



DEVELOPMENTAL SELECTION POLICY

This policy demonstrates Exe Hockey Club's commitment to the development of young players, as they are the future of our club and of hockey in general, and that the club will always act in the best interests of the individual.

The policy's aim is to ensure that our young members are given every opportunity to reach their full potential whatever level that may be (international, regional, county, social or otherwise).

This policy states:

1. 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 Board's Single System.
2. The club will enforce that a player must have reached the age of 13 to be eligible to play in adult only competition.
3. The club will enforce the England Hockey League (EHL) regulation stating that a player must have reached the age of 15 to be eligible to be registered to play in the EHL.
4. 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 and the only option is a young player who is not ready either physically, mentally or socially, then the adult team will play short.
5. The club will abide by England Hockey Board recommendations regarding player eligibility and competition rules.
6. The club will abide by the England Hockey Board 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.
7. 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.
8. All selection will be made in line with the principles outlined in the EHB Equity Policy (Found within the Code of Ethics – RESPECT) and EHB Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy adopted by this club.
9. 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 is a short term gain.





SINGLE SYSTEM – U18 PLAYER PATHWAY

Hockey's Single System is the development pathway (see diagram) for players, coaches and officials of all ages and abilities to reach their full potential. It is based on a set of principles that puts the participant at the centre and is based on scientific research that has been widely accepted by the majority of other major sports within England.

Why does hockey need a Single System?

Hockey in England has evolved over many years and has many historical boundaries, systems and competitions that make the hockey landscape a complicated one. Currently, the pathway varies enormously, not only between boys and girls, but also from region to region and county to county. For example, a fourteen year old living in Exeter would have a different experience moving through the pathway to a similar player living in Hull. The purpose of the Single System is to make opportunities for participants fair, equitable and consistent. It is to ensure that a suitable level of coaching and competition is offered for people at the appropriate stage of their development and to maximise the chance they have of fulfilling their potential whether that potential is as a club or international player, coach or official.

The Single System - Progress

After extensive consultation over a two year period, the England Hockey Board approved the implementation plan of the Single System in July 2006. Since then the England Hockey Development and Performance staff have been working together with Regional & County Associations and other partners to roll out the different elements of the Single System framework. (Refer to the Pathway opposite).

The Single System in Devon

Devon Hockey Association works with Clubs and Schools to implement the Single System in Devon. Full information can be found on the Devon Hockey websites:

www.devonhockey.net

and

www.devonjuniorhockey.co.uk

for information about hockey in Devon.

www.hockeywest.co.uk

for information about hockey in the West





Single System – U18 Player Pathway

