



Rules and Code of Conduct

These Rules apply to all Committee members, Coaches, Managers, players, the parents/guardians of players under 18 years of age attending training sessions, supporting teams at matches or at other events attended in connection with Banbury Bulldogs.

The Rules indicate:

- The information needs of the Club, in order to facilitate its proper administration.
- Applicable Charges, Fees and contributions to the function of the Club.
- The responsibilities imposed by the club in respect of safety considerations during training and match play, including kit requirements.
- Standards of behaviour, both at Club events and on any occasion at which members and their families might be perceived to represent Banbury Bulldogs.
- Additional considerations that attach to specific roles within the Club.

The Club exists to engender an enjoyment of sporting activity in a spirit of friendly competition. It provides opportunities for people wishing to learn and play Skater Hockey, including encouraging young children to gain skating and hockey skills through Street Hockey. These opportunities extend to adults and children and, provided that the person is physically able to enjoy the game safely, is open to all.

These opportunities are possible only through the time and efforts of volunteers: committee members, coaches, match officials, league officials and tournament organisers. The support of players' families, transporting to and from matches, fund-raising and at social events also is invaluable.

1. Information

The Club is pleased to offer two free sessions to prospective members, but thereafter requires completion of a membership form with personal information in order to extend insurance cover to all players. Forms must be signed by a parent/guardian for players under 18 years of age.

The onus is on players/parents to ensure that relevant health information is known to coaches and managers – the Club will regard such information as confidential.

To enable efficient communication the Club relies heavily on email. Adult players and parents of members under 18 will be asked to provide email addresses and should ensure that these are updated as necessary.

Email addresses will be shared with other parents/players, to allow parents and players to arrange lifts etc.. Anyone wishing not to be included in this arrangement should notify the Club, in writing.

Skater Hockey is a physical contact sport and occasionally leads to minor injuries, so contact details of an appropriate adult will be required for all players, in case of emergency.

Members/parents receiving contact details are required to respect the privacy of others and not share personal information outside the Club.

2. Photography

On occasion the Club might wish to use photography and/or video of players for training, information or publicity purposes.

Similarly, competitor clubs sometimes seek permission to obtain photography and/or video at matches. Permission for reasonable purposes will be granted at the discretion of Committee members.

Family and friends must seek permission of the Committee to take photographs/recordings, in order that other Clubs approval might be sought.

Any parent preferring that their child's image be excluded from particular uses should provide written notification to the Committee. If there are particular child protection concerns relating to your child, please provide these to the Committee (in confidence) to enable appropriate decisions to be taken when permission is sought for photography/video.

Members and parents must acknowledge that it is impractical to exclude any single player from images obtained during scrimmages/matches – if filming is undertaken for publicity purposes, children will be omitted from the session if necessary to comply with parental wishes.

3. Fees etc.

Members' subscriptions may include:

- Registration fees with governing bodies, which allow access to league matches and tournaments and include insurance cover for registered players
- Fees due to sports bodies, leagues and tournament organisers, to support event costs, which are remitted in good faith by the Club on behalf of members
- Additional contributions to Club expenses, to cover hire of training facilities, purchase/hire of equipment and other operating costs.

The Club undertakes to keep costs to a minimum, engaging in fund-raising activities to supplement funds from players.

The Club will not accept responsibility for any fines imposed on individual players. If sums are paid, to allow the team/Club to continue in a competition, these will remain the player's responsibility and will persist as a debt to the Club.

To be fair to all, the Club may refuse access to matches or training sessions to players with outstanding sums owed to the Club.

Any player wishing to transfer to another Club will be required to provide clearance from Banbury Bulldogs. Members should note that, through appropriate process, the Club will raise objection to any individual's new registration whilst outstanding fee or fine

reimbursements persist.

An instalment plan may be available, allowing payment of total annual subscriptions in equal monthly instalments. At cessation of membership, the full annual sum will be owed to the Club, but a discount arrangement may be agreed at the Committee's discretion.

Cases of severe financial hardship should be discussed in confidence with a Committee member/team Manager. Such cases will be considered sympathetically and the Club will attempt to agree an equitable solution.

4. Safety

To ensure the safety of members appropriate kit and equipment, maintained to an appropriate standard, must be worn/used.

Trip hazards should be avoided – stow kit-bags, shoes etc. tidily; clear litter into bins.

Take care not to spill liquids, which could spread and create a slippery surface, and report or clear spillage promptly.

