



## **Developmental Selection Policy**

Harpenden Hockey Club (HHC) recognises that young players are the future of both our club and the sport of hockey in general.

The aim of this policy is to:

- Demonstrate our commitment to the development of these young players.
- Show the club will always act in the best interests of the individual.
- Ensure that our young members are given every opportunity to reach their full potential, whatever level that may be.

For the purposes of this policy, young players are considered to be those who are Under 16 on the 1<sup>st</sup> September of the season being played.

### **Principles**

- The club will take a long term view of the development of all its young players in line with the principles of Long Term Athlete Development adopted within England Hockey's Single System.
- The club will enforce the England Hockey recommendation that no player under the age of 13 will play in an adult only competition.
- Young players will not be called upon to play in any adult only competition until it is in the best interests of the young player. If an adult team is short and the only option would be a young player who is not felt ready by the club's Director of Hockey or Junior Co-ordinator, whether this be physically, socially or mentally, then the adult team will play short.
- The club will abide by England Hockey's recommendations regarding player eligibility and competition rules.
- The club will abide by England Hockey's Centralised Calendar and the priority this provides to ensure that young players at each stage of their development are given the opportunity to play and train at the right level for them without being overplayed.
- For young players eligible to play in adult teams, careful consideration will be given to ensure that the distance travelled is proportional to the likely pitch time for the young player. For example, it is suggested that players who are likely to play less than half a game should not travel for longer than 45 minutes if travelling from Harpenden direct to the pitch.
- As far as practically possible, age group teams will be selected with the aim of ensuring that each member of the training squad is given as equal an amount of pitch time per season as possible to ensure every individual has equal opportunity to develop.