Safeguarding Appendix: Junior Transport & Lift Sharing Policy (U18s)

1. Purpose and Principles

The Club is committed to protecting the safety and welfare of all junior players and this policy sets out the Club's approach to transporting junior players (U18s) to and from training, matches and other Club activities. It reflects England Hockey's safeguarding guidance and the Club's commitment to providing a safe, transparent and child centred environment.

2. Club Position on Transport

Parents and guardians are responsible for organising their child's transport to and from all Club activities, including away fixtures. The Club may share fixture details, meeting points and timings, but **will not organise or allocate lifts** for juniors. All travel arrangements must be communicated openly and follow recognised safeguarding best practice.

Adults (including coaches, team managers, volunteers and senior players) **must not** transport a junior who is not their own child in a one-to-one situation. If a junior cannot be transported safely, **they must not travel**.

Lift-Sharing Guidance

Where parents/guardians choose to coordinate lift-sharing among themselves, the following conditions apply:

Acceptable Lift-Sharing	Unacceptable Lift-Sharing
• Arranged directly between parents/guardians • More than one junior is present in the vehicle **or** two adults are present • Parents have given clear consent to captains for their child to travel with another family • The arrangement is communicated openly (e.g., via parent WhatsApp groups or match-day coordination on Teamo)	• A lone adult transports a single junior who is not their own child • A coach or team captain transports juniors • A junior is left to arrange their own lift with an adult • Transport is organised by the Club in a way that places adults in unsupervised contact with juniors

• The Club has up-to-date emergency contact details captured through the Teamo player management system • Team captains have been informed where a junior player is travelling with another family	

Coaches, captains, team managers and volunteers should not be placed in any situation where they are responsible for transporting them. Their role is to support safe, parent-led arrangements by encouraging families to coordinate transport appropriately and to report any safeguarding concerns related to travel directly to the Club Welfare Officer.

3. Exceptional Circumstances

If a junior is unexpectedly stranded (e.g., illness, injury, parent delayed), the team captain must:

- Contact the parent/guardian immediately using Teamo provided ICE details
- Remain with the junior in a public, supervised area
- Avoid any one-to-one transport
- Escalate to the Club Welfare Officer if needed

The Club will always prioritise safety and transparency.

4. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Club Committee and Welfare Officer, or sooner if England Hockey updates its safeguarding guidance.