Volunteers, families and off court players watching training sessions must observe safe practices – do not lean over side boards, ensure that safety nets are in place, do not allow anything to fall or spill onto the playing surface.

Good behaviour and discipline during training is important for safety. Pay attention to instructions from Coaches and ask for help if something is unclear.

Prospective members attending their two free introductory sessions must be accompanied by an adult who must remain within the sports centre for the duration of the session.

Players aged under 11

Parents delivering young children to training sessions must ensure that they inform a Coach, Manager or other Committee member of pick-up arrangements.

5. Kit/Equipment

For safety reasons, all players must wear the requisite kit. No player will be allowed to join a training session without meeting the applicable minimum standards.

Kit requirements vary between governing bodies and officials will not allow a player on court if kit does not conform to relevant minimum requirements. Players should be aware that kit checks frequently are performed before matches.

All kit must be maintained to an appropriate standard. Guidance on kit suitability or on repair/maintenance is available from Coaches/Managers.

Committee members and coaches cannot undertake kit checks at all training sessions or matches, hence it is the responsibility of parents / players to ensure that they are wearing appropriate kit and the Club accepts no responsibility for injury arising from a failure to do so.

a) Street Hockey The kit required is skates, a helmet, leg pads and a stick. The Club will provide all kit, though players wishing to use their own are welcome to do so, provided that it meets safety needs.

b) Skater Hockey Most players prefer to provide their own kit, which must conform to appropriate safety standards. The Club has a stock of kit which may be borrowed; players will be required to sign out kit and will be responsible for its care whilst in their possession. Loaned kit will be recalled if misuse or lack of care is apparent. *Please note: for reason of hygiene, pelvic protectors are not available from the Club.*

c) Coaches are required to wear:

- a helmet with visor (or their full playing helmet) - Coaches' helmets are supplied by the Club
- pelvic protector
- coaches' shirt
- protective gloves and stick, as appropriate.

Puck Hockey

The Club affiliates to GBHI puck leagues, which adhere to IIHF rules and regulations. Whilst the sport under this code precludes body checking, allowing participants to concentrate on the skills of the sport, it is inevitable that some incidental contact will occur, hence safety equipment should be worn.

Mandatory equipment for all players of 20 years of age or under:

- an appropriate, gender specific, pelvic protector ("box") – players must provide this item and will not be allowed to train/play unless it is worn
- an approved, appropriate, well-fitting helmet, worn with a fastened chin-strap and full face cage or visor
- elbow guards

- protective gloves, or net minder blocker/catcher
- knee/shin guards, or appropriate net minder leg pads, which are well secured
- inline skates with the full complement of wheels for which they were designed
- an appropriate stick

In addition the following are recommended:

- neck guard
- appropriate body armour, including chest and shoulder protection
- padded shorts or girdle which also provide protection of the kidney area
- Body, arm and leg armour/ guards must be covered by shirt / trousers/ socks etc.

Ball hockey

The Club affiliates to BISHA and complies with its rules and regulations. The sport is full contact, so kit must include:

- an appropriate, gender specific, pelvic protector (“box”) – players must provide this item and will not be allowed to train/play unless it is worn
- an approved, appropriate, well-fitting helmet, worn with a fastened chin-strap and face cage (or partial visor for adult players in senior squads)*
- neck guard*
- appropriate body armour, including chest and shoulder protection*
- elbow guards
- protective gloves, or net minder blocker/catcher
- padded shorts or girdle which also provide protection of the kidney area
- knee/shin guards, or appropriate net minder leg pads, which are well secured
- inline skates with the full complement of wheels for which they were designed
- body, arm and leg armour/ guards must be covered by shirt / trousers/ socks etc.
- an appropriate stick

* **Adult players born before 1992 only** may omit face-cage/visor, neck guard and body armour at their own risk.

The Club, however, encourages all to wear full protection for training and all match play.

Jewellery worn during training/matches could prove dangerous or be damaged. Adult players do so at their own risk; younger players are required to remove jewellery for training or match play. The Club accepts no responsibility for injury arising from, or damage to, jewellery.

Sticks are available in right and left handed versions and in designs specific to outfield or net minder play. Sticks might require tape or a fitted end block to ensure that they are too large to pass through players’ face cages.

Shirts in Club colours will be required for matches and may be purchased through the Club. Player names and numbers must be clearly visible to match officials. Optional trousers also are available.

6. Attendance

To enable Coaches to plan training sessions, players/parents should inform their Manager if they are unable to attend any session.

