



Cheltenham Hockey Club Playing Policy

This policy outlines the expected standards of behaviour and conduct for all Cheltenham Hockey Club (CHC) players. All players are responsible for reading, understanding, and following this policy. Failure to adhere may result in disciplinary action.

1. Conduct and Behaviour

- Always respect the Spirit of Hockey: play fairly, show respect for others, and uphold the positive spirit of the game beyond just following the rules.
 - Represent the club with modesty in victory and dignity in defeat. Winning and losing are both part of sport.
 - Respect all opposition players, coaches, and umpires, both on and off the field.
 - Never use inappropriate, abusive, or threatening language or gestures.
 - Avoid bringing the club into disrepute through behaviour during or after games.
 - Complaints about opposition players, officials, or umpires must be made after the match, through the correct written procedures.
 - Only players and team officials are permitted in the pitch-side dugouts. Spectators must remain outside this area.
 - Players must not enter the pitch until the previous game has fully finished – at both home and away venues.
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2. Social Media

- Do not comment negatively on opposition players, teams, or match officials on social media.
 - Avoid any posts that could bring the club into disrepute, including comments on club matters or match performances.
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3. Commitment and Appearance

- Players are expected to arrive on time for training and matches. If delayed, inform your captain or manager as soon as possible.
 - All players must wear appropriate CHC-branded kit for matches.
 - Where possible, players should bring a change of clothes to avoid sitting in the clubhouse in playing kit.
 - Cheltenham teams are expected to stay for post-match teas when offered. At home games, CHC must always offer post-match teas to the opposition.
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4. Safety and Welfare

- All players must conduct themselves in a way that protects their own safety and the safety of others.
 - Players must be familiar with and follow CHC's facemask policy for defending penalty corners:
 - All U18 players are required to wear a protective facemask in training and matches.
 - Adult players are strongly encouraged to wear a facemask. CHC provides shared masks, but personal ones are recommended for hygiene and comfort.
 - Be aware that CHC players, coaches, and umpires are insured under England Hockey's (EH) insurance policy when participating in CHC activities. If involved in non-CHC teams or events, you will need your own insurance.
 - All players must abide by:
 - England Hockey's Spirit of Hockey Code of Conduct
 - England Hockey's Inappropriate Behaviour Guidelines
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5. Safeguarding

- Players must prioritise safeguarding and the welfare of all individuals, especially juniors and vulnerable persons.
 - Any safeguarding concerns must be reported in line with CHC and EH safeguarding policies.
 - Everyone is expected to contribute to a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment at all times.
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By representing Cheltenham Hockey Club, players agree to uphold the values, standards, and expectations outlined in this Playing Policy.