have the correct protection.  Any U18 player who attends club activity without the recommended protection is doing so on the understanding that their parent/guardian has given permission to do so.  Any injury that occurs without the recommended protection could be invalid under the insurance policy.

*Field players are permitted to wear any form of body protection (including leg protection, or knee pads, when defending a penalty corner) underneath normal playing clothing*.  TBBHC strongly advise players involved in PCD situations to purchase their own equipment to be used across the club, school and other environments.   Owning your own personal PCD equipment will reduce the chance of cross contamination from pooled equipment and will ensure players have appropriately fitting kit.

TBBHC has a limited stockpile of PCD kit so our preference is for players to buy their own PCD kit as we approach the start of the new season.  If it is available at the time a player can ask to borrow club supply ahead of games/training and it is the players responsibility to make sure they have it for the session/match. TBBHC cannot be held responsible for any injury sustained when using borrowed PCD equipment, it is up to all adults to check any items they borrow prior to using them and for U18 parent/guardians to check any items used by junior players prior to taking part.

*Goalkeepers must wear protective equipment comprising of at least headgear, leg guards and kickers but also advised body, upper arm, elbow, forearm, hand, thigh and knee protectors*.  Goalkeepers in the U14 age groups and over are expected to provide their own GK kit when taking part in club activity.  U8-U12 age groups do have kit that can be borrowed but players must also provide their own groin/abdo guard if they are using the Junior Talent Centre goalkeeping kits.  It is the responsibility of all Goalkeepers to ensure that their kit is safe to use prior to any activity.

**England Hockey’s Face Mask Guidance August 2025**

FACEMASKS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR DEFENDING PENALTY CORNERS

Following updated FIH regulations mandating the use of facemasks in all official international competitions, England Hockey strongly recommends that all players - at every level and age - wear facemasks when defending penalty corners.

The safety of players is a priority, and the use of facemasks during penalty corners - where ball speed and proximity present increased risk - can significantly reduce the chance of facial injury.

After careful consideration, the England Hockey Board has decided not to make the use of facemasks mandatory for domestic hockey in England at this time. The current body of research into the use and impact of facemasks across all levels of the game remains limited, and further evidence is required before a compulsory rule can be applied. In line with our approach to other protective equipment - such as mouthguards and shin pads - we are strongly recommending their use. This position will be reviewed as and when further research becomes available.

In addition, we continue to strongly recommend the use of shin, ankle and mouth protection for all players during training and matches. These items are essential for reducing the likelihood of preventable injuries in the sport.

We encourage clubs, coaches, and parents to support this guidance to help foster a culture of safety and responsibility across the hockey community.

**Revision history**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Date** | **Description** | **Editorial Ownership** |
| V1 | 24 July 2021 | Introduced in accordance with EH Guidance | Club Administrator |
| V2 | May 2022 | Updated to incorporate the name change from Academy to Junior Talent Centre | Club Administrator |
| V3 | August 2025 | Updated to include EH’s new recommendation | Club Administrator |