Similarly, players unavailable for team selection for matches should inform their Manager as soon as possible.

Players who agree to play matches but subsequently fail to attend will be required to pay match fees.

If a Captain or Assistant captain misses a number of training sessions prior to a match, they may be replaced on that occasion, to ensure that the team is led by players practised in the strategy determined for that match.

Changes to training times and match schedules will be posted on the Notice-Board at Saturday training sessions.

7. Transportation to matches

It is the responsibility of players/parents to meet their own transport needs. Players needing or able to offer lifts may use their team Manager as a central communication point, however final arrangements will be the subject of private arrangements between parties – the Club cannot accept responsibility for arranging car-shares/lifts.

Exceptionally, the Club might opt to provide transport to tournaments or matches at a distant venue. Transport arranged by the Club will be in buses of appropriate size hired, with drivers, from professional firms.

8. Managers

Each team has a volunteer Manager who is an ex-officio Committee member.

The Manager will facilitate communication between players, ensuring that all players in his/her squad have contact details for the Manager and other players (or parents, as appropriate).

Match schedules will be notified to players/parents by the Manager. Questions about match times/venues etc. should be directed to the Manager.

Availability / unavailability for matches or training sessions should be notified to the Manager.

Managers are responsible for ensuring that players are aware of team selection and playing lines.

If transport to a tournament is to be provided by the Club, the manager is responsible for ensuring that this is appropriate for the team's needs and for ensuring that all are aware of arrangements.

9. Coaches (adult coaches are ex-officio Committee members)

Coaches are responsible for all aspects of training and development, including verifying availability of equipment for training sessions and ensuring a safe playing environment.

Coaches may invite players to train with a more senior squad, either to enhance their development or in preparation for playing at a more senior level.

10. Conduct

The ethos of the Club, put simply, is that all members should be able to enjoy playing street or skater hockey. To this end, the Club believes that everyone deserves to be treated with courtesy and respect, irrespective of their playing ability, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religious beliefs. No discrimination, harassment or abuse will be tolerated.

All are required to show consideration and respect for fellow players, our volunteers, families and other supporters.

Please be aware that comments made, even without malicious intent, about individuals might cause great distress, damaging morale within teams and the wider Club. Further, such comments could be damaging to the Club's reputation and, by association, the reputations of its members. All therefore are reminded to consider the potential impact of comments – verbal, written or on social media.

a) Players

Within sports centres players are reminded that members of the public and centre staff also deserve consideration. For example, changing rooms should not be left in an untidy condition; kit should not create an obstruction; reasonable noise levels should be maintained.

The Club promotes good sporting behaviour at all times. Players should ensure that they provide good examples of behaviour to younger and/or less experienced players.

Players are required to adhere to the game Rules. Whilst occasional minor infringements are recognised to occur during matches or training scrimmages, foul language and/or dangerous practice is unacceptable. At the discretion of Coaches / Managers, persistent poor behaviour will result in players being removed from training sessions or matches (even if not penalised by referees).

Whilst it is acknowledged that players and others might over-react in the heat of matches, and allowance will be made in light of circumstances, the Club will not tolerate abuse of match officials, competitors or their supporters. In particular, the wide age range of players and supporters present requires particular concern for how words or actions might be perceived.

Personal abuse directed at fellow members, competitors, match officials etc., or detrimental comments about our teams or the Club will lead to disciplinary action.

Misuse of kit and equipment will not be accepted. Club kit on loan will be recalled if mistreated.

Good behaviour and discipline during training is important for safety. Pay attention to instructions from Coaches and ask for help if something is unclear. Silly behaviour can become dangerous behaviour, leading to injury to you or others.

Managers/Committee members off-Court will monitor players leaving the playing area when injured – if appropriate, summoning First Aid assistance from sports centre staff or calling the player's emergency contact.

b) Coaches

Coaches should be aware of their specific role (as coach or player) on any given occasion and behave accordingly. Whilst a fun, friendly atmosphere is beneficial, the Coach should maintain their authority and avoid being seen as "one of the squad".

Coaches are responsible for ensuring a safe playing and training environment.

Coaches should ensure that they provide good examples of behaviour to players. Good sporting behaviour and respect for team-mates, opponents, officials and supporters should be demonstrated by Coaches and encouraged by them in players. Players should be taught to play within the rules of the game.

Coaches should support each other, ensuring that they do not undermine their fellows to players – this does not encourage good discipline or respect for coaching staff.

