

Wilmslow Hockey Club
Player Selection Policy
Version 2.0 8th September 2025



1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy intends to provide guidance only in the fair selection of Wilmslow Hockey Club Members, in the interests of the Hockey club, its squads and in the completion of its competitive playing fixtures & commitments.

For impartiality, team selection will be carried out by coaches with advice from team captains. This will include a brief update on those who are performing well in matches, if the coach has not been present, as well as those they feel are struggling in the team and the support they require. Additionally, it will cover the general team performance, including team dynamics. In making their selection, the coaches must be aware of and adhere to the NW League Rules (See link in this document).

2. Player Selection Guidance

- The highest teams play with the best players. No team should play with a shortage of players when there are players available from a lower team to fill in, even if this means the lower team is unable to field a full team and is forced to cancel.
- Selection of players will be carried out in order of the club teams, starting with the 1st XI and working downwards.
- Whenever possible, all teams should take a squad to cater for the pace and rigour of their respective league
- Players promoted **on merit** will be allowed to prove their worth over a period of not less than 3 games unless agreed by the section Club Captain.
- **When a player is selected** to play in a lower team or squad, **the coach** must explain the reasons to the player before the teamsheet is published. This should be in person where possible.
- If a player is selected for a higher or lower team so that it can field an appropriate number of players, the coaches will speak to the player to let them know the reason for their selection.
- For young players eligible to be involved 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. As a guide, it is suggested that players who will play less than half a game should not travel for longer than 60 minutes.
- There should be an attempt to ensure that young players in teams have equal time on the pitch in matches and or events.
- Each team will be selected from their squad no later than Wednesday before playing on Saturday
- In the case of late selection due to player shortage, the order of selection will be from the highest team that requires players. It is the duty of the Captain who is short of a player/players to inform the **relevant coach** as soon as possible. The **coach** must select from the next lowest team and discuss it with their captain.
- As all teams within the club are playing league hockey, it is essential that **the coaches comply** with the club selection policy and relevant league regulations. A selection panel chaired by the section Club Captain will sit in arbitration, when required. The selection panel's word is final.
- The Membership Secretary will control playing administration. Details of players who have not paid their subscriptions or owe the club funds will be relayed to the section Club Captain; **PLAYERS WILL NOT BE SELECTED** until all payments due are made.

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3. Player Selection Criteria

At the outset, the following criteria (in no particular order) will be factored in the selection process:

- Membership: up to date with membership and match fee payments
- Availability: consistent availability, notified well in advance
- Commitment: enthusiasm, willingness to learn, motivation and adaptability
- Training attendance: demonstrates desire to improve skills/fitness
- Skills and ability: demonstrated at training and previous matches
- Fitness: physical strength, pace and resilience
- Teamwork: tactical awareness and supportive of teammates
- Temperament: positive attitude, respectful towards umpires and other players
- Potential: a junior who shows commitment and potential to be as good or better than a senior player
- Position: players to fit the team system and positions

4. Responsibilities of the captains

- Remind players to update their availability at least a month in advance, where practicable
- In the case of late drop-outs, [discuss this with the relevant coach as soon as possible, and liaise with the captain of the lower team to help organise a replacement](#)
- Request match fees in Teamo in advance of each match and collect all match fees on the day (or at least within 24 hours of the match)
- Submit the GMS team-sheet in advance of each match
- Record the result in GMS by 8 pm on the day of the match
- Record goal scorers, yellow/red cards and injuries in GMS by 8 pm on the day after the match

5. Player Selection 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.
- Young players will not be called upon to play in adult only competition until it is in the best interest of the young player. If an adult team is short of players and the only option is a young player who is not ready either physically, mentally, or socially, then the adult team will play short.
- The club will abide by England Hockey recommendations regarding player eligibility and competition rules.
- The club will enforce that no young person under the age of 13 (on 1st September of the season being played) is to play in adult-only competition, except in the case of Development Teams, where the minimum age is 12.
- The club will enforce the EHL regulation stating that a player must have reached the age of 15 to be eligible to be registered to play in the EHL.
- The club will abide by the England Hockey centralised calendar and the priority this provides to
- ensure that young players at each stage of their development are allowed to play and train at the right level for them without being overplayed.
- All selections will be made in line with the principles outlined in the EH Equity Policy and EH
- Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy adopted by this club.

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- As much as practically possible, peer group teams will ensure that each member of the squad is given as equal as possible an amount of pitch time per match or per event to ensure every individual has the opportunity to develop. Winning is important, but it is a short-term gain.
- There should be no discrimination by age or sex.
- Any player returning from an extended absence due to illness or injury will not automatically return to the team or squad they previously played for. They will be placed within a squad appropriate to their recovery and length of absence from playing.
- Any player returning from suspension will **not automatically** return to the team or squad they have previously played for. The length of suspension served and the nature of the offence should be considered together with any directives given by the disciplinary board.

Movement of players:

- Selection decisions shall adhere to the NW league rules including rules on Fair Selection selection up or down), Player Doubling up and Goalkeeper Doubling up.
- Selection of a player for a higher team than their Regular Team is unrestricted week to week.
- Selection of a player for a lower team than their Regular Team is subject to restrictions and must not strengthen a lower team intentionally.

Document history

Version	Comment	Date
1.0	First version approved for use	October 2022
2.0	Puts greater onus on the coach to make final selection decisions, with input from captains. Key changes marked in blue.	8 th Sept 2025