At all times, Coaches should ensure that training is an enjoyable, positive experience for players. Variety in drills and session formats keeps players' interest and enthusiasm and allows all to practice and improve diverse skills.

Coaches must ensure that sessions are planned to meet the needs of the players involved, taking account of levels of both emotional and physical ability, age and experience. Players should not be pushed to attempt drills that are outside their range of understanding or ability. Aside from the lack of enjoyment likely in these circumstances, injuries could result.

Regardless of ability, all players deserve equal opportunities to improve skills, so Coaches should ensure that they do not focus time and support on "star" players to the detriment of those less skilled or with less experience.

Negative, critical or abusive comments, shouting, loss of temper or ridicule will undermine a player's confidence and have a detrimental effect on their performance.

Positive, encouraging comments from Coaches are likely to result in a player's improvement. However, Coaches should avoid creating too-high expectation of performance, as this could become stressful for the player.

All training should be given in the main session – individual guidance should take place in a suitably demarcated section of the playing area.

Do not touch, hold or reach around a player – everyone has a different concept of personal space and contact and this might seem threatening or make them uncomfortable.

Players should not be encouraged to play if injury is known or suspected.

Players returning from injury/illness should be encouraged to take time to recover fully and work back up to full fitness.

Coaches must not attempt to “poach” high-ability players from other clubs.

Coaches should accept opportunities to improve their own skills and be open to suggestions of drills or exercises from other Coaches or players.

Players' confidence in their own and their team's potential ability should be built by Coaches. Be open to players' suggestions for training activities – their remarks will provide insight into the areas in which they and their team-mates feel in need of support. If a suggestion does not work immediately, consider how it could be adapted.

Coaches should ensure that they have good understanding of game rules etc. and keep abreast of changes or any variations to be used in friendly matches or tournaments.

In the event of injury to a player, Coaches should pass their care to an adult Coach/ Manager/ Committee member off the Court, or the parent of a child player, so that the Coach is able to continue to focus on the remaining players.

The coach should provide the person taking over care of the player with a clear description of how the injury occurred. If serious injury is suspected, give or write a brief account of events as soon as possible. This will allow later assessment of whether/how future injuries might be avoided or indicate any developing incident patterns.

In the event of a player exhibiting poor sportsmanship / bad tempered behaviour which has not been resolved, the Coach might feel that a period off-court to regain composure is necessary. If the player is a child, an adult Committee member should be informed of the circumstances and charged with monitoring the player.

c) *Bullying*

The Club will not tolerate bullying behaviour, whether suffered or perpetrated by adults or children.

Bullying involves one or more victims being subjected to abuse by others. The victim will be perceived to be weaker in some respect. The bully seeks to make him/herself seem superior to the victim in the eyes of others.

The perceived weakness might arise from physical attributes (size, strength, physical features), racial, religious or gender difference or from an illness or disability. People living with stress in other areas of their lives might also be perceived to be weakened in their ability to counter bullying behaviour.

Bullying might be physical assault, verbal abuse, or involve damage, theft or hiding of belongings. Bullies also use behaviour intended to undermine confidence: public criticism, malicious spreading of rumours, engineering disagreements between friends or excluding the victim from events or activities; this is employed to isolate and further weaken victims.

Anyone suffering or witnessing bullying behaviour should report this in confidence to a Coach, Manager or Committee member.

In any group there will be behaviour that causes distress, though this was not intended - such as a harsh remark, a nickname or a joke that has been taken too far. It is the frequent repetition of such behaviour that constitutes a regime of bullying.

Do not use nicknames, or perpetuate jokes, or make unpleasant remarks about family members or friends of a team-mate, if these seem likely to cause offence or discomfort. Be aware that online forums (Facebook, Twitter etc.) are public and your comments could be seen or shared by others. Even if access to your comments is limited to your circle, this could include a relatively large number of people.

Consider whether you would be happy to voice your comment to the person whilst standing with their family and friends – if you would not be prepared to do so, don't broadcast it on social media.

If you believe that you have caused distress by your words or actions, have the courage to apologise.

If you suspect that someone else has caused upset, quietly explain that they might have done so and suggest that an apology is appropriate.

Bullying will be subject to disciplinary action.

I have read the Club Rules and agree to abide by them.

Member Name: _____

Member Signature: _____

Date: _____

Members under 16 years old only:

Parent/guardian Name: _____

Parent/guardian
Signature: _____

Date: _____